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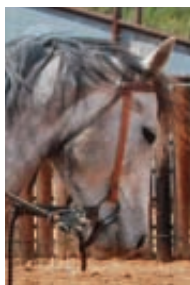
ECLECTIC HORSEMAN

ISSUE NO. 108

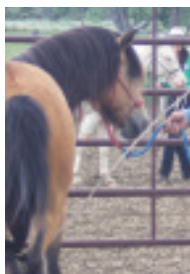


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Tom Curtin

Tom Curtin grew up in the Big Sky State of Montana where his father had an outfitting and packing business. Tom was extremely fortunate to be around and work for some of the most famous ranches of the west; among them The King Ranch, The Four 6's, Johnson Ranch and the 7D Ranch. Along with beneficial settings for horse training, Tom also had the chance to learn from many inspirational men in the horse world. Buster Welch, for example, had a significant influence on how Tom now views and trains the horse. Ray Hunt and his wife, Carolyn, also played an active role in the formation of Tom's horsemanship. Ray showed Tom how to look at things from the horse's point of view, an invaluable aspect of horse training that Tom still honors today. Along the way, however, a constant figure in Tom's life was his father, who remains today an exceptional and an accomplished horseman. Learn more at tomcurtin.net.



Scott DePaolo

Scott DePaolo has managed Butte Creek Ranch for the Boy Scouts of America for over 30 years. Teaching both horsemanship and lifemanship, he exposes thousands of youth and adults per year to ranch life, trail riding, packing and ranch roping along with the many physical, mental and emotional benefits of the horse.

Patti Hudson is a freelance writer and day rider. Her articles have appeared in numerous equine, agricultural and business publications. She and her husband live in a small solar-powered cabin they built on a remote acreage between the North and Middle Forks of the John Day River in eastern Oregon. More pattihudson.com.

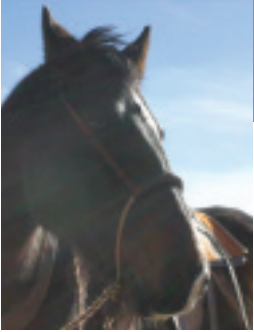


Tom Moates

Tom Moates is a professional writer driving most of the people in his life nuts as he obsessively tries to get better with horses. His life and writing both took sharp turns, as chronicled in his first book, *Discovering Natural Horsemanship*, and now he is a major figure in equine magazine writing. His latest book, *Six Colts, Two Weeks - Part 2 Week 2*, is available. More info at tommoates.com.

Heather Smith Thomas grew up on a ranch near Salmon, Idaho. She is the author of 23 books and thousands of articles on animal health care. The 4th edition of her book *Storey's Guide to Training Horses* was just published with updated info and many new photographs. She and her husband have been raising beef cattle and a few horses on their ranch in central Idaho since 1967.

On the Cover: Riding the range out of a remote eastern Idaho cow camp, Abigail Kelly takes a short break with her horse and cowdog pup. Photo by Melanie Elzinga.



Hi All,

I had the wonderful opportunity to ride my friend Pam Pierce's horse Poet in a Tom Curtin horsemanship clinic this summer. I previously rode Poet in a Lee Smith clinic a number of years ago when my own horse was injured. At that time I had ridden only my horse for a long time so the chance to have a learning experience with a new clinician on a new horse was great fun.

This was also my first chance to ride with Tom. I'd audited this particular clinic, a 5-day colt starting clinic and 3-day horsemanship on a beautiful ranch outside of Buffalo, Wyoming, twice before. We dry camped in the horse trailer, ate lots of goober-grape (the peanut butter and jelly in one jar) sandwiches, were eaten ourselves by mosquitos and bathed by jumping in the free public pool in town.. so really how much more fun could you ask for? The setting could not be more peaceful or the people more friendly. The chance to ride made this year that much more special; you can learn a lot by auditing, but participating is very meaningful.

It is a great feeling as a student to be encouraged to ask questions and to feel as if the teacher is truly invested in you understanding the answer. Who hasn't had a teacher that, even though he or she says there are no stupid questions answers your questions in a way that you sure end up feeling stupid? I felt encouraged to try to feel and understand the horse I was riding in a complementary but subtly different way than other

instructors I have ridden with. Instead of approaching from the point of view of "what do I need to fix" in my horse, it was "how can I help my horse feel better about this." Tom says that people often say the difference is "just words" but he asserts that "words make all the difference." I believe that to be true. I would catch myself thinking of "holes" in a horse, or a movement as "right" or "wrong." It does shape the way you think about your horse. It does affect your feelings towards him. Instead I was encouraged to think about how I could help him figure out what I was looking for. How to help him feel better. Boy, that sure suited me. I like to be helpful. I like for animals to feel good around me. These subtle little shifts, mostly mental, sure made a big difference to me.

