



Wednesday July 2, 2014

Greetings!

Wild mustangs encounter real threats to their survival in the wild, and they learn from it. How does Monty suggest we approach reactive behaviors when we ride our horses? Read his question and answer column below to find out.



Artwork (detail) by Jean Abernethy ~ www.fergusthehorse.com

IN THIS ISSUE

- [Monty's Question and Answer](#)
- [Monty's Challenge](#)
- [Equus Online Uni](#)
- [Monty on the Radio](#)
- [Where Is Monty?](#)
- [Spread the Word](#)
- [Monty on the Radio](#)
- [Monty's Principles](#)
- [Life Lessons from Monty](#)
- [Monty on TV](#)

Now Playing: Hall of Famers Sheila Varian and Audrey Griffen



[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.

MONTY'S QUESTION AND ANSWER

Question:
My mustang is spooky when we're out riding, especially of things in the distance. If a person or critter is on the trail ahead of us, he'll stop dead in his tracks. He flares his nostrils and snorts. What should my approach be to this behavior?

Monty's Answer:
A question has come to me as outlined above. I happen to know that this rider is a strong athletic male, in good health and with outstanding coordination. He is however a strict beginner in so far as riding is concerned. I don't know for sure where this horse was raised but since the address is in the rural Northwest, I find it very possible that this horse grew up in the presence of significant predation. It is not beyond strong possibility that during his formative years he met up with a grizzly or two. This will mark a horse psychologically for the balance of their life.

The description indicates that this horse is acting out through olfactory stimulation. This means he is frightened of what he smells. Visually he picks up on a distant person or critter, freezes in his tracks and then starts to snort. The snorting is a method by which he clears off the olfactory plate which allows him the ability to smell even the slightest odor from a great distance from him. I am pleased that you did not indicate that he then bolted, bucked or acted out in a dangerous fashion but that might be the next course he chooses if indeed he is frightened enough.



Photo credit: April Visel

If all that I have speculated on is actually true then this is a horse that is appropriate for a beginning rider. This could easily be a life time component of his defense mechanism. You mention that you have another horse, Babe, who is appearing to fall into the category we term bombproof. It is not easy for me to read between all the lines of your question but it seems clear that Babe has a quiet disposition and does not express all the volatility of the horse you have outlined with the scary tendencies. Take a hard look at making a switch.

It is not easy for me to speculate to the extent that I can always be right without seeing the horse and watching your responses to the action you describe. I will always tend to respond on the side of being cautious particularly where a novice rider is involved. Horses in general get far too much blame for situations that an advanced rider would handle quite easily. Once there is an emergency room visited then medical people tend to take the position of "Oh, here comes another horse injury. Why do people chose to get involved with these dangerous critters anyway?"

This is a position taken by medical people globally and from their perspective I can fully understand it. I congratulate you for taking the time to ask me the question and since I know that you are a beginning rider who has justifiable concerns I am going to give you the best answer I can while admittedly prioritizing safety. Some novice riders, particularly strong athletic men, would simply say "I am not going to let this horse beat me. I am big and tough and I'll get through this." All too often, the next stop while harboring this attitude, is the emergency room.

Please keep us updated on any progress, or the lack of it, and I'll help wherever I can.

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:

Rearing, Striking Stallion: This is the first time he's done this since I've had him. I believe the trigger involved two things: First, we had started to teach him the Spanish walk. One does so by tapping the foreleg with the whip, lightly. The stallion then lifts his leg and makes a clawing motion. This turns into a Spanish walk, hopefully. My coach warned me jokingly just yesterday that we were teaching him how to strike. Secondly, my coach has been in the habit of using the whip on his chest to make him back. We have a Dually and have used it extensively. But he would try to playfully nip when asked to back with it. So my coach tried taps on the chest with the whip -- maybe ones that were at times too hard. I believe these two things gave my colt license to strike out. The first instance was with me when I was leading him. We had a side rein on the outside to prevent him from turning his head inward. But he got ahead of me in a corner and faced me. I tried backing him by flinging the whip towards his chest. This apparently provoked him to come at me with mouth open. He didn't get me because he was distracted by my coach. The next incident came the same day after my coach had practiced leading him. All was fine when my coach stopped, and the stallion, seemingly out of nowhere, reared and struck at him. The rope got wrapped around his leg which stopped him from further action I believe. He has been doing beautifully until we started this Spanish walk thing which, I believe, connected with the whip tapping on the chest to back. I think he had had enough. How can we address this issue safely?

