



Wednesday July 30, 2014

Greetings!

"As responsible horse lovers, trainers and riders, whatever we can teach our horse to willingly do, is good. Whatever we can accomplish to create an environment in which the horse enjoys teaching himself, is enormously better."  
~ Monty Roberts

## MONTY'S QUESTION AND ANSWER

### Question:

I have a 15 yr old TWH/QH gelding that I show in Dressage, Hunter, English Pleasure (side saddle & saddle seat) and Western Pleasure at small local shows. I have owned him for 13 yrs and have shown him for 10. For the past 3 years he has been unhappy in the arena during a class (competition). Warm-ups and training he works hard and enjoys his work. He is even used as a lesson horse at my friend's barn. He has been known to fall asleep while we are waiting outside the ring between classes. We go for long trail rides. He loves all the attention that goes with being a show horse. But as I said, once he enters the ring for a class he changes. He speeds up, he chews his bits, he pins his ears and arches his neck.

### Monty's Answer:

It has been several days since I was first made aware of this question. I have walked around pondering the answer. First, I would feel as though I wanted to be ultra kind to an owner who loves their 15 year old equine partner. This notion would often be followed with "I have to be fair to those owners who might someday be challenged by a similar scenario." I guess it's fair to say that I virtually always end up speaking for the horse.

Please do not find my answer offensive as I mean it to be educational for other horse owners for generations to come. With that in mind, I will attempt to speak for our four legged friends in a manner as inoffensive as possible. Please take

the time to sit down and read your question three times, slowly. Process your words, allowing yourself to hear the question through the ears of your horse. One does not have to read between the lines, as each segment of the question answers itself when the behavior of the horse is allowed to shape the answer to that segment of the question.

It is unfortunate that I haven't had the opportunity to observe you and your horse in competition. It is not my intention to be unfair while having to speculate as to your actions as a competition rider. I can only build my decision based on my own tendencies and those that I have become accustomed to throughout 60 years of competitive riding.

Each of us has a strong tendency to raise the bar for our horses when we know that there is an official in the middle of the ring tapping a pen to a score sheet. With the human brain, we are able to understand that this next half hour or so is going to require the best performance we can give. We seldom stop to consider that the horse only has its rider for communication.

What would happen if suddenly there was a judge in the warm up ring and a show official said that there would be a \$1000 prize to the best warm up performance? Suddenly your horse would know it was a competition. How would he get the news? From you! I know your horse is intelligent, but I am certain you have never seen him reading a newspaper.

We humans give our horses every nuance of the information that comes to them from the human species, whether we realize we are imparting it or not. My career is full of stories where I mistakenly called the horse stupid only to find out that the label belonged to me and not to my horse. As the saying goes "be careful what you ask for".

With the words of your own question, you plead guilty to asking this horse to compete from an enormous list of variations on the demands that we make of the horses in the show ring. What part of "I am sick and tired of competing under fire for all these years. I am mad as hell and I just don't want to do it anymore," don't you understand? Ray Charles could see this.

It is with confidence that I believe that as you re-read your question light bulbs will flash through your brain. You may be embarrassed. It is likely that you will exit to the barn yard as fast as you can, throw your arms around your horse's neck and through tears you will say "You don't have to compete anymore, I was so silly not to listen to you much earlier."

Once more, please don't take offense to my answer. Ginger, Brownie, Dan Tack, and many others that I competed on ultimately told me that it was enough. Sometimes I let it go too long myself. Making mistakes is never the problem, it is failing to learn from our mistakes that constitutes unacceptable behavior. I am confident that you will see this too.

This question offers me the opportunity to publicly write something that I believe has never been given its proper

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## E-News Delivery

Do you receive this FREE letter with Monty's Question and Answer weekly?

If not, click here:

<http://www.montyroberts.com/category/montys-question-and-answer-space/>



## Monty's Principles

### Horse Sense and Healing Clinic

Dear Monty,

Thank you for your time with us last week, it is greatly appreciated. What you told us and taught us resonated very deeply with me. It revealed to me that my injury and the resulting physical pain that I continue to experience has had a destructive impact on my ability to trust and has constrained my freedom to move on with life.

Simply put, if you're in pain, you find it very difficult to feel secure; if you're insecure it is really difficult to trust (anyone or anything). Without trust, hope is absent and you subsist day-to-day without really planning for the future, because you're just trying to get through the "now" and the pain at this instant.

Your story has led me to a greater understanding of my relationship with my father and in turn my relationship with my sons and has inspired me to be a better father.

Thank you for your time, I am very grateful. I learned a great deal.

