



Wednesday March 4, 2015

Greetings!

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 $\frac{3}{4}$ 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 likes 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, Princeton, MO.

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.

~Monty

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Monty's Principles

Time to Visit Canada

I've noticed that Monty travels all around the US and Europe. When will we get to see a tour through Canada? While it is a bit cold right now, it won't always be like that.

I've 'joined up' with my OTTB many times and the results never fail to amaze me. In an open arena he follows me all around like a little puppy while I jog, do serpentine etc.

It would be great to have a chance to meet Monty and thank him for all he has brought to the horse world.

Regards,
Geoffrey Pille

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 recently bought a 3-year-old gelding who is semi wild. I did Join-Up quite quickly and was able to catch and halter him easily which I did very other day for a couple of weeks, taking him for walks etc. I then sent him off to start his training with an experienced horse handler who is quite a natural horseman.

Unfortunately my horse was put in the round pen with a horse that was difficult to catch for about a week before I realized. I was not happy and asked that he be moved but I think some bad habits had rubbed off.

He had begun to be long reined but I lost my confidence after this and brought him back home to carry on as I had been. He was more hesitant in being caught but I didn't have a big problem and so I started working with him on the ground for 30 minutes for a couple of days - always allowing him to digest what we had done; flicking a rope round him moving him round me on a long line etc and all was going really well. But then he next day I when I approached him and started to put the halter on, he moved

away, it didn't help that he was in with a 8 month filly that I had bought at the same time as she would get in the way and move off taking him with her.

I left it not wanting to establish the wrong thing when I could see it wasn't getting anywhere. So I spent some time re-watching Join-Up and thought I'd reestablish this and catch him that way. Unfortunately I couldn't move the filly out and I had to use a 20m by 40m paddock. I tried for an hour and within the first 20 mins had him turning and licking his lips coming up a bit but as soon as I began to approach to stroke his head he'd be off again. Similarly the filly didn't help this process. I thought if I persisted he'd eventually settle enough for me to approach and have him follow me, but I had to give up. Now I am feeling desperate that I have instilled more bad habits and to the filly too. Please can you help?

Yours Sincerely,
Lisa Guy

Monty's Equus Online University lessons FOAL EDUCATION WITH LEIGH WILLS continues this week with "Getting the Right Things Happening"! [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 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 Germany		
April 6, 2015	Pferdezentrum Bad Saarow , Silberberg 1, 15526 Bad Saarow	Germany
April 17, 2015	RTC Ostfriesland , Am Reitsportzentrum 1, 26629 Großefehn-Timmel	Germany
April 19, 2015	Ausbildungszentrum Luhmühlen , Bruchweg 5, 21376 Salzhausen	Germany
Monty in Hungary		
April 11 - 12	Monty's Special Training at Simonpuszta Lovaspark	Hungary
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

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/>

Horse & Country, UK



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



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.horseandcountrytv.com/programmes/monty-roberts>

In Australia: www.horseandcountrytv.com.au

Now Playing: Mark Hebner's Perspective on Horse Ownership, Monty Roberts Readies Us for Riding Season



[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.

Mid-Winter blues make us long for Spring rides. Mark and Monty share their advice for shaping up for the ride ahead. ACTHA Champion. Judy Linsky shares a Training Tip.

Listen in...

<http://www.horsemanshipradio.com/2015/03/01/horsemanship-radio-episode-35-by-index-fund-advisors-ifa-com-mark-hebners-perspective-on-horse-ownership-monty-roberts-readies-us-for-riding-season/>

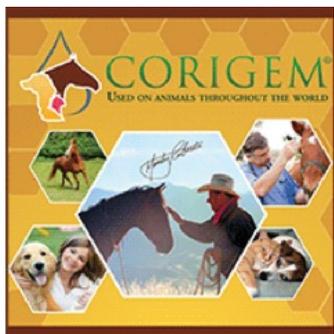
Get the free App here:

<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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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.

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

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/>

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>

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/>



Photo Credits

Christopher Dydyk

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...

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

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

