



May 28, 2014

Greetings!

In 'natural horsemanship' circles, people regularly justify the use of force by stating that horses are aggressive to each other. Their argument goes, "if horses kick/bite/strike at each other to establish dominance, then it's okay for human handlers to establish leadership with their horses in a similar manner." What do you think? Does leadership require aggression? Does dominance engender trust? Do you, as a handler, need to establish dominance over your horse in order to set the horse up for learning? Monty addresses these questions and mindset in this week's Question and Answer.

MONTY'S QUESTION AND ANSWER

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 the neck in the hand 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 Answer:

Thank you for your question. Equus is a language that horses universally communicate in. When I use the gestures of a predator to achieve Join-Up, horses choose to trust me because I have shown to be trustworthy. This does not mean that I have been perceived as a horse by the horse I am training.

If these people feel that acting like another horse justifies their actions, they are being foolish. From a half mile away the horse knows very well that we are human and that we fall into the category of predator. Overt actions that are used for the purpose of producing pain are considered by me to be unacceptable. I draw a line which allows for discomfort, such as the training with the Dually, but never overt pain.

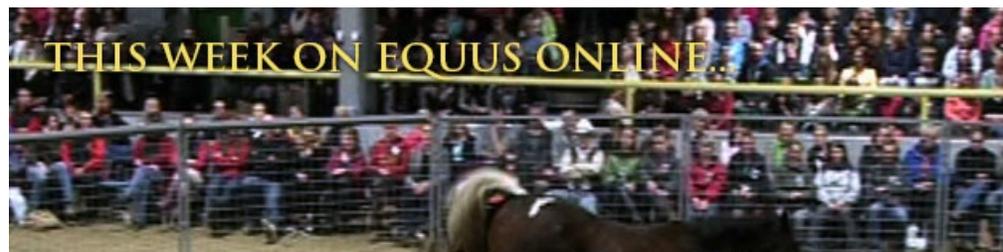
It is a problem for me to answer without further dialog because you have listed a number of actions that I do not nor have I ever recommended. It is true that, just as with the horses, I cannot force people to act in manners I advise. We are changing the world but only in the sense that it is getting better instead of remaining the same.

I have never recommended twisting and pinching the neck. I have no idea what pressing soft parts of the head would do nor have I ever used it. Poking the nose with the index finger is something I have outspokenly denounced with many students. It is totally ineffective. Slapping the rump, or any other part of the equine anatomy, has never been a part of my concepts and I have no idea what it might accomplish except to elevate adrenaline, heart rate and cortisol levels, which is adverse to training.

If any horseman is telling you that any one of these listed items is an effective training tactic they are well off the mark. Your first action listed was indicating that the horseman is kicking at the horse backwards. This also is utterly unacceptable. And if, for example, these people feed from the hand and then use an extrinsic measure in an attempt to stop the behavior that is trained in by feeding from the hand, this is unfair to the horse.

Adrenaline up, learning down. Adrenaline down, learning up.

THIS WEEK IN MONTY'S EQUUS ONLINE UNI



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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:

I am having trouble with my Thoroughbred filly doing Join-Up. She is very fast and very sensitive. How do I slow her down to get the signs you speak of like licking and chewing, ears on me and lowering her head? When I try to slow her down by moving in like I might turn her, but don't, she had slowed a bit but now she speeds up and is getting bargy. Its getting harder to turn her with every attempt. My round pen is 12 meters across.

her with every attempt. My round pen is 12 meters across. What am I doing wrong?



What does Monty say about horses that kick out? See this week's video lesson on [Equus Online University](http://www.equusonlineuniversity.com).

Join-Up Now!

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

Current students log in here: www.montyrobertsuniversity.com/sessions/new or cut and paste this URL:

<http://www.montyrobertsuniversity.com/training/2031188873>

INSTRUCTORS' GLOBAL MEETING 2014

Instructors from America, Canada, England, Ireland, Finland, France, Germany, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, and Scotland came to learn from Monty Roberts, Dr. Andrew McLean (Australia), Drs. William Miller and Terri Moyers (US), Katie Cunningham (Guatemala), Leigh Wills (New Zealand) and Rosie Jones (England). Three days of demonstrations, dinners and discussions about the future of horsemanship. Contact an instructor in your area to learn what the movement is about <http://www.join-up.org/instructors/>



Leigh Wills (New Zealand) came a long way to present her program developed for handling Thoroughbred foals. Leigh is working here with a week old foal and is assisted by Caroline Jennings from Ireland at the IFA.com Gentling Facility.

GLOBE GALLOPING WITH MONTY ROBERTS

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

May 31, 2014 A Night of Inspiration with Monty at Flag Is Up Farms in Solvang, USA

California. Limited spaces available so book early! Info:

Monty's Principles

MONTY AS A MENTOR

Dear Monty,
The very best of wishes to you! I hope you had a wonderful birthday! You have no idea how often I think, "How would Monty Roberts approach this?" when faced with a perplexing horse situation. I feel like you're watching over me and my horse! God bless you and give you many more years.
Sandy White

Now Playing: Endurance Riding and Horse Sense & Soldiers



[The Horsemanship Radio Show](http://www.horsemanshipradio.com) 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 iTunes.

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



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

[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

uniform. Limited spaces available for Monty's farm. <https://www.facebook.com/events/21240539562676/> or email admin@montyroberts.com or call (805) 688-6288 for reservations

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
October 5, 2014	Merrist Wood College , Guildford, Surrey, GU3 3PE	UK
October 10, 2014	Easton College , Norwich, Norfolk, NR9 5DX	UK
October 16, 2014	Arena UK , Allington, Lincolnshire, NG32 2EF	UK
October 18, 2014	Myerscough College , Preston, Lancashire, PR3 0RY	UK
October 22, 2014	The Grange , Okehampton, Devon, EX20 3DA	UK
October 24, 2014	Hartpury College , Gloucester, GL19 3BE	UK
October 30, 2014	Greenlands EC , Wreay, Carlisle, Cumbria CA4 0RR	UK
November 1, 2014	Gleneagles , Auchterarder, Perthshire, PH3 1NF	UK



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/



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



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

BUCKET LIST WEEKEND: MAY 31 - JUNE 1, 2014

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



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

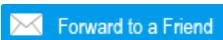
Enjoy a Free Excerpt Each Month of Life Lessons from The Man Who Listens to Horses

[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

