



Wednesday January 21, 2015

Greetings!

We love our horses. We try our best to meet their needs and keep them happy. Sometimes it's hard to tell when the love we are giving is actually creating problem behaviors, but sometimes it does. Monty talks about this topic in his Question and Answer below.

MONTY ANSWERS

Question:

Hi Monty, firstly thank you for sharing your wealth of knowledge of the horse, I have a just turned 2 yr old Quarter Horse cross Scottish Highland filly. I have had her since she was 10 months old, very lively and inquisitive young girl, exceptional manners on the ground, takes all new things in her stride, has been exposed to sheep, cattle, dogs, loud machinery, the beach, and is great around other horses. I have done a lot of ground work with her including Join-Up, and she can do all the basics, i.e. disengages hind and forequarters, backs up beautifully, moves of pressure, and accepts desensitization, walks, trots, and canters in hand with respect, unfortunately I can't keep up with her. She is respectful around food and accepts it's mine until I allow her to take it. She has just been exposed to the saddle and cinch with no issues. So you're probably thinking what issues do we have? It's quite a basic problem that when I go to the paddock I call to her and she usually calls back, she always wants to greet me with her nose, she will push it in my face and take a big sniff, is that okay because that usually follows with a sneaky nip, it's not aggressive but all the same whenever I'm in the paddock she follows me she at some point tries to nip me, I do tell her off and she will turn her head away and start chewing, is this acceptable behavior or should I treat it as a sign of dominance? Thank you Monty!

Gillian Stacey

Answer:

It is frightening for me to attempt to give you a responsible answer to the question regarding the behavior of your horse. When you say things like "She is respectful around food and accepts it's mine until I allow her to take it," this is a picture that is crystal clear. Those words tell me that you are ultimately feeding your filly from your hand. If you are following my techniques, you know that is considered by me to be the third worst piece of horsemanship on earth.

When you go on to say..."she always wants to greet me with her nose, she will push it in my face and take a big sniff, is that okay because that usually follows with a sneaky nip." These are the words of an owner guilty of anthropomorphism. By these words, you are treating her similarly to how you would treat a child. You are clearly attaching human attributes to those of your two-year-old filly. This, in my concepts or the concepts of any other good horsemen, is patently unacceptable.

When you send through a quote "whenever I'm in the paddock she follows me; she at some point tries to nip," you further support my case for human misunderstanding of the proper interactions of an owner with their horse. These are unacceptable behaviors of the tenth power. It is my opinion that you desperately need to either read my textbook, [From My Hands to Yours](#), or visit any of about ten different lessons on the [Equus Online University](#), or preferably both.

Believe me, I am not trying to be overly critical of an owner who expresses love for her horse. What I am desperately trying to do is be responsible for giving my owner information as to what is appropriate as expressions as love for your horse. Several that you have outlined are well off the mark. I am here to help.

~ Monty

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Monty's Principles

Tales of Courage and Kindness with Oscar the Horse Hero

My name is Charlie Avent.

Although I live a normal life in the United Kingdom, I have a special gift called Autism. This is my true story of how a horse named Oscar gave me life, helped me to become an apprentice Horse Whisperer then helped me to turn my Autism into a gift.

Before I discovered horses, I was suicidal, hysterical, upset and depressed by the bullying and the hate I had to endure in my life particularly that aimed at me for having the (so called) disability of Autism. It felt as if my 'Autistic Spectrum Disorder' as my carers called it, was blinding those around me to my interests and strengths and this felt awful as I began to feel like a mutant.

I first met Oscar when I was in my second year

at Ruskin Mill College. I was struggling to make sense of my life, to find meaning or purpose in myself. I was so upset that I wanted to die because I hated myself for having Autism. One day I was in Patricia my art tutor's house, crying and hysterically upset, when she took me out to meet Oscar.

From the moment I met Oscar, a bay thoroughbred who, I had been told, had had a very difficult start in life and had nearly died, I felt my own self pity become lost in a sea of love.

THIS WEEK IN MONTY'S EQUUS ONLINE UNI





HORSE SENSE AND HEALING: MAGIC FOR VETERANS AND WILD HORSES



Monty's and his team of instructors guide war veterans in how to build trust with untouched horses in the state-of-the-art IFA Gentling Pen at Flag Is Up Farms. [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.

GLOBE GALLOPING WITH MONTY ROBERTS

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

Monty in California

February 14, 2015 Night of Inspiration on Valentine's Day at Flag Is Up Farms, email admin@montyroberts.com or call +1-805-688-6288 for registration details. Individuals and groups are welcome to register! More information here: <http://www.montyroberts.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/MPRI-Night-of-Inspiration.pdf> USA

February 21-22, 2015 Riding with Respect Clinic with Monty. Click here for more information: http://www.montyroberts.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/RespectClinic_web2.pdf 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 Canberra, 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/

He seemed to be saying "I love you, Charlie" and asking me for friendship and help in spreading the message that violence towards any animal or human being is never the answer. In return he said he would help me to learn about his language and that he would never let me fall back into myself. He said, "I'm always here in spirit if not in body." I feel very tearful just writing about this.

Oscar said to me, "If you want to repay me, you can become a Horse Whisperer," and although I don't believe I can ever fully repay him I have since totally set my heart on becoming a Horse Whisperer!

[Editor's note: Read more about Charlie and Oscar's story in next week's edition of the Ask Monty.]

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 have a question:
Does Monty have a formula about how to achieve a light responsive mouth? Does he start riding in a halter, if so how long before he starts introducing a bit and would he still ride with the halter as well as a back up? Which bit does he start with? Which bits does he progress with and how much would he expect of a youngster at each stage of training the stop and turns and what to do if they start to lean on the bit? How much does ground work flexion and long-reining help with lightness and are there negative effects of starting off straight away in a strong bit such as a Pelham which would achieve quicker results?

Thanks.



[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.

English trainer Chris Morris talks about how he helps remedial horses and author Dr. Sue Cain talks about her new book *Horse Sense for Leaders* based on Monty Roberts' concepts of Trust-based Leadership. This week's tip features Lyndsey White with 10 Facts about this important piece of riding gear.

Listen in...

<http://www.horsemanshipradio.com/2015/01/14/horsemanship-radio-epi-sode-32-by-index-fund-advisors-ifa-com-trainer-chris-morris-horse-sense-for-leaders-author-dr-sue-cain/>

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Recent interviews:

Christiane Schwagrzinna, Equine Alternative Therapy, Germany

Angie Sheer, Equine Alternative Therapy for Veterans

Alan Hill Back Country Horsemen of America (BCHA)

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

Check out our new sponsor:

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 an make a year-end donation directly to Join-Up International here: <http://www.join-up.org/donation-faqs.html>

HORSE SENSE FOR LEADERS



Ask Monty readers' special:

[Click here to read a free excerpt!](#)

Alice G., UK

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

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!



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.

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- Monty Roberts.

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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/>

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

