



**Wednesday May 16, 2018**

Greetings! ,

## **Question**

Dear Monty,

I have a question about my mare. She was started and has been entirely trained on gentle methods of Monty and his similars. We always do some degree of pen work to Join-Up before a ride. Sometimes it takes nothing, she is already so attentive there is no need to drive and we begin our work for the day. Sometimes, particularly when in heat, we have to do a full Join-Up session. I watch for the ear, the licking, the head low. She usually takes very little time to begin responding, and when I allow her in she trots in, head low, super respectful, then raises her head (not high, just to normal carriage which is about my eyeline) and lets out a huge snort. It is unsettling, almost startling, and at first sight seems defiant and dominant, but then she continues to breathe heavily from the exercise. Is this a normal reaction from her being out of breath or an aggressive act?

Steph Bradshaw

## **Answer**

Dear Steph,

Your question comes on the heels of several Q&As that have come in recently and also quite similar to circumstances involving current work that I am doing with various breeds and disciplines. I have pondered your words carefully and I have made a conclusion you are attempting to alter the communication system of our four legged equine friends. I am convinced that you are reading too much into certain behaviors your mare exhibits. Please remember that I haven't seen your circumstances, and I am communicating based on your words and without sure and certain knowledge.

For much of my life I have ushered myself through periods of time where I formed the same conclusions you have outlined in your question. Looking back over those years I now realize if I simply go back to work and investigate my own gestures and my own behavioral responses I generally find that Equus produces the communication system

they have perfected for 50 million years. There is no question that every animal has its own personality, its own likes, dislikes and idiosyncrasies unique to them. Please go back to your mare with the idea that she is the only one that is right in this scenario and then work on your communications efforts to achieve the desired behavior.

When you say "Sometimes it takes nothing, she is already so attentive there is no need to drive and we begin our work for the day" it is interesting to me that you have unilaterally decided that there is no need to drive and then you say circumstances are less than perfect. Unilateral decisions by the two legged human as to what the horse requires is usually a mistake. One should work hard to decide what Equus responds perfectly to and then repeat that, just as the book reads. When there is a unique behavior, then take a hard look at alerting the typical required communications efforts. The horse is always right. It is the human who needs to meet the horse's needs.

As these questions come in, it causes me to want to go to every location described and see this critically unique behavior. I do a lot of that as you well know, traveling well over 100,000 miles per year. But the number of times there is actually critically unique behavior is virtually zero. Of course, it's not possible for everyone to work with hundreds of horses before asking a question, but remember I had to do thousands of horses and come to my conclusions, for there were no humans with any information about concepts that it seems were never discovered.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Monty". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

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

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This online video series shows how Monty works with a horse called Emi who is not trusting of people. 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** May 23 to 24, 2018: [The Movement](http://themovement2018.com/) in Solvang with Monty and Pat Roberts, Speakers, Demonstrations <http://themovement2018.com/>
- 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
- USA** August 20 to 24, 2018: [In Portuguese, Monty's Special Training](#) at Flag Is Up Farms, California

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## THE MONTY ROBERTS INTERNATIONAL LEARNING CENTER

May 25 to 27, 2018	Horse Sense and Healing	<a href="#">Click for Course Info</a>
June 30 to July 1, 2018	Kids Course	<a href="#">Click for Course Info</a>
July 6 to 8, 2018	Horse Sense and Healing	<a href="#">Click for Course Info</a>
July 9 to 20, 2018	Introductory Certification Course	<a href="#">Click for Course Info</a>
July 23 to August 3, 2018	Gentling Wild Horses	<a href="#">Click for Course Info</a>
August 6 to 10, 2018	Monty's Special Training	<a href="#">Click for Course Info</a>
August 11 to 12, 2018	Horsemanship 101	<a href="#">Click for Course Info</a>
August 13 to 16, 2018	Join-Up Course	<a href="#">Click for Course Info</a>
August 17 to 18, 2018	Long Lining Course	<a href="#">Click for Course Info</a>
August 20 to 24, 2018	In Portuguese, Monty's Special Training at Flag Is Up Farms, California	<a href="#">Click for Course Info</a>

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

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### ONLINE PRODUCT REVIEW: THE DUAL HALTER

Dear Mr. Roberts, I'm absolutely speechless!

Because of a bad horse riding accident I'm more focused on flatwork at the moment. My dear friend and trainer recommended the Dually Halter, because my horse is a little stubborn and doesn't really accept me as her leader. I've never heard of it before, so watched some of your tutorials on Youtube. As I saw Zimfandel's reactions and quick progress I bought it just one hour later.

My horse never liked the washing box. Six months ago, a groom didn't walk straight into the box and since then it has been a challenge to get her into the box again. An hour ago, we introduced her to the halter. We did some leading training and Join-Up. Later when we approached the washing box, she behaved the same way she always does.. she stopped immediately and backed out. As soon as she moved forwards I unloosed the training ring and she followed me.

Right at the first attempt it worked! Incredible!

Thank you so much!

