



Wednesday July 11, 2018

Greetings! ,

## Question

Dear Monty,

One of our ponies, Dizzy, who is a non ridden family member nowadays, exhibits aggressive/defensive behavior only when her head is over the stable door, i.e. ears back and biting at thin air in our general direction as we approach her or even just pass by her stable. She was initially also a nervous mare in all respects but has settled down in all other areas except this one. I've tried ignoring this behavior altogether, i.e. avoiding her as much as possible in the stable door scenario and only interacting in the stable or outside the stable.

I've tried ignoring it and treating her as I do the other two mares in the family i.e. strokes and other gentle friendly loving interactions at the stable door, but neither of these strategies have made any difference. I seem to be unable to reassure her that no one is going to hurt her when she is standing in that position.

I'm sure she's been treated inappropriately by people in a previous home, and this is her way of protecting herself. But after three years I owe to her to try to figure this puzzle out and to try to help her overcome this behavior pattern which is based on a past experience that won't happen again as long as I have breathe in my body!

The problem for me is I don't know what that past experience was (although we did see the people we bought her from smacking her for pawing at the ground) and I don't have any ideas on how to change this outcome for her.

Please can you suggest some alternative course of action?

Kind regards,  
Julia Szajdzicka

## Answer

This is a question that I have answered many times, each with slightly different

circumstances. The underlying cause of this is that we have domesticated horses for 6,000 years placing them in increasingly shrinking accommodations. Horses become territorial. After all, there was 47 million years when they lived on grassy plains with no human intervention at all.

Imagine the difference to the horse's brain when at one point they could see as far as the eye could perceive with no interruption to a grassy environment when compared with today the normal box stall or small corral that we tend to provide for them. It is my opinion that horses incriminate human beings most often when food is involved.

My suggestion is that we should never feed horses while in their normal accommodations. It is far better to remove them from the stable, feed, then bring them back to the stable and let them find the feed already there. In addition, we should not enter the stable during that time when the horse is actually eating. It tends to promote this behavior.

Horses with a "half door" that allows them to put their heads outside the box stall are at elevated risk to develop this territorial behavior. They tend to feel that they have to protect their home and then they often get a slap on the nose for doing what they believe to be a natural act. You see it on a global basis.

Equestrian facilities with large numbers of humans roaming about seem to be a breeding ground for territorial behavior. Equine heads out the door tends to satisfy humans that they are being nice to the horse. This environment actually produces many problems including territorial protection. Please share with us how you implement these suggestions and your outcomes.

Sincerely,

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

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

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This online video series shows Monty and his team working with Lipizzaner 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

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <b>USA</b>     | July 23 to August 3, 2018: <a href="#">Gentling Wild Horses course</a> at Flag Is Up Farms, California         |
| <b>USA</b>     | August 6 to 10, 2018: <a href="#">Monty's Special Training</a> at Flag Is Up Farms, California                 |
| <b>USA</b>     | August 20 to 24, 2018: <a href="#">In Portuguese, Monty's Special Training</a> at Flag Is Up Farms, California |
| <b>UK</b>      | October 6, 2018: Monty Roberts UK Fall Tour in Collingham  |
| <b>UK</b>      | October 19, 2018: Monty Roberts UK Fall Tour in Hartpury   |
| <b>GERMANY</b> | October 25, 2018: Monty Roberts <a href="#">Tour of Germany 15th Anniversary in Thyrnau</a>                    |
| <b>GERMANY</b> | October 27, 2018: Monty Roberts <a href="#">Tour of Germany 15th Anniversary in Ohlstadt</a>                   |
| <b>GERMANY</b> | October 31, 2018: Monty Roberts Tour of Germany 15th Anniversary in Schlüsselfeld                              |
| <b>GERMANY</b> | November 2, 2018: Monty Roberts Tour of Germany 15th Anniversary in Fulda                                      |

