



Wednesday June 1, 2016

Greetings! ,

This week, Monty answers a question about being an advanced age and working with horses.

Question

Isn't it dangerous at your age to work with horses when they are wild and out of control?

Monty's Answer

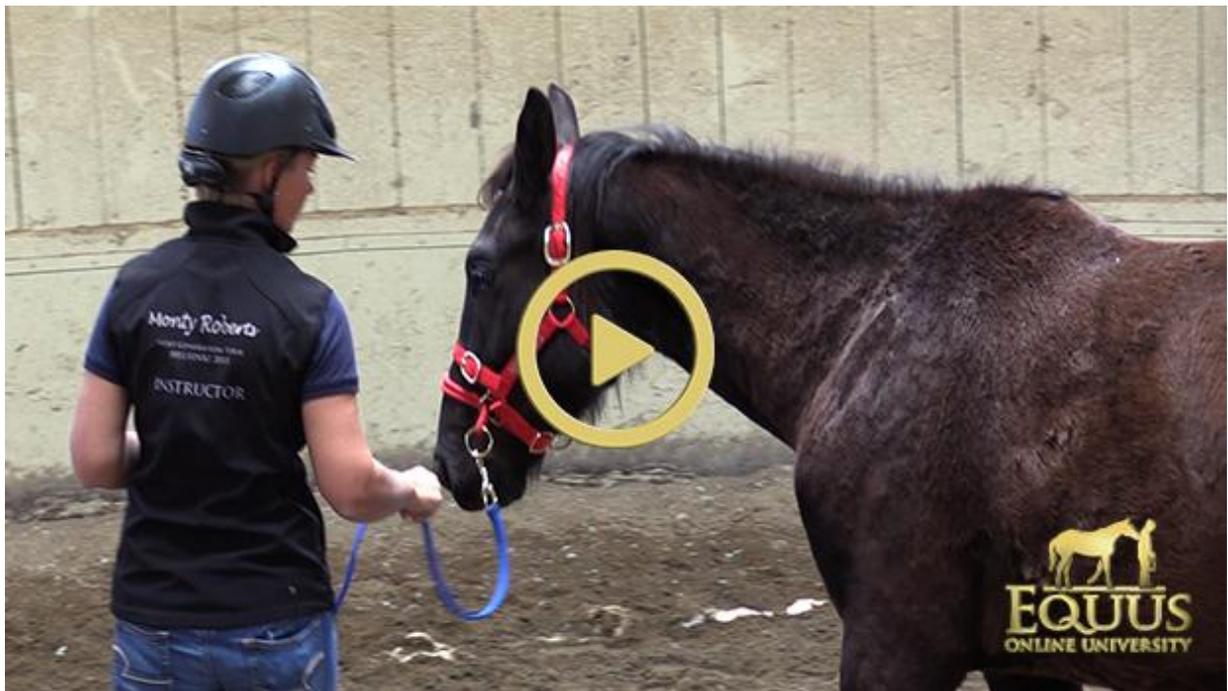
It is always dangerous to work with an animal much larger than we are. It is true that I am less athletic today than I was 50 or so years ago. I love my work and when I no longer feel safe doing it, I'll know. I didn't get into the horse business until I was about four years old. The horses have been my professors for the other 76 years.

Having participated in the revolution to train horses in the absence of violence, I am continually inspired by the improvements in the concepts of Join-Up®. My decades of observation and experience keep my timing and techniques improving, even at 80. I firmly believe I am safer than most anyone who steps into the round pen.

Ask someone who has attended one of my recent demonstrations and see if you agree that the horses are relaxed and trusting when we get our work right.

Sincerely,
Monty

**MONTY'S EQUUS ONLINE UNIVERSITY
THIS WEEK'S EPISODE**



This online video lesson features Monty Roberts Certified Instructors Denise Heinlein and Jenny Ahlroth demonstrating the first step of Dually Halter training with two young horses. Not a student yet? Click on the buttons below to Join-Up with thousands of horse lovers learning Monty's force-free and fun methods now.