Best wishes from Germany  
Anja and Ascatania



**[VISIT MONTY'S ONLINE STORE](#)**

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**SUPPORT MONTY'S NON-PROFIT ORG WHEN YOU SHOP**

AmazonSmile has the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you [shop on AmazonSmile](#), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization

of your choice, [click here and support Join-Up International](#).



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## MONTY'S PRINCIPLES HORSE SENSE FOR PEOPLE



**Further to last week's article from Monty: "Six things about life I wish I could travel back in time and tell myself"**

[To review article archives, visit: <https://www.montyroberts.com/category/ask-monty-newsletters/>]

Dear Monty,

Thank you Monty for your "six things" chat. I was on the point of giving up my last hopes of my last horse dream when I read this and now I am more determined to have a go before it is too late.

Having met you twice at your demonstrations and watched your progress from the time you first met HM the Queen, I too have the same thoughts on the "if only I had known", only I did not have the same sad upbringing as you, only a war inflicted broken home to cope with. But there were always horses, and like you I watched and learned but not enough to stand up to my teachers when cruelty was used to "correct" the errant ways of the horses.

But time moves on and better opportunities and understanding occur and with it gratitude

and humility and healing.

Thank you so much for all you have given us all over the world and continue to do so

With respect

Annabelle Swain

late of Australia, France and UK

## **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 have been a follower of yours for a long time but a number of years ago my life changed - having horses was not possible for a while. Recently two mules have come into my life. They need much handling - their attitude is not bad but they don't do much. Do you do Join-Up the same with mules as horses? Is the answer I'm looking found on EQUUS ONLINE UNIVERSITY?

Thanks for all you do!!!  
Wayne C. Kline

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## **HORSEMANSHIP RADIO**



A 1000 mile ride through Argentina, 2 horses, one dog and a love for the history of the Criollo horse and the resilient explorers, Stevie Anna shares her latest adventure on horseback. And Jamie Jennings, co-host of the Horses in the Morning Radio Show, tells us about the transformative effect of learning the language of horses, Equus and becoming a better trainer. Jamie passed the Advanced Exams of Monty Roberts Certification Program and looks forward to sharing the concepts as an Instructor.

[\*\*EPISODE 112 | LISTEN HERE\*\*](#)



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**FOR OUR VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS**



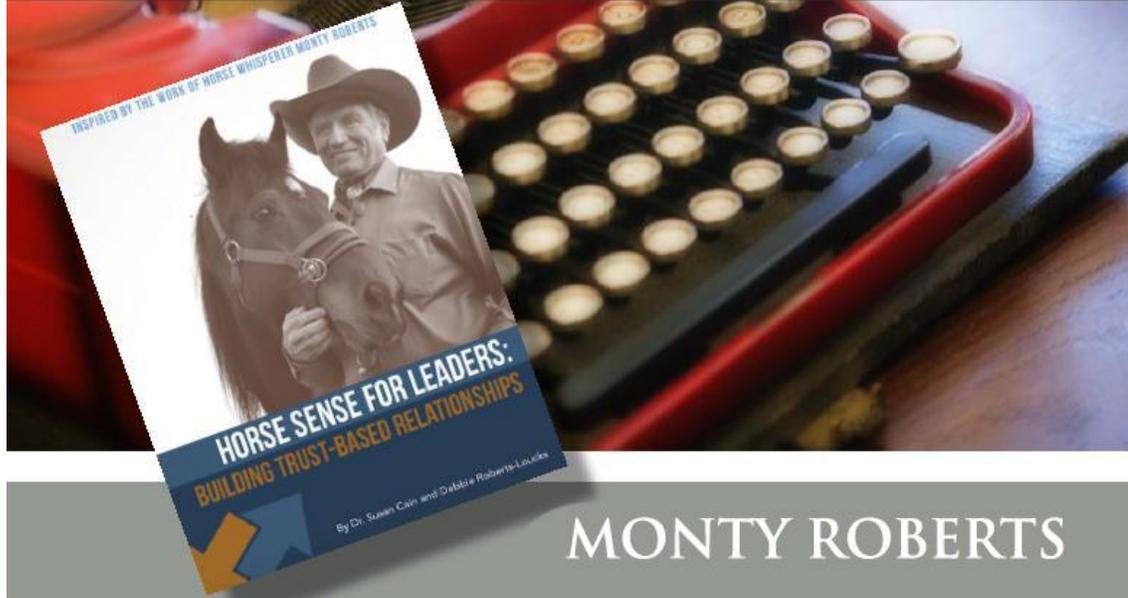
Monty Roberts is running free, resilience-building workshops for veterans, police, fire, first responders and their families. Horse Sense and Healing is a three-day program and it involves working closely with horses. The individuals and horses develop a special bond built upon mutual trust and respect.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



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/>

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**HORSE SENSE FOR LEADERS**



MONTY ROBERTS

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/>



## 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](mailto:AskMonty@montyroberts.com) | [MontyRoberts.com](http://MontyRoberts.com)

 Forward to a Friend