Many thanks.  
Robert de Ferry Foster,  
attendee of Monty's Veterans Program

This question offers me the opportunity to publicly write something that I believe is never given its proper exposure to the horse world. It goes like this:

"AS RESPONSIBLE HORSEMEN WHATEVER WE CAN TEACH OUR HORSE TO WILLINGLY DO, IS GOOD. WHAT WE CAN ACCOMPLISH TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH OUR HORSE ENJOYS TEACHING HIMSELF, IS ENORMOUSLY BETTER."

## THIS WEEK IN MONTY'S EQUUS ONLINE UNI

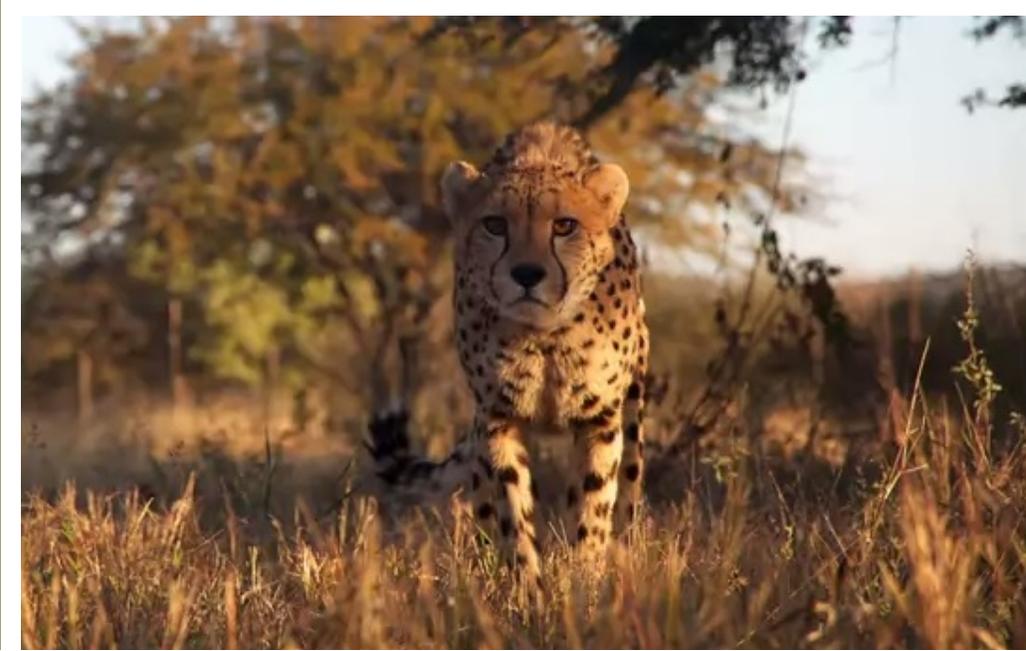


In this week's video lesson on [Equus Online University](http://Equus Online University), the fabulous Martin Clunes works with Monty to create good manners and personal space when leading horses.



Not a student yet? Click on: [www.montyrobertsuniversity.com](http://www.montyrobertsuniversity.com) and Join-Up with thousands of horse lovers learning Monty's force-free and fun methods now.

## SIMON PALMER AND THE CHEETAHS IN NAMIBIA



## 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](mailto: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 purchased a horse a little over a year ago. He was promised to know everything, but we quickly realized he knew pretty little. He would not back up or pick up his feet. He even bucked of my uncle( his name is actually Bucky). Thanks to Join-Up we are now riding and we have a great relationship. My question is because he does not take change well and will rear or bolt when scared. I would like to start trail riding this year and show him next year. What would be the least stressful way to make this transition. He also has not seen other horses in years. Thank you, Bianca Lobsinger

## Now Playing: Starting Wild Mustangs and Starting Kids Camps



[The Horsemanship Radio Show](http://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.



Danish Horsewoman Joan Sartori S e started Western Kids Camps to encourage fun with horses and a 'No Whips' policy. Francesca Wood shares why she is as comfortable in the Polo world as she is adopting BLM wild mustangs in Nevada. And Monty Roberts answers a question about a rearing, striking stallion.

Listen in... <http://www.horsemanshipradio.com/2014/07/17/horsemanship-radio-episode-20-by-index-fund-advisors-ifa-com-wild-mustangs-with-francesca-wood-and-western-kids-camps-in-denmark/>

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

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Brought to you by Index Fund Advisors, [www.IFA.com](http://www.IFA.com)

## Monty's Life Lessons

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

Ask Monty readers' 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/gallery/monty-roberts-backstage-pass/>

If you have questions or need more info go to

[info@theruralchannel.com](mailto:info@theruralchannel.com)

or reach out on any of their Social Media platforms:

@TheRuralChannel

[www.facebook.com/theruralchannel](http://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/](http://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](http://www.horseandcountry.tv/monty) for more info.