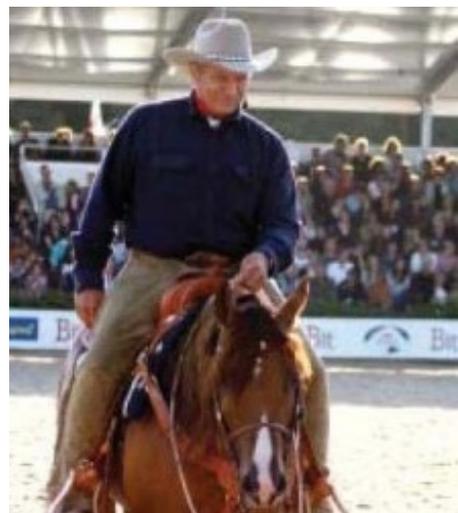


UPCOMING EVENTS

Galloping the Globe with Monty Roberts. After tea with Monty in Lambourn, England, our next stop will be in South Africa. Then Monty will return to California to lead clinics and training programs at his spectacular Flag Is Up Farms.

S. Africa June 4-5: Tour in Cape Town

USA July 17-21: Monty's Special Training
(with Portuguese translation)
July 30: Night of Inspiration
August 1-5: Monty's Special Training



[**FULL SCHEDULE HERE**](#)



MONTY'S PRINCIPLES HORSE SENSE FOR PEOPLE

Dear Monty,

Thank you for following me. I would like to tell you that you have influenced and inspired my relationship with horses more than anyone. Thank you so much for all you have done to improve the world's relationship with horses, I couldn't be more pleased that your methods are becoming mainstream on the yard.

All the very best and I hope you are now well rested after the Queen's birthday yesterday!

Kathy Hughes



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

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

Dear Monty.

I am 63 yrs old this year, I was raised around horses from birth. My Dad loved them and started his own cross-breed that made for a beautiful animal. He gave me a wonderful little bay gelding when I was 10.

Unfortunately, at the time I seemed to have more interest in conveyances of the motorized type and didn't pay enough attention to Teddy. So, guess-what? Dad sold Teddy!

It took me a long time to really come to my senses, but I have regretted for many years the outcome of my lack-of-interest. There is still one descendant of Dad's herd here on the farm as well as two of my daughter's horses; her daughter's mini and two more, belonging to my son. I don't do much with them other than to make sure they have feed and aren't injured and help the granddaughter with her mini when she visits. It seems there's always too many other, more-important things to occupy my mind. Just a few days ago I had the most amazing encounter with a wild/feral horse (I never did know how you tell the difference and where the experts draw the line between the two?). Anyhow, I was driving around out in the bush west of my home, here in central Alberta when I came across a lone horse, about 100 yards distant, grazing in a recently-logged-off and scarified area.

I stopped the truck, took a picture and watched the horse for a few minutes and spoke to him once. He looked-up at me for a minute then carried on grazing. I then decided, what-the-heck, I'm going to see how close I can get to this fellow. So I started slowly walking his way. Each time that he lifted his head and appeared about to take flight, I would retreat a couple steps, turn my body at about 45 degrees to him and cast my eyes downward till he settled into grazing again. (Incidentally I have read some of your work and was enrolled in your online university for one year).

Now this is where things got really interesting! I was now about 20 feet from the horse and he seemed fairly calm, having only flared his nostrils and blown softly a couple times. I could now see that he was an intact stallion and terribly scarred-up all over both sides of his back. The scarring and the fact he was alone, leads me to think he'd recently got run out of his herd. He was a nicely set-up little guy maybe 14-1/2 hands and if I had to guess, about 4 or 5 yrs old. Short-coupled; head and feet just-a-bit big for his body, with I believe, a touch of draft in him (he had a bit of long hair on his fetlocks). Predominately Dark Bay running into a Liver-Chestnut splash over the rump. All-in-all a nice-looking little fellow.

So at this point I had come to a large poplar log between us, so decided to just, set-a-spell. The horse then proceeded to circle around so that he was down-wind of me, alternately grazing and nonchalantly studying me. All the while, I too, tried not to stare at him too intently, just casually glancing up, then back down to his front legs.

