



Wednesday December 31, 2014

Greetings!

This last month of the year, we were blessed to host an amazing group of people who are supportive of our Horse Sense and Healing program for Military and First Responders. Mrs. Ann Romney was our speaker and guest of honor. Learn more about the program here: <http://www.join-up.org/veterans>



Left to right: Pat Roberts, Ann Romney and Monty Roberts

We hope to meet you in 2015, at [Flag Is Up Farms](#) or somewhere else around the world.

Wishing you all a Peaceful and Happy New Year,

~ Monty

MONTY ANSWERS

Question:

Dear Mr Roberts,

I have a 9-year-old Thoroughbred mare that I purchased almost two years ago with three weeks' training off the

track. At the time I was 13, and with the help of my instructors I have been training her in dressage, cross country and show jumping since I got her. From the time I got her she has shown a lot of promise in all areas even though she would always bolt off in jumping. The past six months however, she has really been acting up, especially in jumping. She would balk and refuse even the smallest jumps. Also when I first got her she was terrified of most tack and equipment, especially whips. A couple months ago, I decided to see how she would go bareback, because I remembered that she had done well bareback some time ago. I expected her to play up and either bolt, refuse jumps or start bucking again. However, she was an absolute gem, even in jumping. I began experimenting with different activities and found she was much calmer and much more responsive without the saddle. Is it possible that she links the appearance of certain tack and equipment with the bad memories of pain and other things from her racing days? And could this be why she is acting up? Could the increase in difficulty of the training have finally brought back bad memories?

Sincerely,

Hannah

Answer:

Thank you for writing and making the effort to be a good student of your horse's behaviors and comfort. It is also encouraging to hear you are retraining your mare from the racetrack to other disciplines. It is a wonderful feeling to find those activities that your horse enjoys by observing their demeanor as you pursue them.

Most experienced horse owners reading your question will undoubtedly want to know if you have had your mare checked by the vet for any source of pain. The obvious place to start is your saddle. Re-read your question with

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Giving Back to Veterans

Please remember to support our war veterans and first responders. One easy way is by shopping online: When you do your holiday shopping at AmazonSmile, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to Monty's nonprofit, Join-Up International. Bookmark the link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/77-0459889>

and support us every time you shop. You will be helping Monty's horse rescue efforts, free clinics for war veterans, and more!

You can also make a year-end donation directly to Join-Up International here:

<http://www.join-up.org/donation-faqs.html>

Monty's Principles

Shy Lowen Horse and Pony Sanctuary

Dear Monty,

It was great seeing you on tour at Myerscough this year. As well as the group of veterans who came to support Dave, there were also a number of young people who had never seen one of your demos before. Everyone enjoyed themselves, loved meeting you and learned from seeing you at work. This was true of the 'non-horsey' people too who could see the parallels to their own lives.

We are gaining support at an amazing rate and have received some grant funding during this year which has allowed us to put some pathways in and drain some of the water so there is less mud!

We are looking at having a riding school license early next year and have started looking for funding for an all weather surface so will let you know how that progresses. It will be a great development area for the kids as well as creating an income for the sanctuary if we can get it in place.

that in mind and I think to the saddle as a source of pain, whether ill-fitting or inappropriate for the activity.

As to your question about her skepticism of tack, whips are an obvious problem for any horse that is exposed to whips to cause pain. Horses are not born afraid of whips; they are taught to fear whips through pain. Anything that looks like a whip to a horse that has been hit will naturally cause fear in that horse. Pain destroys trust in horses.

Ill-fitting equipment can also cause pain, even if it is unintentional on your part. Remember too that horses are neophobic so any new equipment will be perceived as potentially dangerous or even deadly to a horse. They act to survive until they perceive that the object is not a threat. If your horse trusts you, their ability to trust their environment greatly improves.

Don't underestimate the power of incremental learning. If you and your trainers feel you have put too much pressure on her to accept her lessons, stop and reassess your goals. This is the lesson I learned from Brownie and I recorded it in [The Horses in My Life book](#). Brownie gave his all, but I needed to meet his needs too.

A strong recommendation from me would be to enlist an experienced trainer to start with the smallest kind of equipment you could use. A snaffle bit and pair of side reins and a surcingle might well be the first level in this incremental approach to cause the acceptance of tack and equipment. After carrying these objects for a couple of days, an hour each day in the box stall one could move to the next step if it seems appropriate.

