



ASK MONTY

Wednesday April 15, 2015

Greetings!

This week, Monty shares his tips on ensuring safety and comfort when taking horses for a road trip.

MONTY ANSWERS

Question:

Can I leave the Dually Halter on to haul my horse in the trailer?
Thank you,
Belinda

Answer:

The Dually Halter is a great tool for the training to load in the trailer. The Dually Halter and a 30 foot line are the best pieces of equipment I know to simply and effectively train a horse to load and lead. If you have a horse who is difficult to load, please review my procedures for training a horse to load on the trailer as I outline in my textbook, [From My Hands to Yours](#), and describe in detail in the Loading lessons on my Equus Online University, starting with this lesson:
<http://montyrobertsuniversity.com/training/2031188812>

My first suggestion is to train on a day when you don't have to travel. Once your horse has become comfortable loading and unloading, you should be able to begin loading with a regular halter. If you are at a point where you still get some resistance, put a Dually Halter over the regular halter, load your horse, and then remove the Dually once your horse is loaded and the back end is closed. Never tie your horse in a trailer while the back gate or ramp is open or before putting up the butt bar.

Your question gives me an opportunity to share my thoughts on safely trailering a horse. A horse should be transported with protective shipping boots that fit properly without reducing the circulation of the lower leg. I recommend a poll protector attached to the crown of the halter to reduce the potential for injury. I also like to tie the horse in the trailer so that his head cannot reach the floor between his front legs. This lessens the potential for a neck injury when the trailer brakes.

Give the horse some hay to munch on during travel time. I believe in stopping at approximately four-hour intervals. Also stop where the horse can be unloaded on safe footing, offered some water, and a little exercise, ideally. Wherever possible, provide the horse with water brought from home. The use of flavored electrolytes while still at home will accustom your horse to a particular taste, allowing you to make acceptable water from another area by adding the same taste.

I am a firm believer in partial partitions in the trailer. There should be a minimum of 30 inches (approx. 76 cm) free space between the bottom of the partition and the floor of the trailer. The injuries that occur to horses because of the absence of this space far out-number any injuries that occur because of this space. I further support the need for padded, smooth surfaces throughout the interior of your truck or trailer, free of any protrusions.

The method by which the horse transitions from the ground to the floor of the vehicle is critically important to the safety of the horse during loading and unloading. If a trailer is used and a typical ramp gate attached, then the ramp angle should be as shallow as possible, and there should be great attention paid to the traction provided by the surface of the ramp.

If it is a step-up trailer, you should attempt to provide the lowest possible distance from the ground to the floor of the trailer. If the trailer is inappropriately high, then seek out a sloping area where the trailer can be parked to reduce the distance the horse is required to negotiate entering and exiting the trailer.

And remember, never tie your horse in a trailer while the back gate or ramp is open or before putting up the butt bar.

~Monty

See more at www.MontyRobertsUniversity.com and [From My Hands to Yours text-book](#)

IN THIS ISSUE

[Monty's Question and Answer](#)

[Equus Online Uni](#)

[Monty's Calendar](#)

[Monty on the Radio](#)

[Horse Sense for Leaders](#)

[Get the E-news Each Week](#)

[Monty on TV](#)

[Spread the Word](#)

[Monty's Principles](#)

[Monty's Challenge](#)

Monty's Principles

Think Outside the Box

My good friend Lorraine Baker first came to visit my place in Ashcroft, British Columbia, more than 10 years ago. Another friend had left a couple of 2-year-olds, friendly but untrained, in my home pasture. Lorraine, well-meaning but unschooled in the ways of horses, took the friendly greeting she received as a sign that she could do more, climbed up one of the colts and was dumped as a reward. I think she sprained her wrist.

I was a cowboy at the Douglas Lake Cattle Company here in BC when I was young - I cried when I read your first book, and recognized how cruel our methods of breaking colts had been. So Lorraine and I talked about the predator-prey aspects of human-horse relationships, and about the benefits of

gentleness and indirect approaches in dealing with horses. We've been friends for years now, and have had many more such conversations.

