



Wednesday May 31, 2017

Greetings! ,

## Question

I've read Monty's responses about biting and nippy horses and how to deal with that behavior on the ground. My question is how to deal with it while in the saddle? I have a young mare and she will turn and nail me in the shin with her teeth (ouch) when I'm asking for her to do things she doesn't want to do, like turning left or going in a direction she doesn't want to go. Saddle fine, no pinching. She does it on the ground sometimes when I am grooming or picking up a foot and my back is to her head and the tactics he covered has yet to work on her.

## Answer

This problem rarely occurs in the horse industry. Normally it is related to a youngster that is either extra sensitive or aggressive. Ruling out all medical reasons for her discomfort, you need to ask why she acts out in this way. By process of elimination, you may come to the conclusion that you consistently ask your mare to do something that she doesn't want to do.

Now, the question is what do you do when she acts upon her urge to attack your leg. The fact is, if we are going to stop this behavior, your mare must do it and receive negative consequences for the behavior. So when you have again asked her to do the thing she doesn't like to do and her head comes around to your right leg, your responsibility is to get her attention from the other side. I'll explain how in a moment.

After achieving attention on the other side, she must be asked to do some significant work. It becomes my obligation to give you tried and proven tools to do the job. My number one recommendation is a [Giddy-Up rope](#). It's made of soft braided yarn. There are many areas where one can learn about this tool and how to use it. The [Equus Online University](#) and [From My Hands to Yours](#) textbook being my best recommendations.

When your mare makes the move, bring the Giddy-Up rope down behind your leg on the opposite side of the mare. For those of you who have a colt, please realize that you can use the same technique. This will typically make a loud sound but cannot cause pain. If you are in a Western saddle, tapping the leather is just as effective as tapping your horse.

The object is to take the horse's attention to the opposite side to the negative behavior. They can't help it, they will tend to bring their head back to the stimulus on the opposite side. If the horse does not respond as indicated, repeat it even louder. Remember that the Giddy-Up Rope is truly a painless tool. The goal is simply to get attention on the opposite side.

Before I discovered the Giddy-Up Rope, I used a spur. This can be effective but should never be used to the extent that it goes as far as bruising muscle or breaking the skin. This is why I adopted the habit of coating my spurs with rubber. Spurs should NOT cause pain but should send the message across. Thankfully these are now available made properly and sold at tack shops all over the world.

My recommendation of the Giddy-Up rope is far and away better than the spur routine. It is however necessary to learn how to use it effectively, quickly recognizing that it takes one your hands off the rein depending on your level or ability. I strongly recommend that a novice rider get help or not ride a horse with these issues anyway.

The work that one would choose to do after the horse's head returns to a more normal position is highly dependent upon the personality of the horse involved. My recommendation is to canter small circles at a rate of speed that maximizes the work load on the horse that is involved. I recommend about ten revolutions less than 30 feet in diameter.

The direction of the circle should be opposite to the action of biting expressed by the horse involved. I found that typically these horses will reverse the action the next time they use this behavior. They will tend to try both sides simply to see what they could get away with, as I judge it. Remember one should be on good footing to execute the circles.

Over the decades I have found that this concept will be effective after three to five repetitions. Once the behavior stops it generally stays away for the life of the horse. If three to five daily sessions are completed without success I strongly recommend bringing in a professional, reading them this answer and allowing an expert to execute the concepts I have outlined. Keep us posted!

Sincerely,

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

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

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In this online video series, you'll see Monty training horses to come off pressure. 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

- UK** June 20: [First Global Edition of Sunset Polo](#) at Cowdray House, in West Sussex
- AUSTRIA** July 2: Spanish Riding School
- USA** July 10 to 21: [Gentling Wild Horses](#) California
- USA** July 28 to 30: [Horse Sense and Healing](#) in California
- USA** July 31 to August 4: [Monty's Special Training](#)
- USA** September 8 to 10: [Horse Sense and Healing](#) in California
- USA** December 8 to 10: [Horse Sense and Healing](#) in California



[FULL SCHEDULE HERE](#)

# THE MONTY ROBERTS INTERNATIONAL LEARNING CENTER

May 22 to June 2, 2017

[Advanced Exam](#)

June 3 to 4, 2017

[Kids' Course](#)

June 24 to 25, 2017

[Kids' Course](#)

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

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## ONLINE REVIEW: MONTY'S GIDDY-UP ROPE

