



Wednesday December 13, 2017

Greetings! ,

This past week, Monty was called to be in Hong Kong to influence training of horses and instruction of jockeys. Hosted by Daniel Zigal and Felix Coetzee, Monty gave a keynote to trainers and shared his knowledge with horse riders.



Question

Dear Monty,

Some years ago we attended your [special training, Join-Up and long lining courses](#). We also read [your books](#), which fundamentally changed our way of seeing horses as the species they are, not like a dog that can attach and feel devoted to a specific owner, but

more that it is important as a human to behave in a consistent and non violent way, using a communication system that the horse understands. Like you say, to be a good leader and earn trust.

In your special training we discussed whether a horse can love a specific human being, and you said, "No." But a recent experience with one of our ponies that we have owned for ten years has made me maybe wonder. This pony is a 130 cm mare, today 20 years old, tinker type, top showjumping pony. She has, and always had, a craving for integrity both with humans and with other horses. You can't just rush into her box and grab her. She is not afraid of anything, but she just doesn't accept humans behaving like bad leaders. If you hit her, she would never forgive you I am sure. The farrier still after all these years sometimes has to have help from one of our young children to lift her back feet so he can shoe her.

She has taken all our seven riding children up the classes all the way to championships and one of them is now one of the top three showjumping in ponies in Europe. We have a lot to thank this mare for. She is now 20 years old but still going strong as ever. One year ago, this pony was taken over by our five-year-old son, and it is just amazing to see how she behaves with him. She is licking her mouth when he comes. Letting him do anything with her. Bending her head down to the ground so he can put the head collar on, following him without lead wherever he goes. And standing still waiting when he climbs up on his little stool, her standing loose outside the stable, no adult at hand, waiting for him to crawl and kick himself up on her back. If our adult rider or I take her out, she does not wait and if we let her loose she would certainly walk away to the grass or even run away from us.

Sometimes if we don't close the box properly she can almost run over us and squeeze us in the door to get out to the way, but would she do something like that if he stands in the door, never!

When he rides, without leader, now also aged five competing in showjumping up to height 65 cm, she is so careful not to loose him so you can see she almost looks up on him sitting on her back. It looks really special. Now when he is getting better riding, she canters quicker, but always careful to not frighten him. A few months ago when he learned to trot, he would tell her to go quicker with his short legs and with his voice but was she doing that. No, she was just taking a few trot steps, Always slowing down immediately before he lost balance. I should also say that from the very start he was riding without a leader or a rope so it has been entirely up to her to decide how to teach him riding. If one of us adults would sit on he back and asked her to move on, we would have to ride very fast indeed, because this is a very energetic pony, almost hot. Also when you turn towards the stable, she would normally want to trot with an adult and pull, but with him she keeps a steady pace and he can sing and relax, not even needing to hold the reins. He loves her, on that we have no doubt. But it would be tempting to say that she seems to have very special feelings and a strong bond to him also. What do you say Monty, can't there be a little love from her towards him after all?

Hälsningar
Anna Hammarström, Sweden

Answer

Dear Anna,

Your story is an absolute dream when it comes to promoting horses as partners of humans. Since you were in my course, several things have occurred which have actually caused me to take pause in my comment 'Horses can't love.' You must understand that my scientific education was filled with facts about how animals think and why they act the way they do. My science classes would never have allowed that horses can love human beings.

Some of my students have disagreed with me and of course I have responded as if I was an authority on the subject. I have to confess to you now, that in the past 10-15 years I have watched science change their opinions on many issues. In addition there are certain factual activities that I have witnessed with horses that would suggest to me that they can create a deep attachment to human beings. Love is a funny word, with a lot of ramifications, but I now can cite examples that I believe prove that horses can nurture a relationship with certain human individuals.

I am witnessing one at this moment in time. In this particular case I believe that most of the attachment or fondness comes from the human side, but I am watching a growing connection that is clearly moving from the horse to the human too. I have always said that I am scratching the surface of really understanding the behavior of these wonderful animals. Perhaps someday we will be able to quantify the affection that horses can generate toward certain humans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Monty", with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

MONTY'S EQUUS ONLINE UNIVERSITY
THIS WEEK'S EPISODE



In this online video series, Monty works with Diego, a wild mustang. Not a student yet? Click on the buttons below to Join-Up with thousands of horse lovers learning Monty's force-free, fun methods.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- USA** December 15 to 17: Horse Sense and Healing clinic for registered Veterans and First Responders
- USA** January 6, 2018: [Master Series Demonstrations](#) including Monty Roberts and Boyd Martin at Galway Downs, Temecula, California
- USA** April 21 to 22, 2018: West Coast Dressage Convention, Los Angeles, California, featuring Edward Gal, Hans Peter Minderhoud, and Monty Roberts. Tickets from: www.shproductions.ca
- USA** May 23 to 24, 2018: Moment of Join-Up Symposium and Festival (details to come)
- USA** July 23 to August 3, 2018: [Gentling Wild Horses course](#) at Flag Is Up Farms, California



USA

August 6 to 10, 2018: [Monty's Special Training](#) at Flag Is Up Farms, California

[FULL SCHEDULE HERE](#)

THE MONTY ROBERTS INTERNATIONAL LEARNING CENTER

February 19 to 22, 2018

[Join-Up Course](#)

February 23 to 24, 2018

[Long Lining Course](#)

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



PRODUCT REVIEW: TOOLS FOR GENTLE HORSEMANSHIP

"I was surprised and pleased that the ordering process was so easy and my order arrived in just two days (from CA to GA). The quality of the halter is excellent and the DVD was easy to understand as to how to fit my mini. I have just started the book but find it different than any other book I've read and am very pleased at the amount of useful information in it for this beginner horse owner. I am very happy with the quality and pricing of the kit."