I was at a musical gathering a few weeks ago, and Lorraine, who is now an elementary school vice-principal, told me a story about dealing with a troubled child. I was so affected by her telling that I asked her to write it down, with the

thought that you might be interested. She sent me this:

Hi John,
You asked me to relate to you a bit more about a child I worked with a few years back.

Her backstory is just unimaginable: Born in eastern Europe to a drug addict mom. Found abandoned at 3 years old with her year-old sister who had already died of dehydration. Eventually adopted and now living in Vancouver and doing pretty well considering prenatal exposure to alcohol and narcotics as well as attachment issues and having to use English as a second language. Then at about 6 she had a medical brain episode that rendered her a helpless infant. She has had to learn how to walk, talk, feed and dress herself all over again. About 70% kids recover fully from this condition, but no one really knows what her capacity is given all the prenatal history of drugs and alcohol.

When I met her, she was a feral, wild little thing who cried and ran in and out of classrooms grabbing at other kids and basically disrupting things. Essentially she was a 2 year old trapped in a 9 year old body. She had very little language and no friends as the other kids were basically afraid of her. The staff spent their time just trying to keep her and other kids safe.

Then one November day as I watched a staff person walking briskly toward her (to keep her from running out of a gate) I realized that I could see the whites all the way around her eyes. It struck me that she was like pictures of young horses I had seen being rounded up to be broken. I said to a nearby staffer "I am going to try something. Watch her and tell me what she does."

I called the child's name gently from about 50 feet away. When she looked at me I took a couple steps toward her but then turned my shoulder toward her, took a few more steps and then stopped. I glanced in her direction then looked away and took a few more steps parallel to her and stopped. I glanced at her again and she was looking curiously at me. I waited until she started moving and when she did I walked parallel to her for a little while and then closed the distance between us still keeping my shoulder to her all the time.

After a few minutes I got out a bit ahead of her and began wandering an aimless path stopping once in a while to glance her way, still keeping my shoulder to her but closing the distance a bit more each time. Then I started widening the distance a bit and SHE started closing it. As I came by the staff person again I asked "What is she doing?" OMG she is following you!"

I said, "OK, keep watching. If this next thing works she will approach me." Then I swung in a bit closer but still shoulder toward her. I glanced at her then turned my face away, walked another few steps and then stopped not

THIS WEEK IN MONTY'S EQUUS ONLINE UNIVERSITY

THIS WEEK ON EQUUS ONLINE...



Monty's Equus Online University lessons continue today with Monty's Tour Demonstrations in Germany. Watch Part 2 of Geronimo the bucker and bolter: Overcoming Fear by Building Trust. [Watch the video now!](#)



Not a student yet? Click on: www.montyrobersonline.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 Germany

April 17, 2015 [RTC Ostfriesland](#), Am Reitsportzentrum 1, 26629 GroBefehn-Timmel Germany

April 19, 2015 [Ausbildungszentrum Luhmühlen](#), Bruchweg 5, 21376 Salzhausen Germany

Monty in Australia

April 25 & 26, 2015 Demos in Melbourne, tickets: <http://www.montyrobersonline.com/> Australia

April 29, 2015 Demo in Shepparton, tickets: <http://www.montyrobersonline.com/> Australia

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

Monty in California

June 24 to July 3, 2015 Monty's Special Training in Portuguese: <http://www.mundoequestre.com.br/#!viagem-monty-roberts/ccco> USA

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.montyrobersonline.com/take-part/horse-application/>



For information about Monty's worldwide demos and the courses held at Monty's farm in

HORSEMANSHIP RADIO

GallopNYC and CHA Keep Horses Relevant in People's Lives

Alicia Kershaw, Sara Jane Casey and Christy Landwehr didn't set out to change the landscape of horsemanship for people but they did feel led to bring horses and people closer together for the benefit of both. Trainer's tip: Tevis Cup Winner Heather Reynolds.

Listen in...

