



Wednesday July 9, 2014

Greetings!

Safety and non-violence are the key to a positive relationship with our horses. Please take time to read Monty's answer to a question about an aggressive stallion in the article below. It is never the horse's fault.

MONTY'S QUESTION AND ANSWER

Question:

This is the first time my stallion has been rearing and striking 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?

Monty's Answer:

There is a strong urge within me to send you a private message regarding this horse, his behavior and the questions you've asked me. My private message would be short and would indicate that I believe that it is totally irresponsible to advise men or women who are not professional handlers of stallions regarding what to do with an aggressive adult stallion. I have a second thoughts on this particular situation as it has to do with letting my reading public know my position whenever this subject is brought to me for an answer. I suppose I have skirted the issue long enough, so here we go.

This is an almighty serious situation and it does not call for the mincing of words or the introduction of levity. Perhaps I should simply suggest that you watch the movie BUCK. If you have already seen it, I suggest that you watch it again. I have talked with many people who saw the film but simply set aside what was a nearly fatal attack by a stallion on a professional horseman. There is no excuse available to any of us to treat this situation as if it had a solution that could be conveyed through any technical device available to us today. It is my hope you will heed my advice.

For one moment please imagine that I am an expert in the field of explosive war devices. Further imagine that I received a request from a 12 year old boy in Afghanistan who wants me to advise him on the best methods to defuse road side bombs. Should I accept the challenge and try desperately to educate him I would most likely be giving him a sentence of death. In the case of advising non-professional stallion handlers on how to deal with an

aggressive stallion,

I believe I would be just as irresponsible as if I were to answer the young man. Please heed my recommendations.

Remember that someone in my position learns how to read between the lines. The horse is an adult stallion who has gone aggressive. You can soften the words any way you want to. Remember your use of the term 'playfully nipping'.

Also remember your words 'This apparently provoked him to come at me with mouth open'. This horse has been whipped. He has over ridden the whip by using aggressive tactics. This will increase as time goes by and reversing the process is virtually impossible. Castration can, but not always, assist in reversing the process. This comment is virtually always responded to by saying 'But I want to breed with him'.

In the early 1960s I traveled to the farm where a famous Arabian stallion stood at stud. A lady actually showed him and won many championships. She was entirely capable. The horse was bad. I suggested she send him to a professional breeding farm where he could be handled by several men on each occasion. My visit was a Sunday. Her truck-driving husband returned home on Thursday to find her ripped to shreds in the horses box stall. The husband picked his two children up at school and announced to them that they no longer had a mother. I never want this again.

This is the second horse that has been brought to me this week with a story extremely similar. As the world gets smaller and we love our horses more and more, it is my opinion that these stories will be more plentiful. I now know that I have to do what I can to let people know that these animals are only doing what nature dictates they

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Monty's Principles

Nicholas Thomas Meets Shy Boy

By KELCIE PEGHER
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Nicholas Thomas meets Shy Boy at Monty Robert's Flag Is Up Farms in Solvang, California. The meeting was a lifelong dream for Nicholas, 17, who has triplegic cerebral palsy and does not speak. He attends Severna Park High School. [Read on...](#)

http://www.capitalgazette.com/news/local/teen-with-cerebral-palsy-gets-to-ride-horse-of-his/article_03c46305-d450-5592-b7b8-0f5d90f4e68c.html

Photo Courtesy of Catherine Thomas

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.



do. In this case, someone came into his world to control him with the violence of a whip. He decided he was bigger, faster stronger and totally capable of controlling his world. I want the world of horse people to know this answer. If I can help you further please let's discuss solutions privately.

Do not, for one minute, think that I am telling you that the horse is at fault. I want everyone to love their horses. I want them to treat their horse in an acceptable manner and seek solutions that are effective whenever there is unacceptable behavior. I do not want people to simply love their horses, have someone treat them with violence and then convince themselves that it will be okay because they love their horses. This is delusional thinking. Whether the behavior is from violence or total lack of boundary setting, the danger is of equal magnitude.

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:

Hi Monty,
I have just purchased a 6 month old foal who is still on mum. He has not been touched for 5 months but now I have a halter on him. Was wondering how old can they be before using your Dually halter (I have all of them)? Should I do while he is still on mum or after weaning? Which is the best way to wean? E.g. Some say just take the mare to another property or do with a dividing fence then further once they settle. Keeping in mind the mare will walk fences badly. Thank you. Would love some help in the right way.
Janine Crook, Western Australia



Photo credit: April Visel

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/>

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

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](http://www.montyrobertsuniversity.com).

Join-Up Now!

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/2031188883>

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



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!

HRTV

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.

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!

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/>

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	Hartpur 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/

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

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