Karen J.

Verified Buyer

12/07/17



[VISIT MONTY'S ONLINE STORE](#)



HOLIDAY SHIPPING IMPORTANT DATES

International (outside USA)

Australia

Fedex International Economy:	Friday, December 15
Fedex International Priority:	Monday, December 18

Brazil

Fedex International Economy:	Friday, December 14
Fedex International Priority:	Friday, December 15

Germany

Fedex International Economy:	Monday, December 18
Fedex International Priority:	Tuesday, December 19

United Kingdom

Fedex International Economy:	Monday, December 18
Fedex International Priority:	Tuesday, December 19



Domestic (USA)

Standard Shipping:	Friday, December 15
Priority Mail:	Tuesday, December 19
UPS:	Friday, December 15
FedEx 2 Day:	Tuesday, December 19
FedEx Express Saver:	Monday, December 18

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



Dear Monty,

We all send our big thanks for the part you played in opening our eyes to another way of helping these intelligent gentle souls or those of us that knew there was another way but were not sure where to start.

Amanda Mannix

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

Dear Monty,

I have been spending a lot of time with my sister's horse Lucky. He is a 17 year old gelding who hasn't been ridden for some time as he used to be lame but is under vet care and better now.

We have spent a great deal of time doing ground work with the Monty Roberts halter. Also we give him walks with lots of exposure to anything and everything on the farm and along the country roads. With Lucky's continued improvement we have begun to ride. We have found him to respond well riding bitless with the Monty Roberts halter. We are also riding bareback as he really does well, has more whoa then go and we did not want to put the extra weight of a saddle on him as of yet as we are still babying him and hoping he will continue to be well.

Though he has access to pasture all day, being late in the year there is not as much to eat. We supplement with hay in the evening. He doesn't touch it during the day being content in the field. However, when we ride in the field he puts his head down to eat and it is difficult to get it back up. I will take the Giddy-Up rope with me on the next ride and am considering using a gentle small round ball spurs.

Would this be in keeping with your views, or do you have any other suggestions. I value your opinion and am so grateful for all the knowledge you have shared with me and so many others. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

The world is a better place with you in it. God bless you and yours.

Linda, an avid follower

HORSEMANSHIP RADIO



Award-winning documentary filmmaker Stefan Morel gives us the stories behind his movies Blind Spot and Herd. Erin Crady directs TCA raising money for Thoroughbred

retirement, retraining and rehoming, and therapeutic riding programs. Erin introduces Bev Strauss of MidAtlantic Horse Rescue.

[EPISODE 101 | LISTEN HERE](#)



FOR OUR VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS

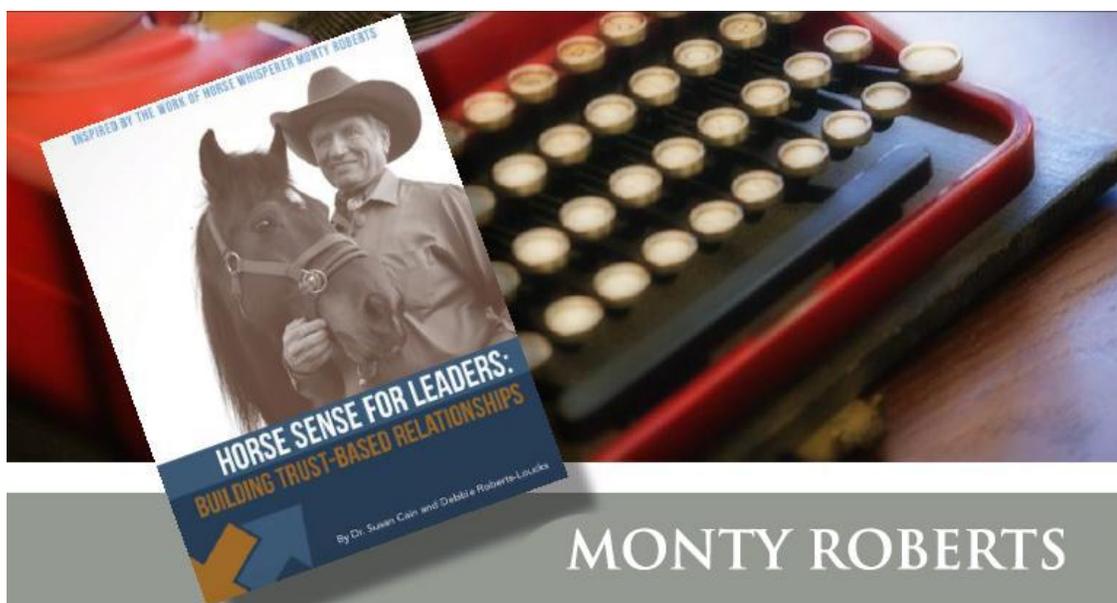


Monty Roberts is running free, resilience-building workshops for veterans, police, fire, first responders and their families. Horse Sense and Healing is a three-day program and it involves working closely with horses. The individuals and horses develop a special bond built upon mutual trust and respect.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



LEAVE A LEGACY

Planned gifts to Join-Up International's non-profit organization, such as a bequest in your will or trust, help to secure the future of non-violent concepts. To learn more, go to:

<http://www.join-up.org/how-to-help/> or to donate in support to Join-Up International, go to:
<https://montyrobertsshop.com/collections/courses/products/donate-join-up-international>



[Join-Up International](#) | AskMonty@montyroberts.com | MontyRoberts.com

 Forward to a Friend

