



Wednesday May 23, 2018

Greetings! ,

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 for found on your [Equus Online University](#)?

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

Answer

Dear Wayne,

Thank you very much for your question. What this communication caused was for me to realize that we don't have a lesson concerning mules on our [Equus Online University](#). Being a good friend of Dr. Robert Miller for about six decades now, it's time I asked him to choose someone well versed in mule behavior to contribute a meaningful lesson on our Online University.

It's true that I do Join-Up with mules, and even donkeys, in much the same way that I do with horses. But please note, it's not exactly the same. It is my distinct opinion mules are significantly more intelligent than horses. This being the case, any procedure must be accomplished in the "mule world," which is not exactly the same as the horse world. Mules may take longer to respond to certain procedures. On the other hand, they may capture other procedures much faster than any horse would.

Mules are hybrids, which means there is an uplift in the areas where hybrid vigor increases intelligence. They have a certain understanding for their ability to survive. Mules hurt themselves about once for every ten times a horse produces self-inflicted

wounds. A horse has enormous capacities for memory when compared to the human being. There is seemingly nothing that a mule ever forgets. Breaking a mule using conventional methods has historically been considered extremely difficult. The traditionalists would suggest they simply need to be forced more vigorously than the horse does.

When I was growing up I remember trainers saying something like this: "Do you know how to break a mule? The first thing you have to do is get a 2x4 board. You hit them between the ears with it just to get their attention and then you proceed to break the mule." My position is that nothing could be further from the truth.

Mules have been broken with violence for centuries. That doesn't make it as effective as non-violent methods. It simply means most trainers thought it was necessary. A mule reasoned with, and brought along in a non-violent fashion, will consistently be a better partner and a more effective assistant for any tasks attempted. Join-Up works with mules and we will attempt to explore the nuances for my Online University.

In the mean time, use my methods but be sure to take a breath, wait a bit and then move forward when you observe your mule understanding what it is that you are asking it to do. Look carefully for how to give positive consequences. A rub between the eyes is good. Also, the act of ceasing the work when it's acceptable, will cause the mule to quickly do the work requested so that they have the opportunity to stop the work. We must choose the right trainer for our Online University to help bring these principles forward as soon as we possibly can. Stay in touch with us. We will make this happen.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Monty", with a large, sweeping underline that loops back under the first letter.

MONTY'S EQUUS ONLINE UNIVERSITY
THIS WEEK'S EPISODE



This online video series shows Monty and his team working with Lippizaner stallions in the legendary Spanish Riding School in Vienna, Austria. 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

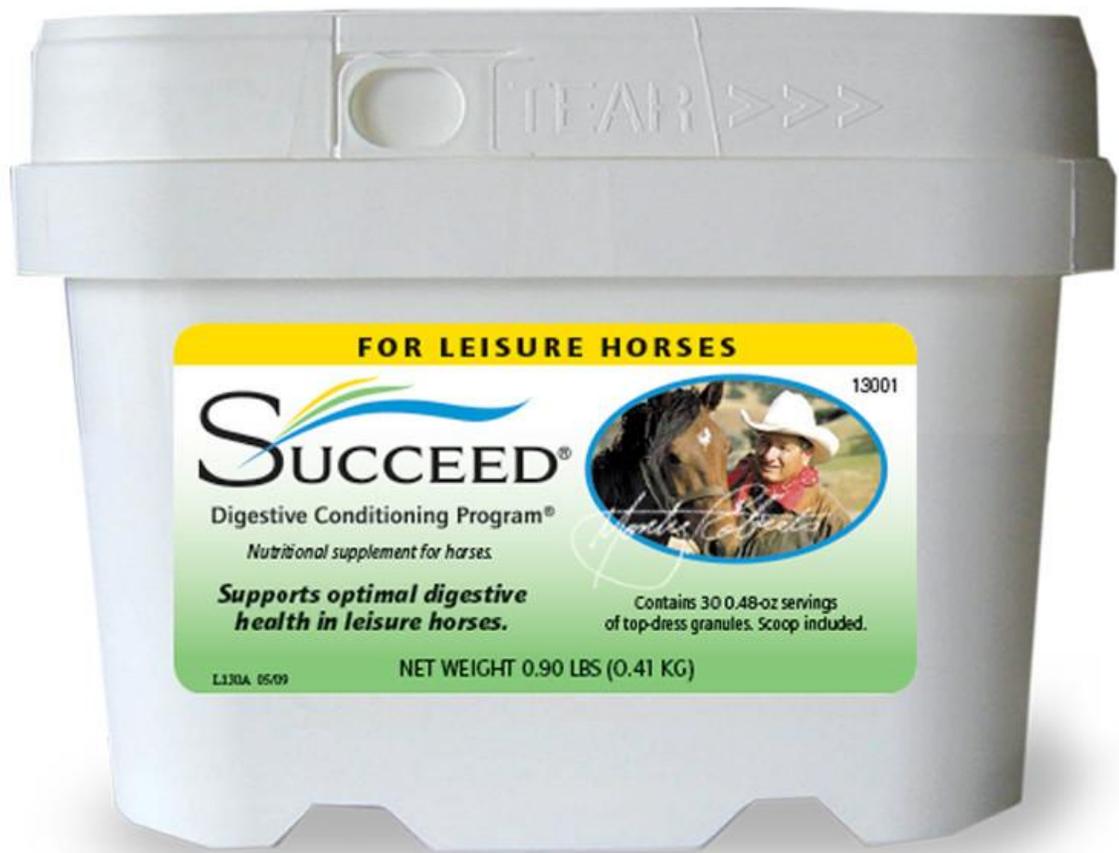
USA August 20 to 24, 2018: [In Portuguese, Monty's Special Training](#) at Flag Is Up Farms, California