## Photo Credits

Christopher Dydyk

Simon Palmer, a talented photographer who has worked with Monty on tour in the UK for many years, has put his wonderful energy and artistic sense to commemorating the cheetah in Namibia in a book that celebrates the Cheetah in all its glory, and is for big cat lovers everywhere. With less than 10,000 Cheetahs left in the wild globally, this book celebrates the Cheetah in Namibia, and how humans are trying to save them.

"As a photographer I wanted to show the Cheetah in context of its environment. This can be the beauty of a sunrise or sunset, the challenge of survival with its peer predators, or simply a study of the markings. My goal was to show the importance of a true and faithful representation of their behavior towards each other and the surroundings. It is only then that we start to 'get' the animal, its challenges, needs, and drive." ~ Simon Palmer

Some of the profits are going to AfriCat Foundation to help with the research and support of the Cheetah population. Read more about Simon's project, and how to support it, here:

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/2055269985/cheetah-namibia>

## NIGHT OF INSPIRATION



CONNECT  AMAZE  REVITALIZE

Join us for an evening of fun, food, and great conversation at *Flag Is Up Farms*

# a NIGHT of INSPIRATION



Your party will be welcomed to beautiful Flag Is Up Farms to watch a Join-Up experience. Witness first-hand the powerful relationship of trust and communication between a horse and a human.

Afterwards, enjoy a traditional barbecue dinner with author Monty Roberts and artist Pat Roberts in their hilltop home. At dinner, great conversations will emerge about the importance of trust, overcoming adversity, achieving your vision, and living strong at any age.

This unforgettable experience will transform your group and allow them to connect to a living legend.



**Saturday  
September 20  
5 to 10 p.m.**

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## GLOBE GALLOPING WITH MONTY ROBERTS

Have some fun with Monty! Go to: [www.facebook.com/MontyRoberts](http://www.facebook.com/MontyRoberts)

August 4-8, 2014	Monty's Special Training Clinic at Flag Is Up Farms, California <a href="#">Click here for more info</a> or call (805) 688-6288 to register	USA
August 22-24, 2014	Keynote Speaker at <a href="#">Providing with Purpose: Serving Veterans to the Best of our Abilities</a>	USA
September 20, 2014	Night of Inspiration at Flag Is Up Farms, email <a href="mailto:admin@montyroberts.com">admin@montyroberts.com</a> or call (805) 688-6288 to register	USA
September 21, 2014	Life Lessons workshop: email <a href="mailto:admin@montyroberts.com">admin@montyroberts.com</a> or call (805) 688-6288 to register	
October 5, 2014	<a href="#">Merrist Wood College</a> , Guildford, Surrey, GU3 3PE	UK
October 10, 2014	<a href="#">Easton College</a> , Norwich, Norfolk, NR9 5DX	UK
October 16, 2014	<a href="#">Arena UK</a> , Allington, Lincolnshire, NG32 2EF	UK
October 18, 2014	<a href="#">Myerscough College</a> , Preston, Lancashire, PR3 0RY	UK
October 22, 2014	<a href="#">The Grange</a> , Okehampton, Devon, EX20 3DA	UK
October 24, 2014	<a href="#">Hartpury College</a> , Gloucester, GL19 3BE	UK
October 30, 2014	<a href="#">Greenlands EC</a> , Wreay, Carlisle, Cumbria CA4 0RR	UK
November 1, 2014	<a href="#">Gleneagles</a> , 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/](http://www.montyroberts.com/ab_about_monty_calendar/see-monty/)

## SUCCEED: FOR YOUR HORSE'S WELL BEING AND DIGESTIVE HEALTH



"I have believed for years that digestive health has a major impact on a horse's happiness, performance and overall well-being. Just by owning and riding horses, we take them out of their natural environment. We keep them in stalls, we feed them grain, and we exercise them. All of this works against the horse's digestive health.

I also believe there is something you can do to care for your horse's digestive system. I've been using a product called SUCCEED® on my performance horses for many years now, with tremendous results." ~ Monty

See more  
<http://www.montyroberts.com/succeed/>

## CORIGEM: THE HEALING POWER OF HONEY



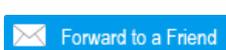
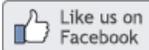
"The scientists behind Corigem® have found a nature-made healing gift from a species that no one before seemed to appreciate: a species of very busy bees that will improve the lives of humans and animals together."  
- Monty Roberts.

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

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Sincerely,  
**Monty Roberts**

