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**Wednesday September 21, 2016**

Greetings! ,

This week, Monty answers a question about reinforcing safe behavior in horses and people, too.

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## **Question**

Last year in March I went off and suffered a separated clavicle which stopped my riding until mid-January of this year. In December when I could use my arm normally again, I asked the owner of the stables if I could stop by once a week and groom a mare that I once rode as a lesson horse. I am continuing to do that, we both find it quite enjoyable. Taking care of the horse and getting my hands on her does wonders for me.

My grooming routine also includes doing a Join-Up with her in the round pen and after that taking her for a walk. A few months ago, I took a friend with me to see the horses. When I took the mare into the round pen I asked ask him to close the gate behind me. As he stepped up to close the gate, the mare bolted and broke away from me, running in the pen with the lead rope still attached. I got her calmed down, removed the lead rope and did the Join-Up.

Since that day, whenever I take her into the round pen, with no one else nearby, she wants to bolt and I can hardly restrain her to get the lead rope off and close the gate. Finally two days ago, knowing she wants to bolt, I held her tight going in to the pen but now she bolts out of my grasp anyway and I cannot restrain her. In other words, this behavior is continually getting worse.

I take this as a sign of great disrespect on her part for me. Our Join-Up sessions are wonderful after the fact, but I worry about this behavior as being dangerous should I possibly get tangled in the lead rope and she could trip on it and hurt herself. Also, I am worried that one of the young ladies that works with her might get similarly injured.

Is there anything you could tell me about how to rectify this problem? Right now I believe I should stop working with her. What a shame, we had so many nice grooming days together when we both got so much out of it.

## Answer

It's always a problem when horses are handled by several different individuals. It's even worse when certain individuals fail to follow reasonable horsemanship skills. Let me predict what probably happened to cause all of this in the first place. Someone was in a hurry or simply found it exciting to watch this horse run and buck across the pasture.

Bringing the gate closed and unclipping at the same time quickly followed by a smack across her bottom to get the action the misinformed handler would enjoy. When I educate the staffs of the breeding farms I advise to walk the horses through the gate into the field, turn the horse toward the gate and unclip only when every body is ready for it and standing totally relaxed.

The human individuals should exit the fields quietly encouraging the horses to walk away and not run away. Your statement clearly leads me to believe that someone broke the rules with regard to the horse in question. I am not sure that you are in a position to train this horse but I can tell you what I would do to stop the problem.

I would put a [Dually Halter](#) on and fasten a 30-foot line to the training ring. I would then put the traditional halter right over the top of it. I would enter the field, turn my horse toward the gate and remove the traditional halter in a fashion so that the horse in question is certain they are being released. When the horse bolts away, I would have the 30-foot line over my hip.

The horse would come to meet the line after about 10 to 15 feet and spin around quite surprised. I would repeat this procedure 2 to 3 times the first day before releasing both halters. I would then insist that the horse be done in that fashion each day its put in the field. Do not engage in this training technique if you are not comfortable with the use of the 30-foot line in this fashion.

If not trained to use the line like this, it is likely that the hands of the holder will be burned by the rapidly moving line or you could become entangled in the line if unaware of the dangers. Someone who has handled a horse for a significant period of time could execute this procedure and have good results with it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Monty", written in a cursive style with a large loop at the end.

## THIS WEEK'S EPISODE

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This online video lesson shows Monty using a vibrating toothbrush to train a horse who's afraid of clippers. 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/](http://www.montyroberts.com/ab_about_monty_calendar/see-monty/)



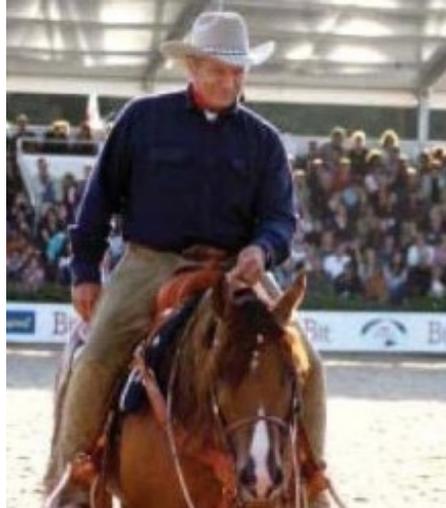
### NEW! FIND A MONTY ROBERTS CERTIFIED INSTRUCTOR

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/>

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### 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**      September 24-25: Riding with Respect

October 15: Myerscough College

October 21: Hartpury College

October 26: Merrist Wood College

**UK**      October 29: The Grange E.C.

November 3: Bishop Burton College

November 5: Arena UK

November 12: Your Horse Live

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

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## **MONTY'S PRINCIPLES HORSE SENSE FOR PEOPLE**



### **Science Confirms It: Join-Up® is Gentle on Horses**

A paper entitled "Monty Roberts' public demonstrations: Preliminary report on the heart rate and heart rate variability of horses undergoing training during live audience events" has been accepted for publication in the international journal "Animals." Click here to read: <http://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/6/9/55/htm>

Dear Monty,

There it is, in black and white, for all Monty's critics to see. His methods are not stressful to the horses. If people would only try them instead of holding on to outdated mindsets in which they try to be the boss over their horses. They are what causes stress to the animals.

