



Wednesday August 23, 2017

Greetings! ,

Question

Dear Monty,

I have been riding my Paint Horse in a rubber Nathe. She is five years old. If I were to use a snaffle loose ring bit, would this bit be a sour taste in her mouth? Would it be a sensory overload? I have looked at sweet iron bits online, but they seem to be very thin. This particular brass bit has another metal mixed in so it doesn't bend. But I am worried about the sour taste for her? Please advise. Just to clarify, the bit in question is in fact copper loose ring snaffle that I am concerned about leaving a sour taste in my young mares mouth.

Kind regards,

Gail in South Africa

Answer

I am a strong advocate for using "black iron bits." These were the normal bits for thousands of years before the advent of stainless steel. I find that horses prefer black iron and perform better with it than stainless steel. I further recommend that the black iron bit has copper inlaid in the mouthpiece. The combination of black iron and copper seems to me to be preferred by virtually every horse I work with. Copper creates saliva which lubricates the mouth and horses enjoy sweet iron.

To keep a sensitive mouth, in my opinion mouthing is one of the most important procedures where training the young horse is concerned. It is critical to cause the horse to respond to cues from the reins and bit with the most subtle cues one can accomplish. The tissues over the bars of the horse's mouth in the area of the corners are precious to any horseman. They should be treated with utmost respect as there is no second chance to create sensitivity once this area has been damaged during training.

We all want a sensitive mouth, but we are responsible for either creating that sensitivity or destroying it. The bit is our partner in that effort. The only things that can be harsh about a bit are the hands that hold it. The well-trained horse with a properly fitted bit can have the reins tied on with fishing line and one should not have to worry about it breaking.

To start the young horse, I use the Dually Halter and teach the horse to respond to light rein pressure off the training rings on the Dually. I am also a proponent of mouthing the horse before saddling or riding. The definition of mouthing is to accustom the horse to bit and bridle (usually a snaffle). It is to cause the horse to be comfortable with wearing this device and responsive to being guided by it. It might seem strange to the reader who has seen my demonstrations to grasp this concept. I do not see the horses used in my demonstrations until the time of the event.

For my full instructions on the incremental and gentle process of mouthing, see my textbook From My Hands to Yours.

Sincerely,



MONTY'S EQUUS ONLINE UNIVERSITY THIS WEEK'S EPISODE



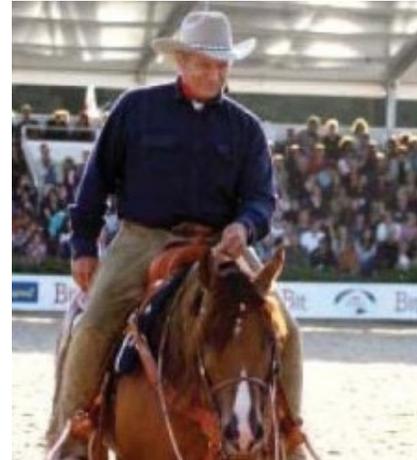
In this online video series, world renowned horse archer Kassai Lajos demonstrates horseback archery and the learning path to becoming a horse archer. Not a student yet?

Click on the buttons below to Join-Up with thousands of horse lovers learning Monty's force-free and fun methods now.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- USA** September 8 to 10: [Horse Sense and Healing in California](#)
- USA** September 15 to 16: [Equus International Film Festival](#)
- UK** October 1: [Special Training Day with Monty](#)
- UK** October 14: [Monty Tours United Kingdom Easton and Otley College](#)
- UK** October 20: [Monty Tours United Kingdom Hartpury College](#)
- UK** October 25: [Monty Tours United Kingdom Merrist Wood College](#)
- UK** October 28: [Monty Tours United Kingdom Lluest Equine Centre](#)
- UK** November 2: [Monty Tours United Kingdom Richmond Equestrian Centre](#)
- UK** November 4: [Monty Tours United Kingdom Alnwick Ford Equestrian](#)
- Germany** November 9: [Pferdezentrum Franken D-91522 Ansbach](#)
- Germany** November 11: [Schwarzwald-Sportzentrum D-75387 Neubulach](#)
- Germany** November 18: [Reitrevier Muenchehofe D-15366 Hoppegarten \(Berlin\)](#)
- Germany** November 19: [Reitrevier Muenchehofe D-15366 Hoppegarten \(Berlin\)](#)
- USA** December 8 to 10: [Horse Sense and Healing in California](#)



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

THE MONTY ROBERTS INTERNATIONAL LEARNING CENTER

August 21 to September 1, 2017

[Introductory Certification Course](#)

September 11 to 15, 2017
September 18 to October 6, 2017
October 9 to 20, 2017
October 23 to 26, 2017
October 27 to 28, 2017
November 25 to 26, 2017
November 27 to 30, 2017
December 1 to 2, 2017

[Introductory Exam](#)
[Advanced Certification Course](#)
[Introductory Certification Course](#)
[Join-Up Course](#)
[Long Lining Course](#)
[Horsemanship 101](#)
[Join-Up Course](#)
[Long Lining Course](#)

[MORE COURSE INFO HERE, CHECK OUT OUR 2018 COURSES!](#)



[ONLINE PRODUCT REVIEW: MONTY'S BITS](#)

"I bought this bit as it is a gentle bit with copper to assist with salivation for my new horse. I am currently training my western bitted horse into a gentler bit. This bit fits him perfectly and he accepts it without any objection. I look forward to many years with this bit."

