



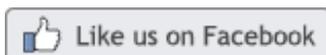
Wednesday December 27, 2017

Greetings! ,

Train your horse without the use of force or violence in 2018, and beyond! No one of us was born with the right to to say "You must or I'll hurt you" to any other creature, animal or human. ~ Monty Roberts



Watch Monty's inspirational video messages on [Facebook](#)!



Question

Hi Monty,

We have met several times now in England. I have a young race horse with a small mouth. She came to me very head shy as a 8-month-old filly. I was recommended as a

behaviorist and she came to me for handling as a baby then backing and bringing on as a yearling and two year old. She is very immature, so I advised the owner to leave her as a three year old to run and train. Whilst, in the mean time, handle her and keep her sane whilst ready for backing.

I have now started her training, which I start with biting, and she is highly rejecting it. Big time! You cannot get near her ears and this tells me she has been twitched in this area. With a little patience and time she is starting to accept this. I have now introduced the bit. She absolutely hates it near her mouth and no way can I put my hand or fingers near her mouth never mind the bit! Any suggestions please?

Thank you,
Bev Griffiths

Answer

Dear Bev,

Thank you very much for your interesting question. It's only been three weeks ago that I was handed a horse that fit this description and a whole lot more. You couldn't touch his head and you couldn't touch his body. He would kick and strike depending on which end of him you were nearest. There were times when I expected him to kick and strike at the same time. This horse had a halter growing into his head and been impossible to catch for about three months.

Within two to three days I had him saddled, and on the fourth day he would literally put the bit on himself and allow my hands to slide the bridle over his ears while he played a game with the bit. Clearly it is impossible to answer correctly all of the facets of your question without seeing the horse in mind. Let me describe for you however the procedures I used that I believe were the key to success with this individual. Let me state that the first thing I did was buy a little honey bear from the store.

My bear had a convenient spout at the top of his head so that a neat few drops of honey could be applied to the top of a hand full of grain. Strangely horses need to acquire a taste for honey but when they do, it is usually all-out love. After the hand full of grain I placed a small amount of honey in his empty grain bin. When I noticed him licking the free standing honey, I knew I was on my way to success. It was the third day of playing this game that his taste for honey was apparent.

At this time I began to put honey on the handle of a wooden spoon. Within a few minutes he would take the spoon in his mouth and love the taste of his honey. While the licking was going on I gradually got closer to his ears, massaging the top of his neck. I refused to take my hand away when he rejected my neck massage. He soon learned that the honey would remain for his pleasure if he allowed my hand to massage his crest getting ever closer to that spot between his ears.

It was on the fourth day that I was able to put the honey in the center of a snaffle bit. I had to help the bit into the corner of his mouth at first. Within 15 to 20 minutes he was literally looking for the bit, opening his mouth and accepting the bit into it. Another 20 minutes or so and he allowed my right hand to caress him between the ears with the crown of a bridle with no bit attached. An additional 10 to 15 minutes and this horse would literally take the hanging bit and then the bridle over his ears.

There is a great interest in me to have you follow through with some videos to us with your mission to bridle this difficult animal. I have won several bets with this procedure, and it would please me if you too could bet your friends using this technique. If it's possible to use a High Def video camera, I would love it. The horse I described to you was privately owned and I have no video evidence that what I have told you is gospel. I think you might make our [Online University](#) if you were to be successful as I was.

