



Wednesday October 23, 2018

Greetings!

Question

Dear Monty,

A couple of weeks ago you had a question about separation anxiety. I was going to ask you a question then about how to help my old mare's son cope with her being put to sleep. So this could be a long read.

The decision to have my mare (Tears, 32 with melanomas and a heart murmur) put to sleep at the end of the summer was half taken in the spring as she'd not come through the winter brilliantly weight wise but was her usual bright self, but she was assessed by us almost everyday, this hot summer we've just had here in the UK probably didn't help as her melanomas became much more aggressive and there was very little grass.

My four are split into pairs as Tiggy (who you loaded at The Grange a few years ago) and Winter get on rather too well, he gets very riggy and will mount her hence why they are split. Tiggy out with his mother and Winter with a Welsh Sec A companion pony, on a 2 in/out routine. So Tiggy and mum were in on Wednesday night (13/9/18) and everything appeared fine. Tears ate her dinner that evening and had a lie down, which wasn't unusual for her at all, we topped up her hay and water and left her lying down chilling out.

In the morning when we went to feed up she had passed away, we think not too long after we'd left, most probably of a heart attack, no signs of thrashing about. So Tiggy had all night to say goodbye to his mum and was very calm, Winter didn't want to come in at all (she's an orphan). We let Tiggy out so he could go and groom Winter for some normality of routine, both horses were happy with this. We had some stress from Tiggy and couple of whinnies from Winter when Tears' body was being removed, Tiggy then screamed the place down for about 2 hours then started to calm himself.

So now we have to have a whole new routine and shuffle of stables. Winter in her now previous stable would weave like a demon, (and did before I bought her to my yard)) so she dug holes in the concrete floor, which I filled with sand then put a rubber mat over! Now however she's been in Tears' stable for two days and I've seen no sign of her weaving, all the horses seem much more chilled out. Tiggy is not racing around like a lunatic. They now share a field that's split down the middle so they can see each other, the pony is in with Winter.

So my question is do you think that Tear's passing has released Tiggy from the stress of trying to look out for both "his" mare's and Winter from being bullied by essentially an over protective mother, because they didn't get on at all, and she can now try to be the boss?? I'm hoping that over the next few months Tiggy will become less riggy with Winter and they can all go out together eventually.

Your thoughts would be much appreciated.
Joy Nicholls

Answer

Dear Joy,

Every professor I had at University lectured against any idea that horses could grieve. There are some animals who clearly grieve. Many of the primates fall into this category and the elephant is famous for deep grieving. According to all scientific studies the flight animals will typically walk away from a dead friend or family member.

What one must do is remove the body and then take on a system by which the remaining animals can follow the patterns I recommend in *From My Hands To Yours*, where over-bonding is concerned. This is a behavior that can negatively impact the life of your horse and also the human family who interact with those animals. I have clearly outlined procedures for separation anxiety in [From My Hands To Yours](#) and my Equus Online University at MontyRobertsUniversity.com
Sincerely,



MONTY'S EQUUS ONLINE UNIVERSITY THIS WEEK'S EPISODE



In this online video series, Monty puts the first rider on 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.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

GERMANY

October 25, 2018: Monty Roberts [Tour of Germany 15th Anniversary in Thyrnau](#)

GERMANY	October 27, 2018: Monty Roberts Tour of Germany 15th Anniversary in Ohlstadt
GERMANY	October 31, 2018: Monty Roberts Tour of Germany 15th Anniversary in Schüsselfeld
GERMANY	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
HUNGARY	December 1 and 2, 2018: Monty Roberts Join-Up Master Demonstration at Budapest Horse Show

[FULL SCHEDULE HERE](#)

THE MONTY ROBERTS INTERNATIONAL LEARNING CENTER

November 3 to 4, 2018: Horsemanship 101

November 5 to 8, 2018: Join-Up Course

November 9 to 10, 2018: Long Lining Course

November 16 to 18, 2018: Horse Sense and Healing workshop

December 14 to 16, 2018: Horse Sense and Healing workshop

February 1 to 3, 2019: Introductory Course Module 1

February 8 to 10, 2019: Introductory Course Module 2

February 11 to 13, 2019: Long Lining Course

February 15 to 17, 2019: Horse Sense and Healing Workshop

February 15 to 17, 2019: CHA Equine Facility Management Certification
contact: Jill@JRamEnterprises.com

February 19 to 21, 2019: Join-Up Course

February 22 to 24, 2019: Introductory Course Module 3

March 1 to 3, 2019: Prep for Introductory Exams Module 4

March 4 to 6, 2019: Join-Up Course

March 7 to 9, 2019: Long Lining Course

[MORE COURSE INFO HERE, CHECK OUT MORE 2019 COURSES!](#)



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

Hi. I have a Dartmoor four year old, broken in and going nicely apart from when hacking out with others she kicks anything that comes behind her. Also in the outdoor school she backs up to kick others that are near her. How can I cure this?

Shirley Cork



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Please contact admin@montyroberts.com for more information





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