After a couple minutes he started coming in the last 15 ft to me, till he got to where it looked like he would like to make one more step, but that would have required him to step over a small log and a gouge in the ground, which had been left by the scarifier.

This would have brought him in about two steps and I believe he was not comfortable with that idea. (I still chuckle to myself as I recall watching him ponder this)!

I thought I'd help him out, so slowly began to reach my hand out to him. He too reached out, to within about 8 inches of my hand, just briefly, then after a few seconds, quickly turned and trotted off about 20 feet and turned at about 45 degrees to me and stood casually looking at me for a bit.

I stayed seated on the log with my eyes mostly downcast but glancing up now and again. Suddenly he turned to face my way, from 20 feet out, square-on and let out the most powerful snort I have ever heard from any horse! I mean, like he put every ounce he had, into it I'm sure. Funny thing is, by this time I was so deep into this amazing encounter I didn't even flinch, in spite of this sudden and powerful out-burst. After standing looking right at me a bit with eyes wide and flared nostrils, he calmed down then quartered away, alternately cropping grass, glancing back and moving away till he disappeared over a hill some three hundred yards off. Finally Monty, I have come to my question! Did I miss my cue there? When he turned and moved away after sniffing my hand. Was it my turn to move towards him and I didn't realize it?

Twenty-twenty hind-sight tells me he was enjoying this little game just as much as I was, and that, that was his invite for Join-Up? Also, what was that resounding snort? (Remember this came after the hand sniffing and retreat.) Was that perhaps a scare tactic, to see if I would take flight? Or, was he just (ha ha) voicing his disgust, at my lack of knowledge, of the rules-of-the-game!

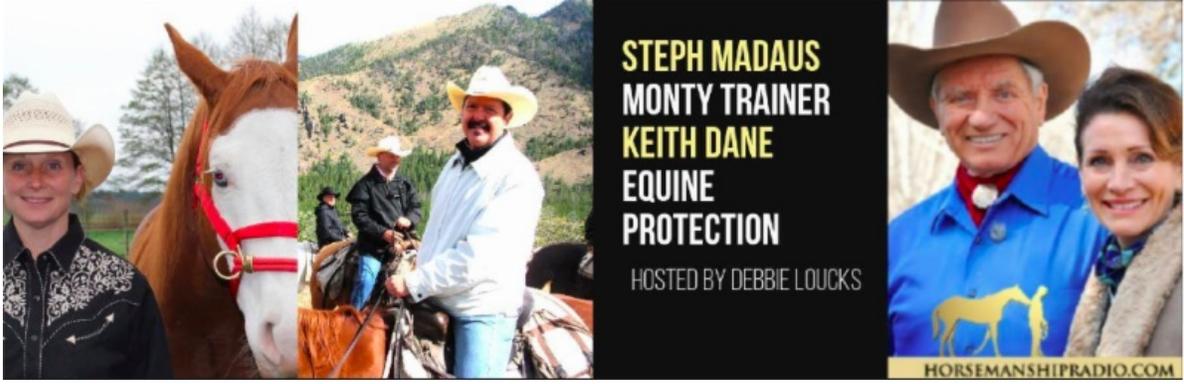
A little background on the horse. He was in an area frequented by people on quads, dirt bikes and such, and so, used to seeing humans regularly, although never me, nor me him. Whether he had ever had contact with humans I do not know.

In closing I want to thank you Monty for sharing with the entire world, your vast knowledge of equine behavior and showing people how they can better interact with horses and other creatures, even humans. I have done some partially successful Join-Ups with some of our horses except for one docile little mutt who refuses to go into flight mode! So I want to study more of your lessons and put them into practice, therefore I intend to re-enroll, as soon as funds allow.

I apologize for such a lengthy story but, I was so fascinated, by this chance encounter, I just had to share, in hopes that other readers may find it interesting. I want to point out that the terrain we were in allowed me to keep some sort of obstacle; a tree, a stump, a fallen log, etc. between us, (just in case) at all times. Although my Buddy showed no sign of aggression I thought it best to be careful. Thank you, and I do hope you will be able to find the time to respond. Sorry, I know you are a very busy man.

