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Wednesday February 1, 2017

Greetings! ,

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## Question

I bought a new horse mid-October and I think I am out of my league with him. He's a 12 year old, 17.1h sports-bred gelding, currently competing in national level jumping competitions. Under saddle and once tacked up, he is the nicest horse in the world and I have developed a very strong bond with him, on my part at least. As I suffer from anxiety attacks, I sometimes completely lose my nerve and he is a calm, patient teacher to ride as much in the show ring as at home.

The problem is, when loose or on his headcollar, he is dangerous. I have known snappy and unhappy horses, but he is something entirely different and does actually scare me despite my best efforts to remain calm and assertive without ever showing aggression or violence.

He has a history of having been abused but has worked out how to fight back and win against people. He can go from looking relaxed (loose bottom lip, soft eye, sideways ears), to twisting around and attacking his handler. He had a full vet check when I bought him and I do not believe that it is pain but more that he is expecting to be hurt.

One thing that we have all noticed about him is that immediately after showing aggression, he sticks his tongue out of the side of his mouth and curls it around (Not just the tip, but as far out as he can put it before curling it up). I am still attempting to get a picture or video of his behavior. Is this his way of exhibiting how much stress he feels he is under?

When loose or in his stable, it is any time that he is approached apart from when being caught that he will attack. For example I can walk up to him without so much as a grimace if I am putting his headcollar on, but if I need to do anything else, he will go for me. I know it is because he is reading my intentions By attacking I do not mean lays his

ears back or simply nips, but he will launch himself forwards and grab any part of a person he can reach with all his strength.

Though he scares me, I am quite prepared to keep working with him. I don't believe in giving up because I am not experienced enough, I made a commitment in buying him and I want to do my best to learn to handle him. The last thing I want is to have to give him up, as I know it will end with him being destroyed or being locked inside for the rest of his life. I am not an expert but what I can say is that he is not happy with the way he feels he has to behave. There is a very good, clever horse in there and he deserves to be happier than he currently is.

My biggest fear is that if he hurts me then the matter will be out of my hands and he will be put to sleep, and I do not believe that it is right or fair that he lose his life because of how people have made him behave. I have tried working on a basis of quietness and mutual respect, but I worry that it is not enough. He responds to the [Dually halter](#) very nicely, moving with me perfectly through everything I ask of him, so it is not just a plain lack of respect all around, but more that he gets 'triggered'.

When working on touching his 'trigger spots' in the Dually halter, he is tense and rigid but will allow me to work with him. He has very good 'social skills' with other horses (his body language is easy for anyone to read), but I honestly do not have the confidence to do Join-Up with him as I am pretty certain that he would attack me.

Taking him to one of your Recommended Associates is no longer an option as the one who was within a feasible distance (who actually started my other horse) has since moved country. Please, what can I do to help him? Is there any way that I can make his life one that he enjoys, rather than living in fear?

Thank you so much,  
Emily-Jane

## Answer

Dear Emily-Jane,

Please sit down and think this situation through using a calm mind and analytical approach. Understand that when I answer these questions I must be responsible, honest and informative all at the same time. There is a huge responsibility when giving advice about an aggressive horse. The scenario you have beautifully outlined would cause me to believe that I would not want to deal with this horse myself.

That being the case, how can I justify giving you recommendations when I wouldn't take the chance of working with this horse myself. If you were not the one who used abusive and violent procedures that caused this animal to forever experience flashbacks, then how could we ever justify you being injured as a result of one of his flashbacks. You have clearly described a horse that is impossible to predict. Consequently there is a high probability that you will eventually suffer the consequences of his negative actions.

One aspect that I would like you to consider is that horses of this type will virtually always put someone in the hospital or the grave. When this circumstance occurs, it is Equus in general that will be blamed. In the emergency rooms of this world, horses are a red letter culprit when it comes to dangerous activities. We should be mindful of the fact that this is the case under the best conditions, which gives us no right to risk the clear scenario that

you have outlined in your question.

Fully appreciating your desire to see it through, I feel for you in your desire to save his life. Please allow me to feel a sense of responsibility when it comes to saving yours. I believe your description to be honest and fair and if that is the case then none of us has any right to advise another to take the chances you have so clearly outlined.

I could write a book on the chances I have taken in my career and the extra effort that I have exerted to save the lives of aggressive horses. Experience and thousands of horses have caused me to answer this question the way I have. My best recommendation is that you join with me in recognizing the terrible effect that violence can have on the flight animal. Become a spokesperson for changing the traditional horse training methods many of which have utilized violence. You will be doing every horse a great favor.

Sincerely,



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

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This online video series shows how to create a partnership with your horse. 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

Monty is home at his beautiful horse training facility in California!

You are welcome to visit [Flag Is Up Farms](#) and watch Monty's methods in action at his state-of-the-art training facility.

