



Wednesday February 11, 2015

### Greetings!

In his Question and Answer Column, Monty discusses the advantages and place of bitless bridles. Are they the way of future, force-free horsemanship? Are they one type of the many tools available to train and cue horses? What do you think? Read Monty's opinion on this topic below.

## MONTY ANSWERS

### Question:

I have been a horse owner for four years, but have loved horses most of my 55 years. It was nearly a month after I bought Tye before I brought him home. During that time, my cousin recommended I watch a video about your methods, which led to me to [your website and the university](#). It also led me to finding a barefoot farrier, who led me to the book, "Soul of a Horse".

To say the least, I am inexperienced, and although my horse, nine years old at the time I purchased him (he picked me after I prayed about it, but that is a whole other story) was nine years old, he'd been "broke to ride" but hadn't been ridden much. His owner said he had never bucked, and to this day, he has not. We have been learning together for the last four years and we make a good team. At my age I needed a good gentle horse that I didn't have problems "catching", and I got that very horse with Tye. Shortly after I brought him home I did Join-Up with him and after that, I can walk up to him in a ten acre field and put a halter on him. I even did walked up to him after a dog chased him ¾ of a mile from home.

One thing I had problems with him during my first year, was getting him to take a bit of any kind. I tried honey, you name it, he didn't like bits and still doesn't. I did some research and came up with bitless bridles, and after doing a good deal of research, I purchased one. As with anything new, Tye had to get used to the bridle. I love it, he seems to like it, (as much as a horse is going to like a bridle) and I'm not worried about hurting his mouth or his teeth; I cringe at the thought of something metal clanking against my teeth.

I've heard of horses taking the bit in their teeth and running away with the rider. With a bitless bridle, he can't take the bit in his teeth, I feel I have more control and the experts on bitless bridles say the same, plus I feel it is more humane as its more like placing your hand on the side of his head and pushing his head in the direction you want him to go. What is your opinion of bitless bridles and why aren't they used more often?

Donna Covey

### Answer:

The subject of bitless bridles comes into my conversations quite often. Because of how my career has progressed, I believe that people often think of me as a person who doesn't place much importance on the bitless bridle. The fact is that my career was heavily laced with the bitless bridle during the 1960s.

[Fiddle d'Or](#) was and is the only horse to ever win the world championship with the American Reined Cow Horse Association two years in succession. I am a firm believer in the use of the rawhide hackamore. Other instruments that have come to be known as the hackamore definitely have importance.

One should be extremely aware of the fact that any head gear that goes on a horse is only as good as the hands that hold it. I believe that bits in the mouth have an important part to play in the life of any well trained horse. It is my further belief that any horseman that has entered the world of high level horsemanship has a further obligation.

Each of us who want the best for our horses need to learn the use of headgear of any kind. Bits or bit-less, we should teach our hand to be adept regardless of the instrument involved. Further, we should be able to allow our horses to learn the acceptance of any reasonable headgear that we choose to utilize.

The [Equus Online University](#) has lessons on the horse that refuses to receive the bit. Believe me, if the horse is properly prepared they will learn to love the honey and I promise you I could get your horse to accept any reasonable bit in a short period of time. Follow the lessons on head shy for the ears and the top of the head.

There is nothing wrong with a horse being guided by a bit in the mouth. The only thing that can be harsh are the hands that hold it. One should remember that the well trained horse will respond to any reasonable request if given positive consequences for positive behavior. It is an absolute guarantee that this will happen.

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## Monty's Principles

From Facebook's Laurence Auvray:

Quelle belle personne vous êtes dans tous les sens du terme, j'ai des chevaux et j'applique dans mon cœur tout ce que vous avez dans votre cœur et ma vie et celle de mes animaux devient alors plus belle MERCI POUR VOTRE LECON DE VIE

English Translation:

What a beautiful person you are in every sense of the term, I have horses and I apply in my heart everything that you have in your heart and my life and that of my animals. Then it becomes more beautiful. Thank you for your lesson of life.

## 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,  
First, I'd like to thank you for your tremendous work and dedication to making the world a better place for both horse and human. I first saw your work at a live demonstration many years ago in England. Ever since, I have been in awe of your work and continue to follow and learn your methods.

