



ASK MONTY

Wednesday May 6, 2015

Greetings!

Read Monty's tips to keep your horse sensitive and responsive to rein pressure in this week's Question and Answer column.

MONTY ANSWERS

Question:

Starting my young horse is exciting and daunting at the same time. I want to create, and keep, a really light mouth on her. What tips can you give me to start and stay right on track please?

~ Sheila, Australia

Answer:

The horse is affected by everything we do, for better or worse. Every move we make, the velocity and body language connected with it, is registered in his brain. Our putting constant pressure on the bit will dull the highly sensitive area of his mouth. If it was our intent to create a "hard-mouthed puller," this is how to accomplish it because a "puller" means a horse made insensitive in the mouth by constant pressure.

A puller is simply going into-pressure and consequently is one who refuses to respond to subtle cues from the hands. The tissues have been toughened and conditioned to the point that the horse pushes into them to resist cooperation. To create a light mouth, you must give signals with hands acting appropriately by using only the gentlest amount of pressure required. Once the desired response is achieved, you must be quick to release the pressure, which acts as the reward. Reward, through release of pressure, is probably the most critical factor in sustaining a light mouth.

~ Monty (excerpt from [From My Hands to Yours: Lessons from a lifetime of training championship horses](#))

THIS WEEK IN MONTY'S EQUUS ONLINE UNIVERSITY

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Monty's Principles

A Message of Nonviolence

What a totally mind blowing experience. I cried tears of joy and tears of sadness. Joy at the new knowledge gained and sadness at the confirmation that the traditional sadistic horse breaking stinks. There is a right way to treat other creatures on this planet.

Monty you are an angel with a message. Thank you for allowing us to experience a few hours of your world. My hope is, like yours, that one day there will only be one way to live in balance with the animal world. A world with a language of respect, tolerance and without fear of violence towards any of God's creatures.

My best wishes to you, your family and your team.
Annie and Isabella

Monty's Challenge



THIS WEEK ON EQUUS ONLINE...



MONTY'S TOUR DEMONSTRATIONS SPOOKY ENJOY PART 3: LAKE AND STREAM

EQUUS
ONLINE UNIVERSITY



Monty's Equus Online University lessons continue today with Monty's Tour Demonstrations in Germany. Watch Part 3 of Enjoy, the spooky horse. [Watch the video now!](#)

GO STRAIGHT
TO THE VIDEO



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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.

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@montyrobersonline.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:

Can you take too long when starting a horse?

I'm a student of one of your instructors in Europe and am about to take my introductory exams. I'm currently working a lot with young horses and hoping to visit Flag Is Up in the future to take the advanced course in the future.

My question is, do you think there is a benefit to moving quicker in a horse's training and introducing new things at the same time, assuming that the horse is not being forced/stressed?

When I started my first young horse, my initial instinct was to move very slowly, raising the bar incrementally and giving the horse lots of time to become accustomed to each stage. For example, I would introduce the saddle and spend lots of time doing in-hand work with the saddle on, a week later I would introduce the bridle, another week introduce the long lines, etc. This also made sense with my own level of training at the time, ensuring I didn't make too many mistakes and gained confidence in the techniques.

More recently, I've been experimenting with doing a full join-up, tack up and long line in one session and I've been surprised by how quickly the horses have adapted and dealt with everything. For example, I've found many horses to be much quicker to get used to the lines around their legs by just getting on with it and doing it, as opposed to before, when

GLOBE GALLOPING WITH MONTY ROBERTS

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Monty in California

May 14 to 16, 2015	The International Conference of Monty's Certified Instructors at Flag Is Up Farms in California	USA
June (TBD), 2015	Monty and Carole Herder of Cavallo Horse and Rider will host a webinar All About Horsemanship (more details to come)	USA
June 5 to 7, 2015	Monty's Horse Sense and Healing free for Combat Veterans and First Responders diagnosed with stress injuries	USA
June 25 to July 1, 2015	Monty's Special Training with Portuguese Translation at Flag Is Up Farms. http://www.mundoequestre.com.br/#!viagem-monty-roberts/ccco	USA
July 6 to 17, 2015	Gentling Wild Horses course (open to all levels) at Flag Is Up Farms	USA
August 3 to 7, 2015	Monty's Special Training at Flag Is Up Farms	USA



For information about Monty's worldwide demos and the courses held at Monty's farm in California go to: http://www.montyrobersonline.com/about_monty_calendar/see-monty/

HORSEMANSHIP RADIO

Episode 39 by Index Fund Advisors www.IFA.com, [Omega Fields Supplements](#) and Monty's [Equus Online University](#).

Lee & Hallie Hanssen On Producing Happy Healthy Barrel Horses, Trainer Carl Bledsoe Fan of Gaited Horses. Our Trainers Tip is from Angie Sheer, President and Founder of Equus Medendi, Equine Assisted Learning and Therapy.

Click here and listen in... <http://www.horsemanshipradio.com/2015/04/30/horsemanship-radio-episode-39-by-index-fund-advisors-ifa-com-lee-hallie-hanssen-on-producing-happy-healthy-barrel-horses-trainer-carl-bledsoe-fan-of-gaited-horses/>

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.

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I would incrementally desensitise them to the lines over a week or two. It was as if by giving them too much time to think about things, they were actually taking longer to get used to them. I assume this is because of their natural distractibility when introducing lots of new things at once. I have also occasionally felt I was losing the horse's attention during training sessions by not providing enough of a challenge.

Is this something you have experienced? I know that in your demonstrations you introduce many things during one session, but would you do the same when starting a young horse at home? Is there an optimum balance between taking too long and rushing, or does it change every time depending on the horse? I'm not concerned at all with how long the starting process takes, but I am interested in helping the horses learn in the most efficient way and maintaining their cooperation throughout.

It's important to note, that I don't mean just immediately introducing the tack and long lines - the horses would all be happy and consistent leading in hand with the dually, have done at least 1 join up before, and have done some basic desensitising/leading in hand through obstacles/outdoors. The question is more - when it is time to take the step of introducing a saddle, bridle and long lines, is it better to do it all in one go?

Zoe

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-](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)

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"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 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.

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

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Monty on HRTV



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/>

CORIGEM: Honey Power

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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<http://www.montyroberts.com/corigem/>

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>

Photo Credits

Christopher Dydyk

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

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

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