"Nice. Easy to use and very gentle." ~ Leigh L., Verified Buyer

"Works well with my horse." ~ Steven G., Verified Buyer



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



I'm very pleased with your reply to the question last week, which was "Would you choose to put a horse down for a remedial problem?" Before I started reading, I was worried that you would give a vague answer. Bravo. It was very informative, and also hit home. I also had a Black Stallion "Mr" Hanoverian registered in Germany (Celle), who was very boundary (stall) possessive. You indicated to me not to feed him by hand, at a Toronto Radio show. Later, in 2004, I moved down to Houston/Austin Texas with my six horses and stallion. handed him over to a professional stallion trainer. The trainer went for four days' vacation and left the stallion attended by a young girl who now lives with 26 stitches in her shoulder. A month later, during Katrina Hurricane, the stallion died during a storm. Yes, I have to admit I was relieved, since I could never euthanize him. Thanks again, Tejas

## **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,

Thank you for all you've given to the horse world. I have watched every video and read your books and have gained more understanding of horses in the last two years than in the previous 30. I still have a long way to go and still struggle with a few problem horses. I bring in rescue unwanted horses all the time and do my best to turn them into good riding horses so they can find good homes. My 13-year-old daughter does this with me and does great from Join-Up to under saddle.

My question is how critical are the signs for Join-Up? I have done Join-Up with over 50 horses and every one seems to be a little different. Some that were all but wild when I got them seemed to have read your book and did a text book Join-Up. I have a mustang that at first tried to turn on me, rearing up and striking. I was able to drive her away and within minutes was doing a textbook Join-Up.

Where I have doubts is when I don't get clear signs. One may have smaller circle with licking and chewing but doesn't lower head. Another may not lick and chew, etc. If the end result is that they come to you and Join-Up and follow up is that okay?

Thank you from the great state of Wisconsin,  
Rick

P.S. did you know that even though Wisconsin is the dairy state, there are more horses than cattle?

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**HORSEMANSHIP RADIO**



Volunteer riders are needed to ride the hills and beaches of Malibu. This is a different kind of Baywatch! And veterinarian Geoff Tucker built his practice on hand floating

horses' teeth, 92 percent without giving drugs, no mouth jack or other immobilization with a combined 65,000 horses floated this way since 1983.

[EPISODE 88 | LISTEN HERE](#)



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## FOR OUR VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS



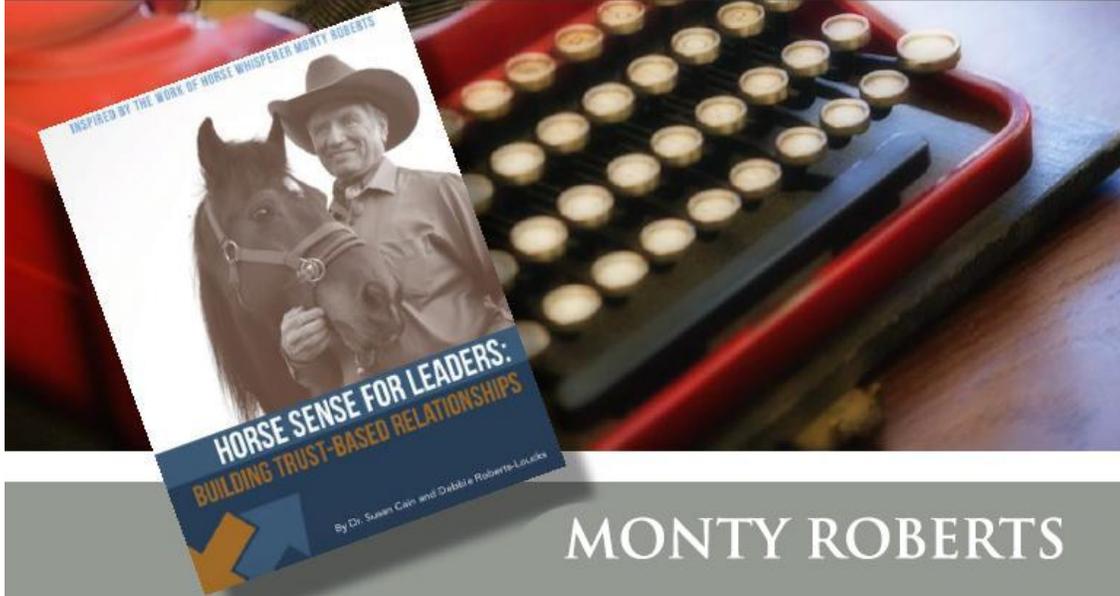
Monty Roberts is running free, resilience-building workshops for veterans, police, fire, first responders and their families. Horse Sense and Healing is a three-day program and it involves working closely with horses. The individuals and horses develop a special bond built upon mutual trust and respect. 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](#)



May 19 to 21 is Monty's next Horse Sense and Healing workshop. For more information, go to: <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**.

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

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

"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/>

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

 Forward to a Friend