- GERMANY** November 10, 2018: Monty Roberts [Tour of Germany 15th Anniversary in Neubulach](#)
- SWITZERLAND** November 16 to 18, 2018: Monty demonstration in Berne <https://www.canchaval.ch/fr/>
- HUNGARY** December 1 and 2, 2018: Monty Roberts Join-Up Master Demonstration at Budapest Horse Show

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

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**THE MONTY ROBERTS INTERNATIONAL LEARNING CENTER**

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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## **THE MOVEMENT: A TRANSFORMATIVE JOURNEY WITH HORSES**

### **From The Movement 2018**

Dear Roberts Family,

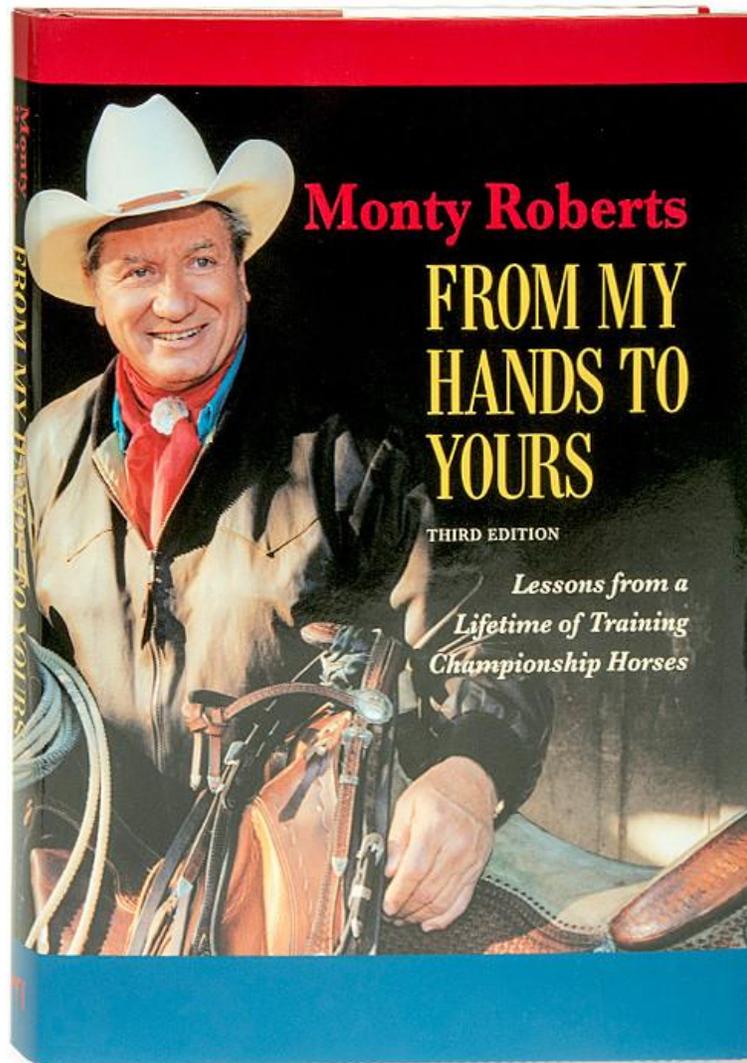
The two days I spent at Flag is Up Farms last month for "The Movement" affected me profoundly. I had very little idea about what to expect, but I knew that I loved that part of California, and I had a positive memory of many hours spent riding horses as a kid, so the idea of being around them for a couple of days was inviting. Mostly, I just really wanted to see this amazing guy, Monty Roberts, do that Join-Up thing and I wanted to hear his stories and philosophy. I figured it would be relaxing and entertaining. It was those things, for sure, but it was so much more. I was motivated, educated, moved, inspired... and completely entranced by the beauty and grace of the farm. I was humbled by the number of fascinating people there who are accomplishing meaningful things.- and, need-less to say, I was - and am - completely in awe of Monty and Pat Roberts. Monty's message - his vision - is simple, pure, and right.

Count me as one who will be back, and who will bring others. Who knows - maybe I'll even adopt a horse!

This movement is one I can get behind.