The next move I might make is to add the long lines to the snaffle and the surcingle. When your horse is accepting the long lines and responding very well, one could add a small and then larger and larger pad under the surcingle. All of these accepted, then one could move to the first saddling.

Start with a small saddle if possible and use the long lines having the stirrups act as guides. A strap between the stirrups can hold them at the sides. I would work my way up to a very large saddle and then add small plastic bags to the saddle, moving to larger bits of plastic. There is no end to what you can do to cause your horse to accept any equipment that you chose to use.

~Monty

GOOD CHEER AND GREAT SAVINGS FROM ACTHA

Showing gratitude for a record-breaking year, ACTHA will send you a \$29.95 Trail Tips DVD set FREE with any \$35 gift certificate or annual ACTHA membership purchased by January 15, 2015, while supplies last.

To date, ACTHA's horse registry contains of over 1,400 rescued horses. More than 400 of them have earned medals and won awards, including last season's National Pleasure Champion!

To show our appreciation, we are sharing the popular Trail Tips DVD series..FREE with any \$35 ACTHA purchase (gift certificate or membership), shipping included. Regularly priced at \$29.95, with thousands in circulation.



"Trail Tips" Set 1 & 2 as seen on RFD TV's "The Horse Show", is filmed in colorful Colorado. Rick Lamb and ACTHA's Carrie Scrima will have you laughing at how simple these challenges really are if you know some basic techniques.

This offer is available to both members and non-members while supplies last.*

To receive your free gift:

- Purchase a [\\$35 Gift Certificate](#) for yourself or a friend

OR

- Purchase an [annual ACTHA Membership](#) for yourself or a friend



If you give that gift certificate to a friend you will not only get the Trail Tips DVD Collection you will also receive the Pocket Book! (A \$9.95 VALUE). ACTHA'S new overnight bestseller.

It fits right in your shirt pocket and gives you all the trail tips right at your finger tips... anywhere! It's our way of saying thanks for introducing a new rider to ACTHA.

ORDER HERE FOR THIS OPTION AND MAKE SURE YOU NOTE IN THE MESSAGE BOX "THIS IS A GIFT".

Hope you enjoy the 2015 calendar, Bernadette Langfield and everyone at Shy Lowen

<http://www.shylowen.com/>

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 hope you had a Merry Christmas!
I was wondering if there could be a post about how to train a horse to mount from the other side. Where I ride it is often impossible to maneuver a horse to mount from the left, and whilst I can mount from the right it would be great to "kiss" and have him step towards me. I followed the training for normal mounting and it worked well, but I'm not sure if by doing the same training for the left I will confuse my horse. I wouldn't want him to step sideways down a rocky slope for example! Should another sound be made? Should I make him associate an alternative signal with stepping to the right? Any help would be much appreciated!
Best wishes for the New Year!

Imogen
UK

Now Playing: Hollywood Hoofbeats and Monty's Year in Review



[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.

Author and daughter of legendary film star Robert Mitchum chats about her new book "Hollywood Hoofbeats: The Fascinating Story of Horses in Movies and Television" and the Annual Year in Review with Monty Roberts.

Listen in...

<http://www.horsemanshipradio.com/2014/12/15/horsemanship-radio-episode-30-by-index-fund-advisors-ifa-com-hollywood-hoofbeats-and-montys-year-in-review/>

That's all you have to do and the Pocket Book along with your Trail Tips DVD collection will arrive at your door in days. Once again not to be overly dramatic, while supplies last.*

What others are saying:

"The most beautiful and valuable tool I could ever have received. Not only do I see the obstacles being done correctly, being "shown" how to teach my horse to do them was wonderful... and so simple. The Colorado beautiful background is just a plus". Claire S, ACTHA member, Oregon.

"...your 2 hours of teaching and training on Trail Tips really helped me visualize and understand. My ACTHA performances soared..." Donna S., ACTHA member, Texas.

"Your Pocket Book is awesome! Compact and practical, I took it out to practice the same day I got it in the mail. Bravo." Mark B, Austin, Texas.