The clinic was a wonderful experience and I was thankful to ride such a solid citizen. A horse like Poet, who can adjust to a new rider in a new place so seamlessly is truly a gift.

I am still sad about losing my horse Belich last fall, and I'm sure I will be for the rest of my life. But I'm ready now to start looking for a new partner. Riding and being around horses is a big part of what makes me, me. I am so thankful for the opportunity to have ridden in this clinic with good friends and great instruction; I'm ready to look for a new horse that will help me in the next part of my horsemanship journey.

Take care,

Mission Statement > *To be the best resource to help students develop their own horsemanship.*

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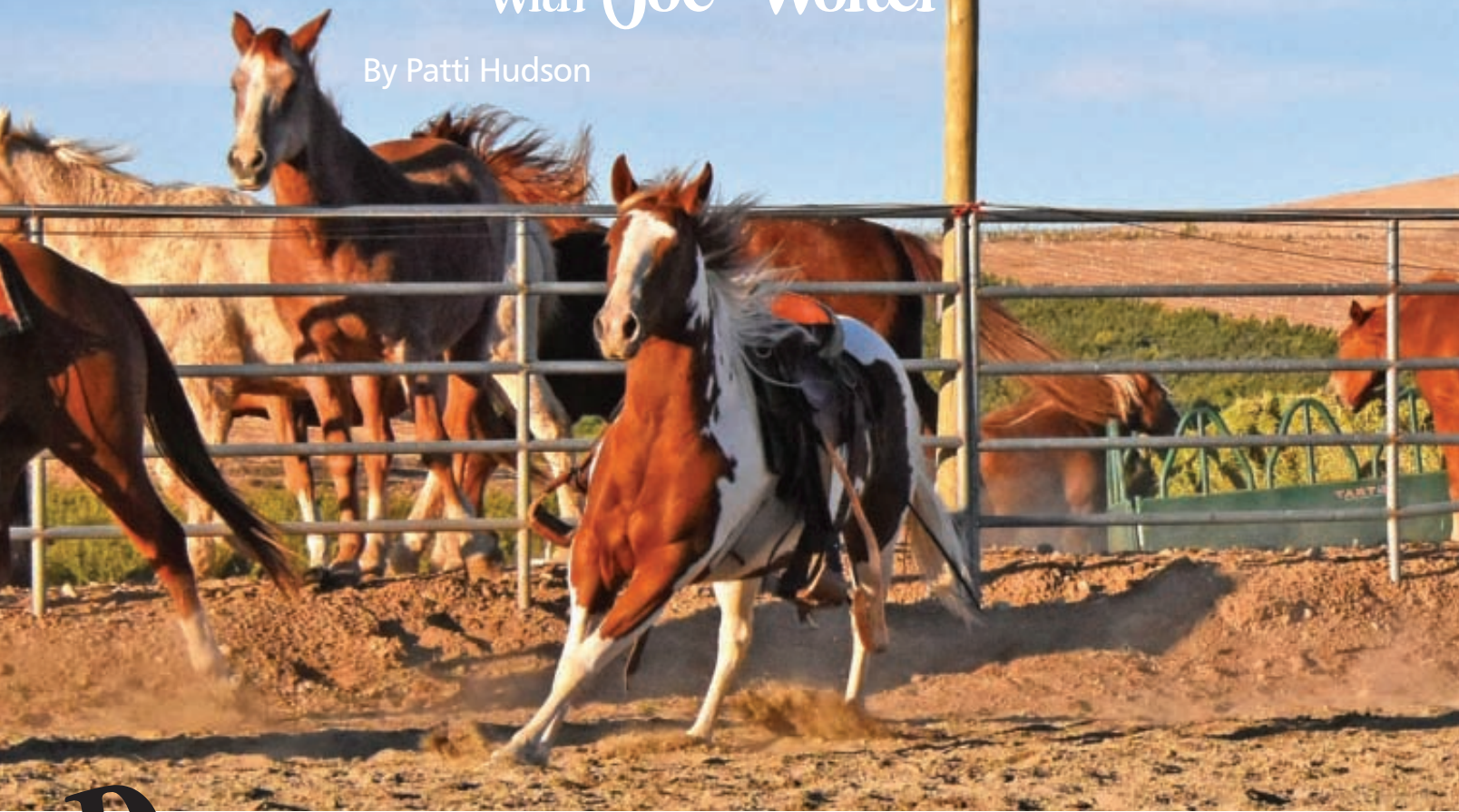


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A Backup Plan

With Joe Wolter

By Patti Hudson



During a recent clinic a rider asked Joe how she could get her horse to back up better. Joe answered the question by having the rider first check out how her horse was moving forward. “It’s not about what you’re asking; it’s about what you mean to the horse.”