The farm gates are open from 9 am to 5 pm daily, with no fee or reservation required.



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|-----------------|---|
| <b>USA</b>      | February 18: International Launch Party Supporting Non-Violence at <a href="#">Flag Is Up Farms</a> |
| <b>Brazil</b>   | March 11 to 12: <a href="#">Near Sao Paulo</a>  |
| <b>Scotland</b> | March 18: Ingliston Country Club, Ingliston Estate, Bishopton, Renfrewshire, Scotland, UK           |
| <b>England</b>  | March 25: Kingston Maurward College with MARTIN CLUNES, Dorchester, Dorset, UK                      |
| <b>Germany</b>  | March 31: Monty Roberts Germany Tour in Munich  |
| <b>Germany</b>  | April 7: Monty Roberts Germany Tour in Elmshorn   |
| <b>Germany</b>  | April 9: Monty Roberts Germany Tour in Redefin  |
| <b>Germany</b>  | April 20: Monty Roberts Germany Tour in Dorsten   |
| <b>Germany</b>  | April 22: Monty Roberts Germany Tour in Alsfeld   |
| <b>USA</b>      | July 10 to 21: Gentling Wild Horses California  |
| <b>USA</b>      | July 31 to August 4: Monty's Special Training   |

[FULL SCHEDULE HERE](#)

## THE MONTY ROBERTS INTERNATIONAL LEARNING CENTER

February 10 to 12, 2017

[Horse Sense and Healing](#)

February 20 to 23, 2017

[Join-Up Course](#)

February 24 to 25, 2017

[Long Lining Course](#)

**[MORE COURSE INFO HERE](#)**

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



# Farmer Clunes: horses can be best therapy for children

Sian Griffiths, Education Editor

THE actor Martin Clunes has urged every school in England to be matched up with a horse to boost children's happiness and wellbeing.

Clunes was speaking as the country's biggest equine charity, the British Horse Society, launches a campaign to help children regain confidence and interest in learning through riding and interacting with horses.

"Every school in this country should have links to horses," Clunes said. "I think even the Household Cavalry would welcome a visit from schoolchildren."

The Doc Martin star said that working with horses could inspire and motivate youngsters. It could help children with mental health problems and conditions such as autism and dyslexia as well as disaffected youngsters who had lost interest in education.



Martin Clunes with Bruce, one of the dozen horses he and his wife keep  
MARTIN CLUNES

"I know how much difference horses can make to children's lives," Clunes said.

"I have seen kids who just do not connect with anything and watched as the rhythm of riding releases endorphins in them. You can see their faces light up."

Clunes said he had seen disabled children regain some movement after riding.

"Teenagers who are strugg-

ling in school and have lost interest . . . through caring for the horses, they learn to care for themselves," he added.

"Getting kids to relate to horses unlocks all kinds of things in them."

Clunes and his wife Philippa have a dozen horses on their farm, including rescued and retired animals. His daughter Emily, who learnt to ride when she was two years old, is now 17 and wants to be a horse physiotherapist, he said.

All three ride together and Clunes said that living in the country had enabled Emily to "stay younger longer". Riding horses was a lot healthier than constantly scrolling through "antisocial media" sites.

"Because of [horses'] honesty and big hearts [they can be used for therapy] to help junkies," he said. "There are so many examples of lives being changed by horses."

@siangriffiths6 ■

## 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,

I sincerely hope this message reaches you. I am British and been a horse girl all of my life. I first watched you in County Durham, England in 1996 and I've used and promoted

your language Equus ever since, so I've admired your work for over 20 years.

I became a high school teacher at Whitley Bay High school and brought many students to see your demonstrations over the years as part of our extra curricular programs I would run voluntarily. You once sent me a thank you note and a copy of your book, which I still have and treasure.

I am now married to an American serviceman and live in Idaho, USA. I brought my three horses with me from England. I've watched quite closely over the years your veteran programme become a more important part of your work and legacy and firstly I'd like to thank you for this. My husband has had several deployments and is now still in the Idaho National Guard in Boise. We live on about 12 acres in a nearby farm.

My question to you is, as a military wife and life-long horsewoman, how can I get involved to help the veteran program you run? I no longer teach high school since leaving England 18 months ago but I still have a great desire to make a difference. Now that I'm a military family and am aware of the affects of war on our servicemen and women, I'd like to help somehow.

I really hope this message gets to you and when you find the time I'd love to hear from you.

The kindest of regards,  
Katie Fokias Wheeler



**ONLINE REVIEW: DUALY HALTER**

Hi, I have purchased the red Dually training halter and have used it with great results on my 18 month old Arabian gelding. He would dawdle along with me, not taking any notice of anything much, but with one gentle training session with the Dually halter he now walks confidently alongside me, listening to my commands.