Sincerely,



MONTY'S EQUUS ONLINE UNIVERSITY THIS WEEK'S EPISODE

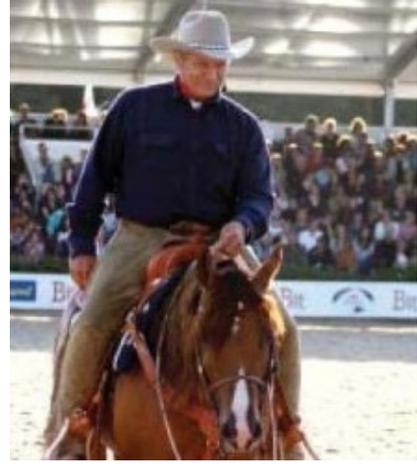


In this online video series, Monty works with Diego, a wild mustang. Not a student yet? Click on the buttons below to Join-Up with thousands of horse lovers learning Monty's force-free, fun methods.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- USA** January 6, 2018: [Master Series Demonstrations](#) including Monty Roberts and Boyd Martin at Galway Downs, Temecula, California
- UK** March 3, 2018: Monty Roberts demonstration at [Myerscough College](#), Bilsborrow, Lancs, PR3 0RY
- UK** March 7, 2018: Monty Roberts demonstration at [Hadlow College](#), Hadlow, Kent, TN1 0AL
- UK** March 17, 2018: Monty Roberts demonstration at [The Grange - with Special Guest "Martin Clunes"](#), Okehampton, Devon EX20 3DA
- Ireland** March 24, 2018: Monty Roberts demonstration near Dublin, details to come soon!
- 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!](#)



FORCE-FREE EQUIPMENT: MONTY'S GIDDY-UP ROPE

*"These ideas work because they are rooted in the natural instincts of the horse."
- Monty Roberts*

The **Giddy-Up rope** is a length of braided yarn that works on the horse's mind to motivate forward motion. Using this piece of equipment, the rider introduces movement to the peripheral vision of the horse. No pain comes of it but the horse is likely to advance quickly, moving away from the rope.

When using a Giddy-Up rope, the rider should be diligent and watch for a positive response. The instant forward motion is achieved, the rider should cease to swing the Giddy-Up rope, and stroke the neck of the horse in congratulation. The rider might use clucking or chirping sounds during the use of the Giddy-Up rope to add to its effectiveness. By sending both visual and auditory cues, you are likely to achieve the desired result: A lively horse carrying a non-violent, educated rider on board!

[VISIT MONTY'S ONLINE STORE](#)

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



Readers Respond to Last Week's Question About Horses' Ability to Love

Dear Monty,

About the question of whether horses can/do love a human or each other or any other animal, the scientific answer is yes. Absolutely.

Read *Molecules of Emotion: Why We Feel the Way We Feel* by Candace Pert, a researcher at the National Institute of Health. These molecules (proteins that include peptides, hormones, factors, and ligands) travel throughout the body. They are the basic units of a language used by cells throughout the organism to communicate across systems such as the endocrine, neurological, gastrointestinal, and even the immune system. As they travel, they in-form, regulate, and synchronize.

Among other things, they are the physiological basis of behavior and mood. Even single-cell animals register the basic emotions of love, hate, anger, jealousy.

Her book is a fascinating, non-technical read. And it completely obliterates the old scientific notion, believed for years, that only humans have emotions.

I'm clueless where scientists ever got the silly notion that animals don't have emotions, including love. I think it must have come from the attempt to ex-alt humans above all other animals, thereby making us different from-and, unfortunately, separate and superior to-other animals. Nonsense, and Can-dace Pert's book (New York: Scribner, 1997) lays out the neuroscience of it. (Please note that later editions of Pert's book have the subtitle of *The Science Behind Mind-Body Medicine*.)

I, too, had a horse who loved me. She'd leave the other horses to come stand at the living room window waiting for me to pass by. She would do anything for me, unless it was unsafe, and took care of me when I rode her. When I returned from a year studying in Europe and went to find her in a 360 acre field, a whistle brought her running even though neither of us could see the other but I could hear her running back and forth trying to locate me. She ran flat out up to me and skidded to a stop at the fence. Also, one day

I answered the front door to a strange man who I instantly felt was a danger to me. Sis picked up on it, too, and immediately stepped up on the cement porch, almost two feet high, and walked right at the guy. The look on the man's face was priceless. Fearful, he started backing up and fell off the porch, got up and ran back to his car and took off. To this day I swear she had a smile on her face. Never before or after did she ever even consider coming up on that porch.