I'd like to ask your advice on something on which I have been unable to find an answer in any of your online materials. I have a 2 year old appaloosa colt, who I have owned since he was 7 months old. He has worn a Dually halter since I first owned him, and has always been responsive to his training, and respectful on the ground. Recently, when we work in hand, he is chewing the lead rope. The act of chewing the rope appears to soothe him. But it makes it very difficult to effectively use the Dually, when he's holding the rope that would apply the pressure in his teeth! I'm in somewhat of a dilemma about what to do about this. Is this behavior acceptable - perhaps a sign of teething? Or should it be discouraged? My trainer has always told me that he should not be allowed to do this, as it will lead to biting. Quite honestly, the act of trying to remove the lead rope from his mouth leads to more of a fight and attempted biting! The vet has checked his teeth, and all are OK, although he has not lost any baby teeth yet...

I'm not sure if this is a passing phase, or something which should be nipped in the bud?

Any advice you can give would be much appreciated.

Many thanks  
Paula, CT, USA

Monty's Equus Online University lessons FOAL EDUCATION WITH LEIGH WILLS continues this week with a lesson on how to cause the behavior you want to train in the foal. [Watch the video now!](#)



**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.

**GLOBE GALLOPING WITH MONTY ROBERTS**

Have some fun with Monty, go to: [www.facebook.com/MontyRoberts](http://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](mailto:admin@montyroberts.com) or call +1-805-688-6288 for registration details. USA

Individuals and groups are welcome to register! More information here: <http://www.montyroberts.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/MPRI-Night-of-Inspiration.pdf>

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](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 29, 2015 Demo in Shepparton, tickets: <http://www.montyrobertslive.com/> Australia

May 2 & 3, 2015 Demos in Canberra, tickets: <http://www.montyrobertslive.com/> Australia

**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

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/](http://www.montyroberts.com/ab_about_monty_calendar/see-monty/)

 humans and animals together."  
- Monty Roberts.

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

## Now Playing: Alan Hill of Back Country Horsemen of America, Catherine Cunningham helps share good horsemanship in Guatemala



[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.

Back Country Horsemen of America is a 40 year old non-profit made up of men and women serving 174 chapters in 27 states with 13,000 members dedicated to keeping trails open for all on our public lands. And Catherine Cunningham has created a program in Guatemala to take violence out of horses' lives, and peoples' too. Our Trainers Tip is on Ground Manners from ACTHA Picasso award winner Judy Limsky.

### Listen in...

<http://www.horsemanshipradio.com/2015/01/30/horsemanship-radio-episode-33-by-index-fund-advisors-ifa-com-alan-hill-of-back-country-horsemen-of-america-catherine-cunningham-helps-teach-good-horsemanship-in-guatemala/>

### Get the free App here:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/horse-radio-network/id672259386?mt=8>

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

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

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Check out our new sponsor, and use promo code Monty2015 for 15% off:



## HORSE SENSE FOR LEADERS



Enjoy the First Excerpt Now.

Ask Monty readers' special:  
In Brazil, like much of Latin America, horses are often trained by traditional methods involving force. Training horses in the traditional method involves using an authoritative and forceful leadership style to "break" the horse.

Translated to the work-world, this style recalls the hierarchical, top-down command and control leadership style useful in the manufacturing age, but it does little to engender

trust, collaboration, and motivation in today's age of information.

This approach has been replaced by leadership models that engender trust and help...

[\[Click here to read on...a free excerpt\]](#)

## 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/>

## 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/](http://www.hrtv.com/MontyRobertsShow/)

Please note that Dish TV has moved the HRTV channel position to 398.

## 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:

## 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>

<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)

## 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/>

## 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](http://www.horseandcountry.tv/monty) for more info.



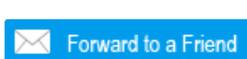
## KEEP IN TOUCH

Let us know what you are looking for in content from these emails. Send your comments and requests to [askmonty@montyroberts.com](mailto:askmonty@montyroberts.com).

Never miss an e-mail from Monty: To ensure you receive this email in the future, add [askmonty@montyroberts.com](mailto: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.

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Christopher Dydyk



Sincerely,  
**Monty Roberts**

