



May 21, 2014

Greetings!

What are the six basic imperative requirements for a safe riding horse? Find out what every horse and rider should know! See Monty's Q & A column below.



Pearly King, 2012 Supreme Horse of the Year,
ridden by Simon Charlesworth

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MONTY'S CHALLENGE



Test yourself each week as I challenge you to answer the question below. I mean this. Sit down and write an answer. Don't wait for my answer next week. If you have been reading

my Weekly Questions and Answers for the last six months, you should be in a position to do this. Send your answer to my team at: askmonty@montyroberts.com

Why should you bother? Because it will help you focus. There is probably a comparable question in your life that needs answering - or will be. If you can gain insight into how to go about answering a practical question that is loosely related to your problem, this exercise will help you answer your nagging question. Then read my answer. I want all of my students to learn to be better trainers than me. That's good for you and good for horses!

~ Monty

Next Week's Question:

Even people who are firm followers of your methods and who profess to be against violence often make justifications for various forms of 'correction' to horses'; behavior that, in my opinion, is still on the scale of violence. Examples include, turning round and kicking backwards (sometimes to make contact sometimes not to make the horse go away, grabbing

MONTY'S QUESTION AND ANSWER

Question:

We have a lovely horse, good jumper, good tempered, etc, but she fidgets in a show line up. You mention this problem with Pearly King what can you advise please?

Monty's Answer:

Thank you for giving me a chance to discuss, once again, what I consider to be the most important of the six imperatives. The six imperatives basic requirements of any riding horse are:

1. To move forward
2. Turn left
3. To turn right
4. To stop
5. To back up
6. To stand still.

It is my opinion that the most important imperative is that of standing still. No matter the discipline, the breed, equipment, or the type of rider, all horses must stand still to pass my qualifications as a reasonably well trained individual. Without this characteristic no horse should be considered "well mannered".

Pearly King would not get fidgety in the line up, he would explode in the line up. I probably would have never met Pearly King if all he did was fidget. The reason I say this is that virtually every horse in the line up fidgets more than I would be happy with. People, including the judges, tend to accept minor fidgeting. At the same time, judges greatly admire an alert, energetic horse that stands without moving the feet, ears indicating awareness of circumstances in the environment. In the case of Pearly King everybody in England knew how bad he had been and were amazed by the change.

It was literally a one day session with a rider who was a dream student and learned my principles more quickly than one could ever imagine. There is help for you on my [Equus Online University](#) and [From My Hands to Yours](#) textbook. Your question however reminds me that more footage on the Online University would be desirable in order to assist with this global problem which tends to plague so many competition horses. While its true that "standing still" should apply to every single horse on earth, the competition horses must pass muster or go on the

list to be considered unsuccessful.

The use of the [Dually Halter](#) is highly recommended for beginning your standing still lessons while operating from the ground. This is important for standing for the veterinarian, standing for the farrier, standing for the groom or tacked up as well as lesser important things like just taking a picture. The Dually should be used with the idea that its just fine for the horse to move its feet however after a step or two one should act firmly and back the horse into relatively the same position from which he moved. This should be repeated until you see the horse start to move and then stop.

Once this is accomplished the horseman should chose various areas and all sorts of distractions that might tend to evoke fidgets. One must develop good timing and pledge themselves to utter consistency. Once standing still on a loose line is accomplished it is the responsibility of the horseman to move to the saddle and then execute the same procedures with the same timing and consistency. Now with normal headgear on one can usually work with a lighter touch because there is an understanding by the horse of the act of standing still. A few sessions will make a major difference.

The primary problem of the majority of horsemen is that they want to make the horse stand still. With that in mind when the horse begins to move the feet, the rider tends to pick up the hands tighten the reins and act to stop the horse from moving. This action is totally ineffective. One must operate with the hands down and loose reins allowing the horse to move if that's the choice that's made. Tolerate 2-3 steps, stop the horse on the spot and reverse to the approximate area where you were successfully standing. Once again repeat in various areas and circumstances.

When I first met Simon Charlesworth, the rider of Pearly King, his muscle memory was trained deeply to pick up the reins the instant he felt the horse begging to move. What occurred after that was something similar to an arm wrestling contest. Soon Pearly King would be soaked in sweat, rearing, spinning and disturbing other horses in the line up. It was then that he would be asked to retire from the ring. Pearly King had the looks, the disposition, the coordination and all other attributes to be a supreme champion but failed in the effort. That is, until he met up with my concepts.