<http://www.horsemanshipradio.com/2015/04/02/horsemanship-radio-episode-37-by-index-fund-advisors-ifa-com-gallopnyc-and-cha-keep-horses-relevant-in-peoples-lives/>

[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.

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.](#)

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"SHINE" FROM THE
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HORSE SENSE FOR LEADERS



Enjoy the First
Excerpt Now.

Now available on Amazon! Click on Amazon Smile and donate to Monty's nonprofit while getting this great book.

Horse Sense for Leaders: Building Trust-Based Relationships
Features New York Times Best-Selling Author Monty Roberts

http://www.amazon.com/Horse-Sense-Leaders-Trust-Based-Relation-ships-ebook/dp/B00UM34OZC/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1426527171&sr=8-

[1&keywords=Horse+Sense+for+Leaders+monty+roberts](http://www.amazon.com/Horse-Sense-for-Leaders+monty+roberts)

"The connection made in this book between leadership and non-violence is extremely important. Many leaders have employed violence or cruelty to achieve their ends but Monty Roberts has gone in

another few steps and then stopped not looking at her but just waiting. By this time all 5 staff were watching. Not even a minute went by before our wild child walked up to me from the side and took my hand.

I did not look at her I just held her hand for a few moments, Then, with me leading, we went for a little walk together. The staff were just amazed and everyone was smiling. Everyone somehow just knew to be quiet and calm and even a few of the girls in her class came over quietly and spoke nicely to her. She even smiled. She seemed somehow proud of herself.

After a few minutes I took my hand away but she stuck to me like glue for the rest of lunch hour. When the bell went I waited outside with her and tried to explain to the staff person that what I had been trying to do was invite our fragile little wild child to "join up". That when we adults walk up to her face on it feels like an attack but shoulder to shoulder might not feel as threatening. We agreed that we would try to approach her in this way for a while to see if it worked in other settings.

From then on, her primary staff support person made a point of approaching from the side and not looking her directly in the face until she was seeming calm and settled. It didn't prevent all the outbursts and tantrums, but over time this strategy definitely enabled us to build a more trusting relationship with the child (and the parent). With trust came a willingness to try harder things like sit and do a puzzle together or with another kid.

When she changed schools we sent the primary staff person to the new school with her. I understand from the admin at

her new school that gradually her language is developing and she is now able to speak in simple sentences, and make her needs know with fewer tantrums. she now spends most of her time in the classroom with kids her age in stead of removed from the classroom.

She has taught us all how to think outside the box!

Thought you might enjoy hearing how your work affected, first, one long-retired cowboy, second, a person with the greatest good intentions but not initially much horse sense, and third, most importantly, a threatened and powerless child in a frightening environment.

Thanks for your good good work.
John Kidder
Ashcroft, British Columbia
Canada

Monty's Challenge



the opposite direction and shows how true leadership is about the development of trust (whether between a human and an animal or between humans) and encouraging those around one to reach their full potential. Everybody could benefit from absorbing the practices outlined in this book."

Andrew Rowan is the Chief Scientific Officer for The Humane Society of the United States.

Premise of the book: Monty Roberts, author of The New York Times bestseller, The Man Who Listens to Horses, has cooperated with the writing of a new book, Horse Sense for Leaders. The book borrows from the fascinating life of Roberts, known as the horse whisperer, for a highly engaging look at the significance of trust-based leadership. The book blends Monty's work as a world leader of non-violent horse training with current research on the value of a trust-based leadership approach. This unique approach allows for an interesting and provocative read on how leaders can engage followers in more effective relationships at work.

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



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 camp with my horse and when he is tied to the side of the trailer to be tacked up he starts pawing. I don't want him to hurt himself or my trailer. What is the best way to stop this behavior. He also does it when I tie him inside my indoor arena.

Joan Patterson

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/>



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

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!



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/>

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.

Horse & Country, UK



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

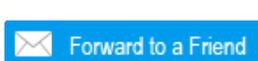
<http://www.horseandcountry.tv/programmes/monty-roberts>

In Australia: www.horseandcountrytv.com.au

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.



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Sincerely,
Monty Roberts