Sincerely,
Gerald Hoszouski, Alberta

HORSEMANSHIP RADIO



Steph Madaus started in show jumping but became interested in Western Reining while studying Join-Up with Monty Roberts in California. She returned home to Germany and never dreamed she would live a fairy tale to train a European Champion, Shine My Gun. Also, Keith Dane updates us on equine protection. Monty's Tip answers a question about the tongue over the bit.

[EPISODE 65 | LISTEN HERE](#)



REDUCING VIOLENCE THROUGH WORKSHOPS WITH HORSES IN ANTIGUA GUATEMALA

Lead-Up International (Affiliate of Join-Up International) is a program based around workshops with horses in which youth at risk are introduced to calm and humane ways of interacting with horses. Participants discover non-violence for themselves and develop a new sense of peaceful leadership.

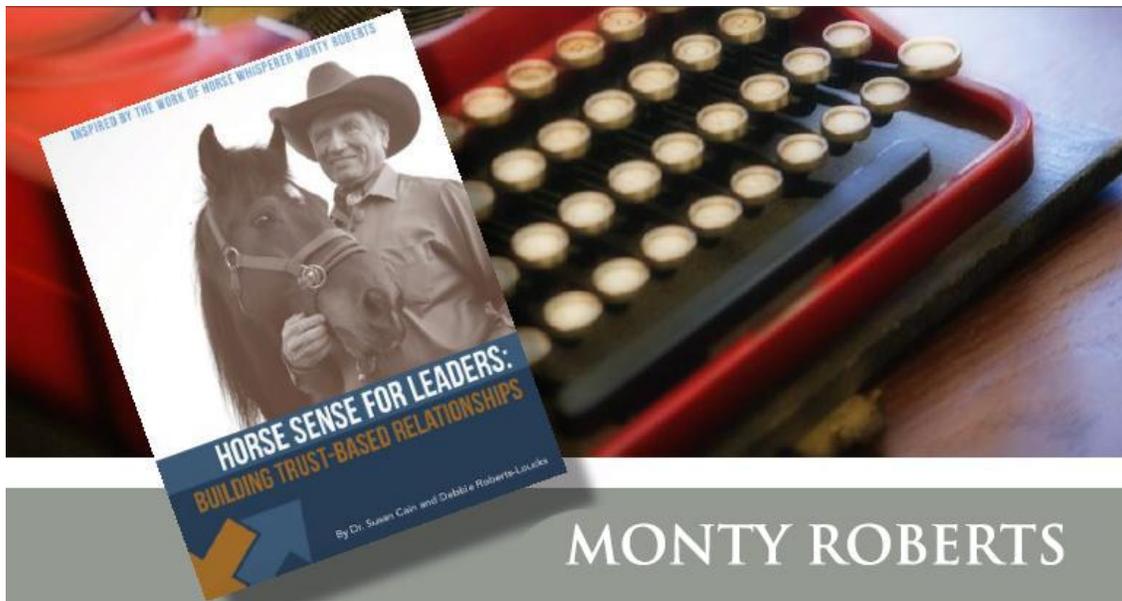
[READ MORE](#)

GIVING BACK TO VETERANS



Help support our war veterans and first responders by using [Our Link](#) to shop on Amazon Smile. Amazon will donate 0.5 percent of your purchase price to Monty's non-profit, Join-Up International. Through Join-Up International Monty is able to provide free clinics for war veterans, rescues horse, and more. You can also make a donation directly to Join-Up International [Here](#).

HORSE SENSE FOR LEADERS



Buying Monty's book, [Horse Sense for Leaders: Building Trust-Based Relationships](#), is another great way to support Monty in his efforts. We have a [Paperback Version](#) and a [Color Version](#). The Chief Scientific Officer for The Humane Society of the United States, Andrew Rowan, writes

"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."



[Join-Up International](#) | AskMonty@montyroberts.com | MontyRoberts.com