I have nothing but admiration for Monty for the way that he carries on spreading the no violence message in spite of the opposition. He truly is making the world a better place for horses and humans.

Carol Reid



## **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](mailto: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**

Dear Monty,

My 12 year old ex-race horse Standardbred has a lot of energy now in the spring-time. She gets a little to excited during a ride although I have been riding her during the winter. I want to exercise her before I ride and on days that I don't ride. I have tried double long lines to lunge her knowing that one long line is extremely harmful to their body. (I have read all of your books and am in full support of those methods). But with long lining she still does Join-Up with me although I make no signals for it and no eye contact, she does the signs and starts dragging her nose on the ground and therefore I can't exercise her. She always thinks I want her to do Join-Up again when I just want

to exercise her. I don't know how to get her energy out without it being too dangerous for me to ride. How can I exercise my horse and ride safely again?

With great admiration,  
Natalie

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## HORSEMANSHIP RADIO

Dr. Veronica Fowler's study reveals Monty's Join-Up is better than traditional methods for the welfare of the horse, in particular the first saddle and rider. Anthrozoös published a comparison of the Monty Roberts technique and a conventional UK technique for initial training of riding horses. The study was presented at the International Society of Equitation Science (ISES) and presented at the Centre for Animal Welfare & Anthrozoology and the Department of Veterinary Medicine University of Cambridge. Jamie Jennings reads Monty's answer: My Western horse's gait is rough.

[EPISODE 72 | 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](#)

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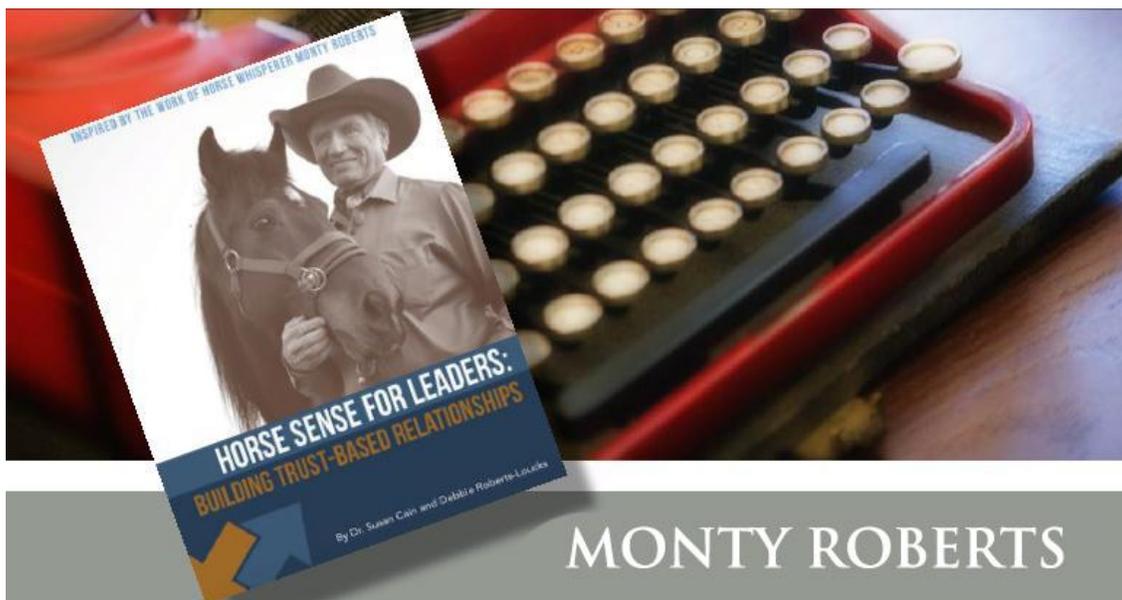
## GIVING BACK TO VETERANS



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](#).

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## 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](#).

"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

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Join-Up International | [AskMonty@montyroberts.com](mailto:AskMonty@montyroberts.com) | [MontyRoberts.com](http://MontyRoberts.com)

 Forward to a Friend