It is my hope that this answer will assist you with your horse but please continue to dialog with us because I want all of my students to succeed and I know that these concepts are not simply successful with the horse that fidgets but even with the one that explodes. In addition to being effective the execution of the principles that will solve this problem are fun when one sees a relaxed horse with a lower pulse rate. Horses that learn to stand still give every indication that they are happier horses than those that allow uncontrolled motion to drive adrenaline and anxiety up.

THIS WEEK IN MONTY'S EQUUS ONLINE UNI



In this week's video lesson on [Equus Online University](#), learn the step-by-step procedure to train a horse to tie safely.

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Not a student yet? Click on: www.montyrobersoniversity.com

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INSTRUCTORS' GLOBAL MEETING 2014

to bite) and twisting/pinching (to simulate a bite), pressing on soft parts of the head, poking the nose with an index finger, slapping the rump etc. The reason given to me when I question this is, in most cases, "it's just imitating what the mare/other horse will do as a discipline, so it doesn't upset them". I struggle with this explanation because as far as I'm concerned it's still violence/pain infliction and the horse knows we are not other horses! I would welcome your thoughts and reasoning on this.

Monty's Principles

LEARNING FROM MONTY

Dear Mr. Roberts, I realize you may not want to or be able to read this message in person as there must be thousands of people like me mailing you from all parts of the world. But I would be grateful for an answer from anyone from your team.

While reading [your book "Ask Monty"](#) I came to a realization that my problems are not exactly with horses as such, but with the people who ride them. Most of the individuals I meet at the stables I visit seem to have acquired all the knowledge available about horses and horsemanship. The most interesting comment I heard was from a teenage adept. She said: "I know when to hit a horse and when not to."

I myself try to be open even to such comments and before I react I usually consider my reaction for some time. Usually my hands are tied as I can do nothing but watch some riding instructors hurting these beautiful, intelligent creatures with the kind of satisfaction of Doctor Mendele... and teaching these violent methods to the young.

My experience with natural horsemanship is practically nonexistent while compared to yours. I have an opportunity to deal with a problem horse at the other stable whose owner is very open and her trust in my so-called abilities is overwhelming. She is a blessing to me.

I read, watch movies and talk to others with similar non-violent approach. I'm also considering joining your [Equus Online University](#). But I feel I need more opportunities to practice the skills I can only see other people perform.

And finally here is my question: would it be possible to come and work on your [Flag Is Up Farms](#)?

My riding skills are mediocre but I could do all kinds of physical work at the stables from morning till nighttime, live on canned soup as you did in the past, and perhaps be able to watch others working with horses or perhaps try to work with a horse from time to time myself if it is possible. Of course I would like to know how much it would all cost; I am not expecting to earn any money there but just live and work on your Farm and pay for it. This is the experience you had in your earlier life and which I read about in "The Man Who Listens to Horses".

Some people go to India or to Mecca to be "born again". I would love to be able to travel from Poland to California to find a way of what to do with the rest of my life. This may seem crazy ... but I guess you are the person who would understand me. My goal is similar to yours Mr. Roberts: to leave this world knowing that I made a bit of a difference to the lives of but a few horses.

Yours,
Ela

[From the editor: Thank you for your letter. It has been shared with Monty and his school]

Now Playing: Endurance Riding and Horse Sense & Soldiers



[The Horsemanship Radio Show](#) is an online radio show (podcast) dedicated to the exploration of good horsemanship throughout the world. Hosted by Debbie Loucks (Monty Roberts' daughter), the show includes segments, tips and interviews exploring good horsemanship.