*** ALL NEW ANNUAL ACTHA MEMBERSHIPS PURCHASED FROM NOW UNTIL JANUARY 15th, 2015, WILL RECEIVE A FREE DVD SET AUTOMATICALLY, BUT YOU MUST JOIN BEFORE JANUARY 15th, 2015!**

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

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

Recent interviews:

William Reynolds, Equine Media Influencer

Greg M. Simon, Prix de West Chairman, National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum

Chris Morris, Monty Roberts Certified Instructor, England

Christiane Schwagrzinna, Equine Alternative Therapy, Germany

Angie Sheer, Equine Alternative Therapy for Veterans

Dr. Sue Cain, author of Horse Sense for Leaders

Petrine Day Mitchum, author of Hollywood Hoofbeats

Monty Roberts, Year in Review 2014

Brought to you by Index Fund Advisors, www.IFA.com, and Corigem, www.CorigemAnimals.com. (promo code: MONTY)

THIS WEEK IN MONTY'S EQUUS ONLINE UNI



Monty's Equus Online University lessons continue today, December 31, with Monty Roberts introducing Horse Sense and Healing with Katie Cunningham in Guatemala. [Watch the video now!](#)



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

Horse Sense for Leaders



Enjoy the First Excerpt Now.

Ask Monty readers' special: [Click here to read a free excerpt!](#)

CORIGEM: Honey Power



"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/>

SUCCEED: 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/shop/horse-health-care-products/>

GLOBE GALLOPING WITH MONTY ROBERTS

Have some fun with Monty, go to: www.facebook.com/MontyRoberts

Night of Inspiration on Valentines Day

February 14, 2015 Night of Inspiration at Flag Is Up Farms, email admin@montyroberts.com USA

Monty in Arizona

March 14, 2015 Monty demonstration at Camp Verde in Arizona. [Click here!](#) USA

Monty in the UK

March 24, 2015 [Hadlow College](#), Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 0AL UK

March 26, 2015 [Norton Heath Equestrian Centre Limited](#), Fingrith Hall Lane, Blackmore, Essex, CM4 0JP UK

March 28, 2015 [West Wilts Equestrian Centre](#), Melksham Road, Holt, North Trowbridge, Wilts BA14 6QT UK

Monty in Australia

April 25 & 26, 2015	Demos in Melbourne, tickets: http://www.montyrobertslive.com/	Australia
April 28, 2015	Demo in Shepparton, tickets: http://www.montyrobertslive.com/	Australia
May 2 & 3, 2015	Demos in Adelaide, tickets: http://www.montyrobertslive.com/	Australia

If you are in Australia and would like to register your horse for Horse Selection at one of Monty's demonstrations, please learn about the process here: <http://www.montyrobertslive.com/take-part/horse-application/>



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/

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

or reach out on any of their Social Media platforms:

@TheRuralChannel

www.facebook.com/theruralchannel

SPECIAL GIFTS FOR HORSE LOVERS

Horse & Country, UK



Watch Monty Roberts on Horse & Country TV in the UK (Sky channel 253), Ireland, The Netherlands, Sweden and Malta. See:

www.horseandcountry.tv/monty for more info.

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.

Photo Credits

Christopher Dydyk

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(1) Monty's [Join-Up Kit](#) is in! Here you will find all the tools you need to get started on the journey to Join-Up, including a Dually Halter (your choice of size), a Join-Up DVD and Monty's textbook, plus a 6-month membership to Monty's Equus Online University to keep learning fun, connect with other horse people on their path to force-free training, and you'll also get a new video lesson from Monty each week, plus 24/7 online access to more than 300 archived video lessons for horse lovers of all levels and disciplines.

(2) The [Honey Healing Gift Basket](#) will delight those who seek healing for themselves, their horse, or a companion animal. Corigem® healing balm and serum spray formulas, displayed in a festive basket.

(3) Here is a [special for horse students young and older](#): Buy a copy of Monty's textbook and get Shy Boy's storybook for just \$5 more! The Little American Mustang is a beautifully illustrated book written from the horse's point of view, much like the original Black Beauty story. Shy Boy's narrative will open a child's mind to what horses and humans can learn from each other when kindness and trust are involved.

(4) The [Horse Lover's Gift Set](#): This is the ultimate gift for horse people. It includes the Dually Training Halter, Monty's textbook, From My Hands to Yours, now in its third edition, and when you buy these two tools together, we will add in a FREE Join-Up DVD (English language only).

(5) Get ready for [Story Time with Shy Boy!](#) Mustang Shy Boy's compelling story is artfully illustrated in these two books for kids ages 3 and older. Shy Boy's uplifting adventure story, will have the kids falling in love with this horse and his message.

See all special offers here: www.montyroberts.com/shop/specials/

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/>

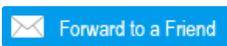


KEEP IN TOUCH

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

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