Thank you so much for putting this together,  
Luana Jackman Waimey

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## **ONLINE PRODUCT REVIEW: MONTY'S TEXTBOOK**

I've been riding for many years and have recently found that Monty's guidance is a blessing. The horse I am working with is in need of assurance and the training methods Monty uses are exactly what this horse needs. Thank you for the opportunity to understand the language of horses.

Jodi B.  
Verified Buyer

**[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](#).

## 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 brought a eight-year-old, 13.3 Welsh section D, I haven't ridden for 20 years previous to this so I'm a little rusty. She has had a bad time before I brought her and is so nervous of everything, and will do everything I ask her eventually, I'm not rushing her because I feel it won't help, but Velcro being her nemesis. There is a huge list. She will load and I feel she wants to trust.

She had not been really ridden when I had her, except to be sent away for two weeks to be broken in, so I have read as much as possible about your techniques and used them to the best of my ability. She will now be caught and happy to be groomed, she lets me tack her up and ride her. I just really don't know how to help her move forward and be confident, We had a "horse whisperer" come to yard and she did everything I asked her on course, then he got a bag on the end of a stick and shoved it onto her face, she obviously reacted badly and he said she's untrainable and dangerous. I don't want to let her down, any help gratefully accepted.

Loving horse owner, Lisa

## HORSEMANSHIP RADIO



Impossible to put in an equestrian 'box', Lara Prior-Palmer is a British athlete, the first woman to win the Mongol Derby, and the youngest person ever to complete it! As niece of British eventer Lucinda Green, young Lara is the next generation of equestrian legends. Another legendary family in Polo, father-daughter Kirsten and Rege Ludwig reign from Thailand to Europe and around the globe.



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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](#)

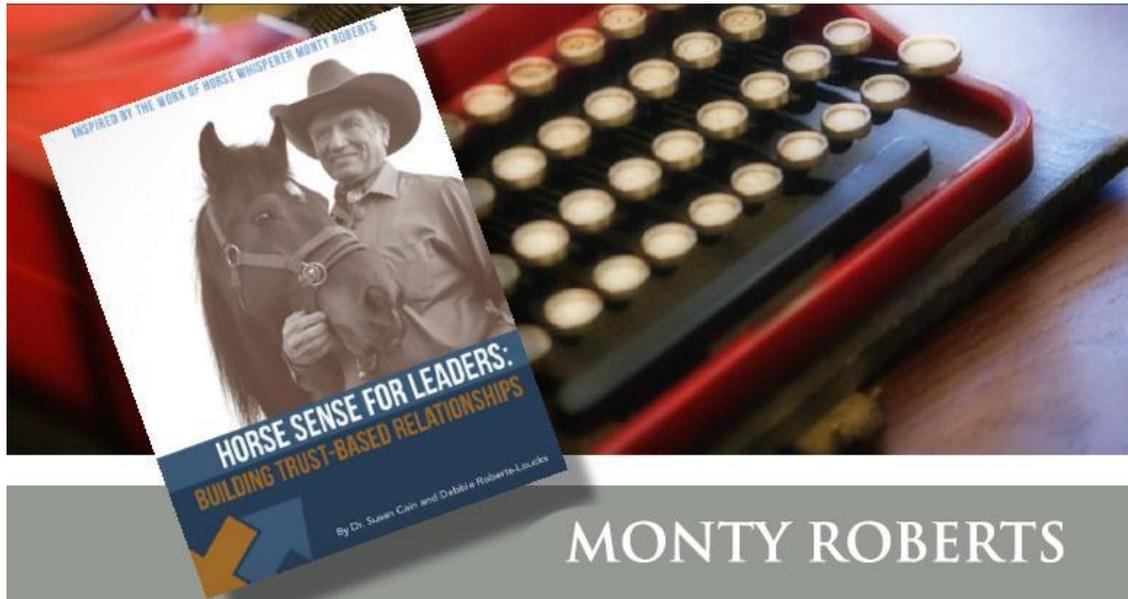


SUPPORT  
JOIN-UP®

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



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

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## 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>