[Click here to bookmark](#) the Horsemanship Radio episodes on

See more on: www.facebook.com/MontyRoberts

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Heather Reynolds and her horse Chances, at the 2014 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games Endurance Team Selection Trial

GLOBE GALLOPING WITH MONTY ROBERTS

Have some fun with Monty! Go to: www.facebook.com/MontyRoberts

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|------------------|---|-----|
| May 31, 2014 | A Night of Inspiration with Monty at Flag Is Up Farms in Solvang, California. Limited spaces available so book early! Info: https://www.facebook.com/events/212405395622676/ or email admin@montyroberts.com or call (805) 688-6288 for reservations | USA |
| June 1, 2014 | Life Lessons workshop at Flag Is Up Farms. Info here: https://www.facebook.com/events/534219636693811/ or call (805) 688-6288 for reservations | USA |
| August 4-8, 2014 | Monty's Special Training Clinic at Flag Is Up Farms, California Click here for more info or call (805) 688-6288 to register | USA |



For information about Monty's worldwide demos and the courses held at Monty's farm in California go to: http://www.montyroberts.com/ab_about_monty_calendar/see-monty/

BUCKET LIST WEEKEND: MAY 31 - JUNE 1, 2014

Night of Inspiration & Life Lessons with The Man Who Listens to Horses

[Heather Reynolds](#), Champion Endurance Rider and [Pat Roberts](#), Executive Director of Join-Up International, on Monty Roberts Horse Sense and Soldiers clinics for returned service men and women.

Listen in... [Horsemanship Radio Episode 16: http://www.horsemanshipradio.com/2014/05/15/horsemanship-radio-episode-16-by-index-fund-advisors-ifa-com-endurance-riding-and-horse-sense-and-soldiers/](http://www.horsemanshipradio.com/2014/05/15/horsemanship-radio-episode-16-by-index-fund-advisors-ifa-com-endurance-riding-and-horse-sense-and-soldiers/)

Brought to you by Index Fund Advisors, www.IFA.com

CANADA'S RURAL TV



In Canada, Monty's Backstage Pass show airs Thursday & Saturday-10:30 AM, 4:30 PM, 11 PM (all times are EST) on television on The Rural Channel. More info as to where The Rural Channel is available:

<http://theruralchannel.com/get-trc/>

If you have questions or need more info go to info@theruralchannel.com or reach out on any of their Social Media platforms: @TheRuralChannel www.facebook.com/theruralchannel

Monty on HRTV



**It's a Life Changing Experience...
Join Monty on a Night of Inspiration!**



Build on your bucket list with a weekend of Life Lessons with Monty Roberts

Be inspired by the New York Times bestselling author who started the revolution in gentle horse training the originator of the Join-Up ®. Start the weekend by witnessing Monty introduce a young horse to his first saddle, bridle and rider in 30 minutes or less then, over a BBQ dinner, visit with Monty and his wife Pat, renowned sculptress and horsewoman. Spend Sunday with Monty and the horses. The hands-on experience with a horse in a calm setting. This workshop allows you to benefit from lessons learned and life experiences from Monty's life and apply to your own them. Dr. Sue Cain facilitates your journey. She and the Monty highlight the book Life Lessons from The Man Who Listens to Horses. Inspire your group, your family or yourself with the experience that caught the attention and respect of Monarchs, millionaires and mobilized all of us to understand horses better. What can they teach us, if we listen?

Contact admin@montyroberts.com or call +1 805 688 6288

<https://www.facebook.com/events/534219636693811/>

LIFE LESSONS FROM MONTY EXCERPT

**Enjoy a Free Excerpt
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Lessons from The Man
Who Listens to Horses**



Watch Monty on HRTV Tuesdays at 6:00 PM ET.

Special Offer for Monty Roberts' Fans! **First month FREE** of HRTV.com when you subscribe now! Just use the **promo code MR13** when you sign up!



Please check local TV directories for your time and channel or the HRTV website where times are in Eastern Standard Time:

www.hrtv.com/MontyRobertsShow/

Please note that Dish TV has moved the HRTV channel position to 398.

Horse & Country, UK



Watch Monty Roberts on Horse & Country TV in the UK (Sky channel 280), Ireland, The Netherlands, Sweden and Malta. See:

www.horseandcountry.tv/monty for more info.

Photo Credits

Christopher Dydyk

[CLICK HERE](#) to read this month's excerpt!

KEEP IN TOUCH

Let us know what you are looking for in content from these emails. Send your comments and requests to askmonty@montyroberts.com.

Never miss an e-mail from Monty: To ensure you receive this email in the future, add askmonty@montyroberts.com to your list of approved senders or select the Add/Save to Address Book function in your email browser and follow the appropriate instructions.



Sincerely,
Monty Roberts