Marti J., Verified Buyer

"Absolutely the high quality I expected, very pleased. Thanks again."

Mary S., Verified Buyer

[VISIT MONTY'S ONLINE STORE](#)

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



Monty's Special Training 2017

Dear Monty,

I can't begin to thank you enough for the most incredible 5 days... I learnt so much, and I have come back to the UK all fired up! It really has been an incredible experience. Thank you. I would love to keep in touch about our Thoroughbreds, either I'll be out again before your next tour or hopefully see you when you're in the UK.

With love,

Emma Gregson-Williams

Editor's note: Monty's Special Training 2018 will run from August 6 to 10. More info here: <https://montyrobortsshop.com/collections/courses/products/courses-montys-special-training-5-days>)

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@montyroborts.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

Problem Taking horse from field: she pulls me straight to grass

Monty, I have a question for you. My mare Dixie is 13 and when I take her out of the field she pulls me to grass and I can't do anything about it cause she is so strong and I'm so small. I've been starting to lunge her to get her to respect me and she does, but what I don't understand is why does she pull me to the grass when I take her out of the field. Monty what should I do because she thinks she's the boss. How can I show her I'm in charge when handling her, riding and lunging she is great is just handling her she just pulls me about. Monty, what would you do to teach her manners and how would you do it.
Ciara Holmes

HORSEMANSHIP RADIO



Hannah Selleck shows at the Grand Prix level and runs her Descanso Farm's breeding operation in California. Selleck helps raise awareness of Brooke USA's charitable work to make a difference in the lives of working equines. Brooke Global Ambassador Monty Roberts is excited to share the goals he has for the future of horses.

[**EPISODE 94 | LISTEN HERE**](#)



FOR OUR VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS

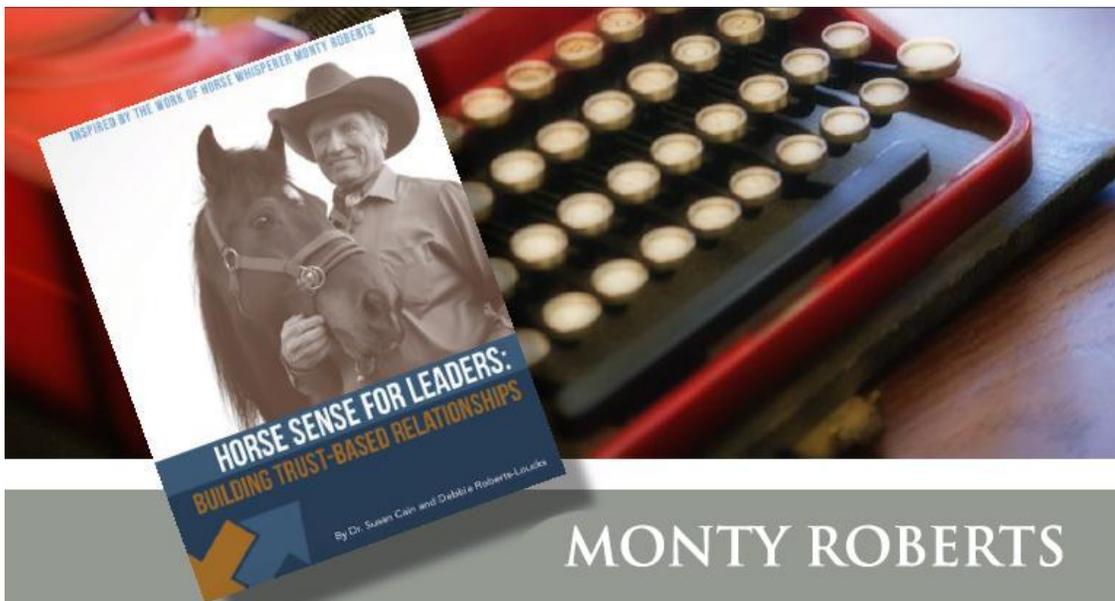


Monty Roberts is running free, resilience-building workshops for veterans, police, fire, first responders and their families. Horse Sense and Healing is a three-day program and it involves working closely with horses. The individuals and horses develop a special bond built upon mutual trust and respect.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



To find out about Monty's upcoming Horse Sense and Healing workshops and for more information, go to: <http://www.join-up.org/horse-sense-and-healing/>

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 GLOBALLY

Lead-Up is a program of Join-Up International 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/>



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

 Forward to a Friend