FULL SCHEDULE HERE

THE MONTY ROBERTS INTERNATIONAL LEARNING CENTER

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

MORE COURSE INFO HERE, CHECK OUT MORE 2018 COURSES!



ONLINE PRODUCT REVIEW: SUCCEED

"The only product I have found to help with gut issues. I've tried several."

~ Michele O., Verified Buyer

[VISIT MONTY'S ONLINE STORE](#)

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](#).

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



Dear Monty,

I've enjoyed reading your works and your [Ask Monty e-mails](#) from the time I was a kid! For a long few years, however, I have not been around horses. But, I have worked and volunteered at many animal shelters with abused or neglected pets during that time. So many times they are abandoned or returned, because people simply do not take the time to understand them. I remembered reading once about your relationship with another wonderful animal, the deer named Grandma, and it inspired me to ask. Do you have any advice on how people can use your methods and non-violent approach to help work with and heal some of these shelter animals?

Thank you for your many years of dedication to these Ask Monty emails, and a lifetime of work bettering our relationships with horses and one another.

Fala Burnette
Ashland, AL

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 live in Victoria Australia and last weekend a lady who was out riding alone on a bush trail in the high country of Victoria near Mansfield failed to return to the camp area where she had left her vehicle and horse trailer. She and her horse survived four nights in freezing conditions and were located together yesterday morning. Apparently she had suffered some kind of event leading to loss of memory and disorientation. Her family said she was a very competent and knowledgeable horsewoman and this came as shock to them.

What I consider amazing is that her faithful horse stayed by her side and she said when she tried to sleep under a bed of dry wooden branches he would nudge her awake each morning. He could easily have wandered back to the campsite as horses always know where to head for home. However he was so loyal he stayed put and probably made it easier for the spotter plane as he is chestnut and thus would not camouflage easily.

I think the media said the horse's name is Depict. He deserves a medal!!!! What are your thoughts?

Kind regards,
Kate Sutherland.

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**](#)



FOR OUR VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS

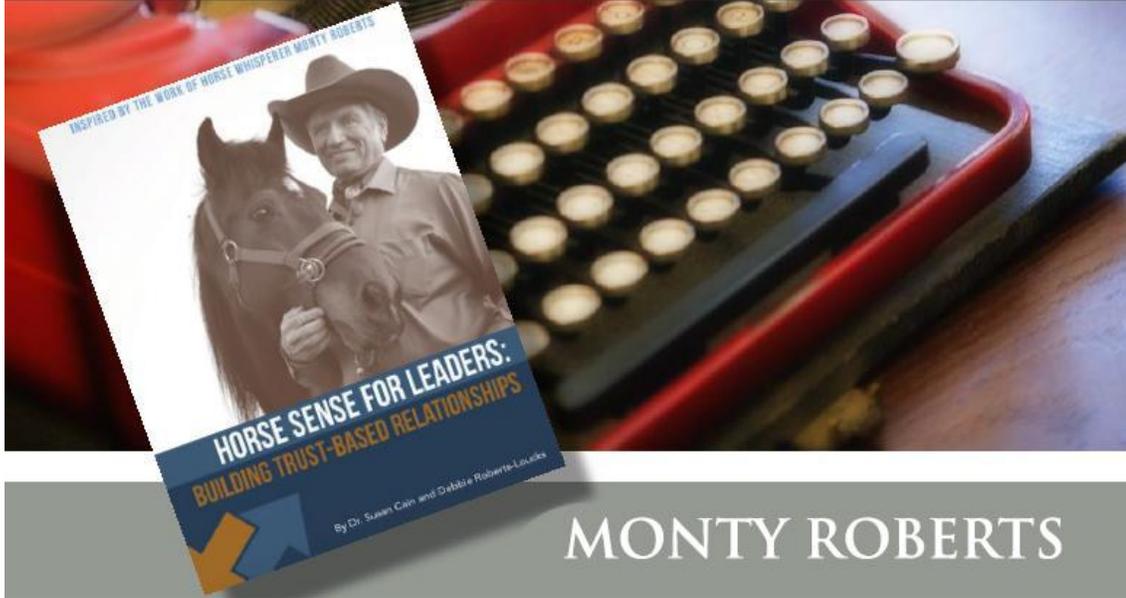


Monty Roberts is running free, resilience-building workshops for veterans, police, fire, first responders and their families. Horse Sense and Healing is a three-day program and it involves working closely with horses. The individuals and horses develop a special bond built upon mutual trust and respect.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



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