Really pleased with the halter - highly recommend it to all!

Deborah L.  
Verified Buyer  
10/26/16

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**HORSEMANSHIP RADIO**



Jennifer O'Niell, famous for her role in *The Summer of '42*, starred opposite John Wayne in *Rio Lobo*. She now gives her time and heart to Hope and Healing at Hillenglade™ providing Military Veterans and their families the therapeutic wonder of horses. Maren Luedemann is a mentor, life coach, and 30+ years in horse training. Jamie Jennings reads Ask Monty about horses on roads.

[\*\*EPISODE 80 | LISTEN HERE\*\*](#)

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## FOR OUR VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS



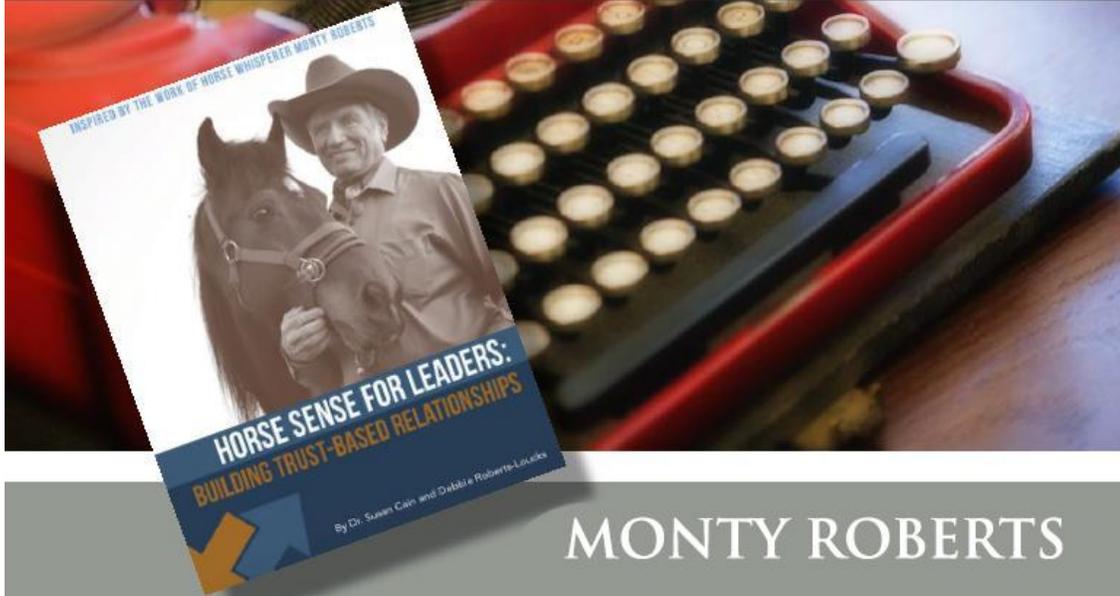
Monty Roberts is running free, resilience-building workshops for veterans, police, fire, first responders and their families. Horse Sense and Healing is a three-day program and it involves working closely with horses. The individuals and horses develop a special bond built upon mutual trust and respect. Join-Up offers everyone an effective tool to rediscover themselves through the eyes of the horse. This self-awareness exercise deals effectively with emotional trauma, anti-social behavior and withdrawal, anger, stress, combat stress and even Post Traumatic Stress Injury (PTSI). [READ MORE](#)



\*December 9 to 11, 2016: Monty's Horse Sense and Healing. For more information <http://www.join-up.org/horse-sense-and-healing/>

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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**.

### WINNERS AT THE EQUUS FILM FESTIVAL!



Jeanine Moret (left) and Monty Roberts

Best Equestrian Music Video - Mini 2016  
People's Choice. Monty Roberts Producer, Jeanine Moret Director  
<https://vimeo.com/180806470>

Best Equine Educational Training - Human Susan Cain, EdD, LCSW -  
Horse Sense for Leaders: Building Trust-Based Relationships By Dr. Susan  
Cain and Debbie Roberts-Loucks, foreword by Monty Roberts <http://tinyurl.com/johxoh6>

Paperback \$9.99 <http://amzn.to/1jqmgBc>

Color Version \$19.99 <http://amzn.to/1h31Psj>

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

See all entries here: <http://nebula.wsimg.com/55b6102230313956404cdbc3d11dde9c?AccessKeyId=8D3373E05A6D33D4B706&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>

"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



## REDUCING VIOLENCE THROUGH WORKSHOPS WITH HORSES IN ANTIGUA GUATEMALA

Lead-Up International (Affiliate of Join-Up International) is a program based on 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](#)



## FIND A MONTY ROBERTS CERTIFIED INSTRUCTOR

Find [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/>



**HRTV**



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

 Forward to a Friend

