



Wednesday August 31, 2016

Greetings! ,

This week, Monty answers a question about making horsemanship safe and fun.

Question

What can I do to help my horse become more balanced? I have had him a month and he is a nightmare to ride, not what I had in mind at all. He has changed, he is unbalanced in the school and keeps wanting to bolt and spooking when hacking? What can I do to help this? Shall I try little agility courses to build his confidence up? I'm stuck and losing confidence.

Answer

In my position, one fields a lot of questions. With that, one tends to read into the question elements of the student's abilities. Its probably a bad idea to try to guess what is going on in these situations, in just a few words from a well-intentioned students trying to get information. I would ask you to realize that I have few other options and since I want my students to be safe I feel compelled to attempt to ascertain what is going on in their life with horses.

At the risk of being all wrong, let me tell you that I read into your question some strong messages that you are overmatched when comparing horse to rider. 'Unbalanced' is very vague term that means so many different things to so many different people. In your case, as I read your question I saw a horse in my mind's eye. The horse was disunited or as many in our industry say 'cross-lead'. The overall environment of your riding effort seemed to be chaotic.

Have you checked the saddle fit and have you had his teeth checked? Once one is sure that there are no health or pain issues, build on your horse's confidence by achieving Join-Up with your horse and and then some ground work with the Dually Halter. Then proceed with some sessions of double line lungeing to build on your ground work before introducing saddle and rider again.

An experienced horseman reading this question would find it scary to make comments because there is a strong feeling that I am putting my rider in jeopardy. I get the feeling that you are pulling when you should be releasing and squeezing with your legs when you should be relaxing them. I get the feeling that I desperately need to see what is going on before I advise as to solutions. Each year I conduct a Riding with Respect clinic for just this very kind of situation.

We provide safe horses for those coming great distances and we take on horses and their riders for the ones who reside a bit closer. It is my goal with each of these clinics to fill people with a much improved sense of control and comfort with their riding. To seriously advise based upon the words in your question would be a mistake.

Sincerely,



MONTY'S EQUUS ONLINE UNIVERSITY THIS WEEK'S EPISODE



This online video lesson shows how fun it is to load a horse in the trailer when you take the time to train. 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.

Reminder: In the UK, Equus Online students get free early entry with their paid tickets and student IDs, which can be found inside their Equus Online profiles. For tour dates, go here:

http://www.montyroberts.com/ab_about_monty_calendar/see-monty/



NEW! FIND A MONTY ROBERTS CERTIFIED INSTRUCTOR

Check out our new [online tool to locate a Monty Roberts Certified Instructor](#) near you! All courses offered by certified instructors give students effective tools to communicate using the horse's own natural language, forming a partnership based on trust and communication rather than dominance. Visit the certified instructor web page here: <http://www.montyroberts.com/certified-instructors-page/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Galloping the Globe with Monty Roberts. Monty is back in California to lead summer clinics and training programs at his spectacular Flag Is Up Farms.

USA

August 22-September 2: Gentling Wild Horses
September 10: Night of Inspiration
September 24-25: Riding with Respect

UK

October 15: Myerscough College
October 21: Hartpury College
October 26: Merrist Wood College
October 29: The Grange E.C.
November 3: Bishop Burton College
November 5: Arena UK



[FULL SCHEDULE HERE](#)

MONTY'S PRINCIPLES
HORSE SENSE FOR PEOPLE



I love you! Having come from a very violent, abusive home (stepfather), I have always hated any form of injustice and abuse. Thank goodness there are people who "get it".

~ Lisa



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 live in mainland Greece and rescued a mare and foal in February this year. They are a breed of horse called Thessalian and I think the foal is an Aravani (pacer). They were both in very bad condition but have improved greatly since they have food and water. The foal is now 8 months old and I can easily halter her and also pick up her feet. The mare has an old injury of a broken pelvis, which the vet thinks was from a rope injury whilst she was hobbled. It must have been left untreated and has healed badly. However, I have two questions please.

- 1) would it be helpful to the mare to do some gentle schooling as I cannot ride her? If so, what would you suggest that I do?
- 2) I would eventually like to ride the foal and I don't want to build up any problems in the future by being too hands on now. What is your advice with regard to working or interacting with the foal over the next few years before she's started?

HORSEMANSHIP RADIO



Al Dunning and Monty Roberts share their advice for those wanting to show reiners and cow horses. These multiple world champions choose to train horses in the absence of violence or pain. Mitch Bornstein updates us on Samson, the Mustang that forgives and forgets his abusive past. Jamie Jennings reads a Monty's answer for the horse that refuses to jump.

[EPISODE 71 | 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.

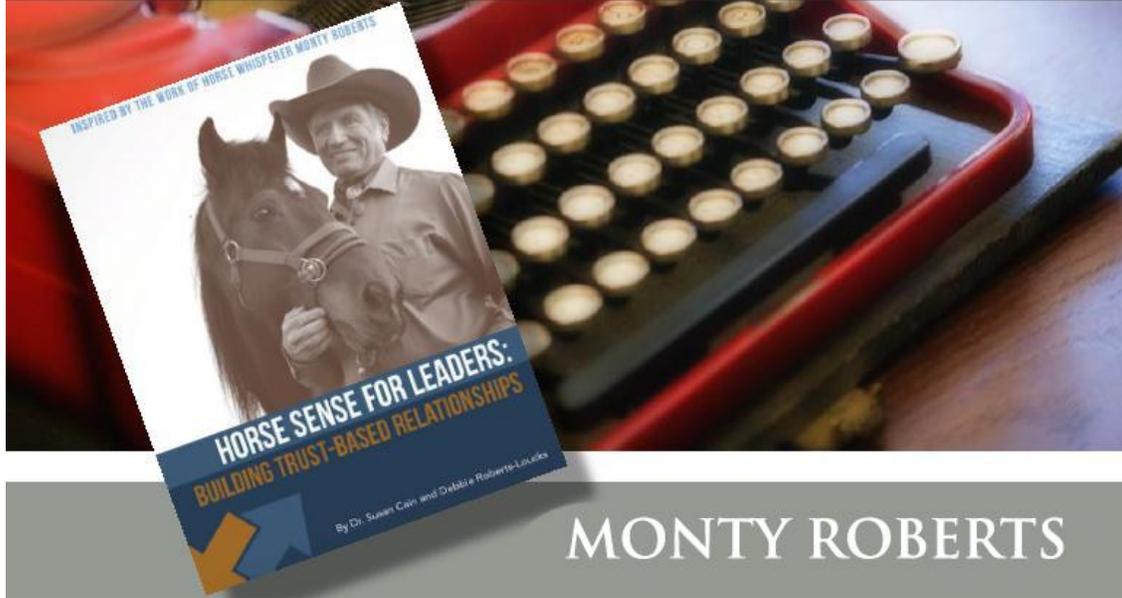
[READ MORE](#)

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



MONTY ROBERTS

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](#).

"Are leaders born or made? Follow the life of New York Times Best Selling Author and Horse Whisperer, Monty Roberts in the book Horse Sense for Leaders. Discover how Monty's life events shape his leadership style. Then, take our Trust Based Leadership Assessment to find out your own leadership style, and how to capitalize on your own unique leadership style." ~ Dr. Susan Cain, Corporate Learning Institute



Join-Up International | AskMonty@montyroberts.com | MontyRoberts.com

 Forward to a Friend