I also had a cat that stuck to me like glue whenever I went out the back door. She'd follow for miles, even plunge through the creek to stay with me. I still smile when I remember her helping while I cleaned up the granary; she'd pounce on the grain and dig out mice nests and, if I insisted, eat each any every mouse. Sixteen was her limit. After that, she'd catch and kill, and give me a look that said, "Enough a'ready!" She also followed me out to the end of our driveway (.2 miles) every morning when I went to catch the school bus. She and our two dogs would wait with me until the bus came and then drift back to the house.

I love your work. Thank you for all you do.

Karen Olsen

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'm a Portuguese woman aged 57 (only started to ride at the age of 54). I'm riding a Lusitano horse and love him very much.

I have fallen off my horse when cantering breaking four ribs. This was last June. I mounted my horse again since last September but I can not canter anymore since my fall. I know my horse senses my fear and kind of does not respect me. On the other hand I always feel the need of holding on to my reins creating a lot of tension, so I'm completely confused and stuck to this problem.

I would be happy again if I could feel the freedom of cantering again.
Can you help me ?

Anabela

p.s. Please forgive my English, I hope you understand my writing

HORSEMANSHIP RADIO



Stefanie Krysiak interviewed 105 horse persons from 6 continents for the Fédération Equestre Internationale. Participants included Monty Roberts, George Morris, Christoph Hess, Pat Parelli, Anky van Grunsven, Dr. Gerd Heuschmann, Frank Kemperman, Guy Mclean, and more. Connie Johnson Hambley's 3rd book in a trilogy, *The Wake*, features hippotherapy in a mainstream thriller.

[EPISODE 102 | LISTEN HERE](#)



FOR OUR VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS

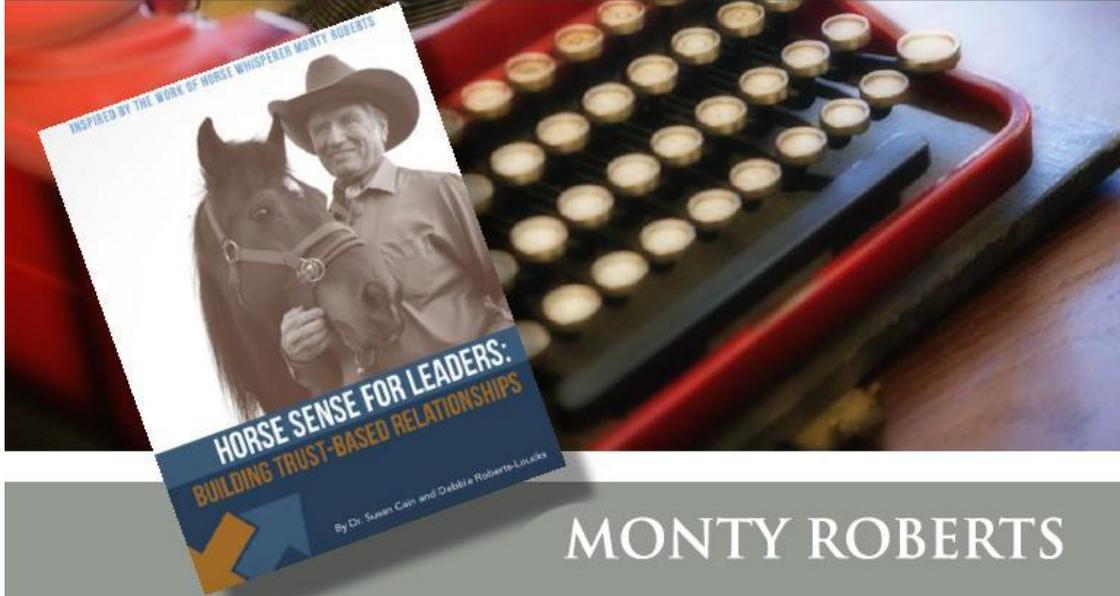


Monty Roberts is running free, resilience-building workshops for veterans, police, fire, first responders and their families. Horse Sense and Healing is a three-day program and it involves working closely with horses. The individuals and horses develop a special bond built upon mutual trust and respect.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