THIS WEEK IN MONTY'S EQUUS ONLINE UNI



Watch Unusually learn to carry a rider in this week's video lesson on Equus Online University.

Join-Up Now!

Sheila Varian, Vaquero and Arabian horse breeder will celebrate her Diamond Jubilee in August. We are privileged to listen in on her commitment to the horses first.

And our Trainers Tip is on Mounting Manners on the Trail with Audrey Griffen. Then Debbie and Coach Jenn have fun with a quick round of 'Know the Host'.

Listen in...

<http://www.horsemanSHIPradio.com/2014/06/29/horsemanSHIP-radio-episode-19-by-index-fund-advisors-ifa-com-the-legacy-of-sheila-varvian-get-to-know-the-host/>

[Click here to bookmark](#) the HorsemanSHIP Radio episodes on iTunes.

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

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

Monty's Principles

Two Responses to [Ponytale 100% Living Farrier](#)

Dear Monty,

I had to write and say how much I enjoyed reading the email from Ponytale. I sat down here to browse horsey "things" and fell upon that. Such an informative, intuitive, humble and humorous story to read first thing in the morning. During my 65 summers, I have come across many different approaches to all types of horsey handling (have not liked or agreed with much of it) and can only hope and pray that "all God's creatures" will be in future years, treated with more gentleness, patience, understanding and respect...unfortunately, those things all take time and the so much of man's time is taken up rushing along trying to make more money in the quickest possible fashion. Thank you to all animal lovers.

Sincerely,
Jan Murray

Dear Monty,

I just put down my one horse and planned to get away from horses totally. I was going to look for the UNSUBSCRIBE button on your newsletter, but scrolling down I read the farrier,s story. It was so moving, I decided to keep my subscription just for inspiration like this.
Penny

[Click here to read Pony Tale's story.](#)

Monty's Life Lessons

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

Ask Monty reader special:
[CLICK HERE](#) to

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

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



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.

Corigem: Healing Honey



"The scientists behind Corigem® have found a nature-made healing gift from a species that no one before seemed to appreciate: a species of very busy bees that will improve the lives of humans and animals together." - Monty Roberts.

Read more on: <http://www.montyroberts.com/corigem/>

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

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

Current students log in here: www.montyrobertsuniversity.com/sessions/new or GO straight to this week's lesson <http://www.montyrobertsuniversity.com/training/2031188882>

Monty's Work with Veterans and Post Traumatic Stress Injuries

"In thinking about how we can best serve our veterans, we must spread hope that there are meaningful treatment options. According the Department of Veterans Affairs, roughly 22 veterans die each day by suicide, and that number is on the rise, particularly among younger people who serve..." [Click here](http://www.foxnews.com/health/2014/06/26/post-traumatic-stress-rethinking-disorder-and-finding-hope/) to read a great article on how horses are helping veterans: <http://www.foxnews.com/health/2014/06/26/post-traumatic-stress-rethinking-disorder-and-finding-hope/>



Join-Up® with Veterans

GLOBE GALLOPING WITH MONTY ROBERTS

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

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
September 20, 2014	Night of Inspiration at Flag Is Up Farms, email admin@montyroberts.com or call (805) 688-6288 to register	USA
September 21, 2014	Life Lessons workshop: email admin@montyroberts.com or call (805) 688-6288 to register	
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/

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