A story from a time working with Bill Dorrance helped illustrate what Joe was talking about. “I had this horse that was real bad about backing up. He would just drag his feet,” Joe says. “But what Bill showed me was that a lot of times the problem isn’t what you think and you might need to work on something else to get to figure that out and get it to have meaning to the horse.”

Bill didn’t focus on the backing problem. Instead he looked elsewhere.

“He wanted to know what the horse was like going forward,” Joe says. “It was the opposite of what you might think, but it turned out that horse actually was kind of sluggish going forward. So Bill had me really work on getting him to hurry it up, and to move right out when I asked him to go forward. By getting him better about moving forward that horse got to where he would just step right back, whereas before the life in my body hadn’t meant much to him. Once it started to mean something to the horse, I could get him to think about backing up.”

Backing isn’t something you’ll observe horses doing very

much in their natural environment. “It’s more natural for them to go forward,” Joe says. “Backing, especially from the saddle, has to be kind of a learned thing.”

For Joe, a horse learns to back by making the choice to back up. Before the horse actually takes a step backwards his weight shifts back, but before the weight shifts the horse thinks about shifting back. “The rider has to recognize this and reward the thought. That is so important to the horse.”

How do you get a horse to think shifting the weight back?

One method Joe finds effective is to pick up on the reins and then use his legs to encourage the horse to move, allowing the reins to discourage forward movement. “The horse might have to work at it a bit, struggle a little to figure out the answer is backwards not forwards,” Joe explains. “But you have to let him discover this for himself. Just pulling on the reins and dragging him back deprives him of a learning opportunity.”

In addition to depriving your horse a learning opportunity, you’ll also be depriving yourself all of the benefits that come from a horse that’s physically and mentally eager to move whenever and however he’s asked.

“People like to talk about the look Ray Hunt’s horses had,” Joe says. “I think a lot of it was that his horses were right there with him and ready to go. When he picked up on the reins they didn’t lean forward; they shifted their weight back and got themselves organized for whatever was needed of them. When



Helping the horse find his way back.

they did move forward, they left with a hind foot,” Joe says. “It was real important to Tom and to Ray that the horse operate from behind.”

So it’s not just about backing up. It’s about preparing your horse by helping him get under himself. “It just feels so much better when your horse is engaged and prepared both mentally and physically. Some horses need more encouragement to get

ready than others; like that horse Bill helped me with. For other horses it comes a little more naturally,” Joe says. “But they can all do it. The important thing is to not just settle for what you have if your horse isn’t really getting ready. That’s a lot of what Ray had going. He never settled for less in himself or his horses.”

Joe is quick to point out that Ray never asked a horse to do anything the horse wasn’t capable of doing. Yet because Ray made sure his horses were with him and at the ready, both mentally and physically, it seemed Ray could ask virtually anything and they would do it. It seemed like he could ride them up a telephone pole or down a badger hole, as Tom Dorrance was known to quip.

While you probably won’t be riding up any power poles or down too many badger holes, helping your horse shift his weight back so that his body is arranged and ready to respond is key to just about everything else – stopping, turning, collection, lead changes.

“For me it’s not something you can force, like trying to drag a horse backwards. It’s something you have to help the horse decide to do,” Joe says. “That’s when you’ll get the most benefit out of it and when you’ll have a horse that’s truly ready, willing and able.”

So what does your horse decide to do when you pick up on the reins?



WHY DO GROUNDWORK?

By Tom Moates

Groundwork—the art of working a horse afoot—often takes a back seat to riding. It’s understandable; people typically fall in love with horses with the foremost desire to spend their time riding them. But, good groundwork can be hugely beneficial to building the kind of riding relationship many horse owners strive to achieve with their horses.

Horsemanship, in my mind, is the skill of setting up the relationship between the horse and the human. If the relationship is right, then we have a horse who thinks along with our requests. Rather than a mechanical endeavor, like pulling on a rein, the relationship can be based on a true communication where a slight feel put on a rein with a finger is all it takes to have a horse think in a direction and go there willingly.

“All groundwork is a way of checking in to see if the horse is mentally with us,” horsemanship clinician Harry Whitney says. “So, what you do is not as important as how you go about doing it, and whether you’re attentive to where your horse’s mind is. So, your groundwork could be done by the time you get a horse caught, led to the barn, groomed, and saddled. In that time, if you know your horse is with you mentally, you just go on, but if he’s not, you might be glad you did a little groundwork before riding.”

Often folks regard groundwork merely as a series of exercises, but the importance of groundwork isn’t in particular exercises. Simply drilling a horse on exercises won’t achieve the desired relationship results if we neglect to consider where the horse’s mind is focused along the way.

The truth is, we really don’t teach horses how to do things. If you’ve ever seen horses get down on one knee to grab a mouthful of grass from under a fence you can see they already physically have the ability to bow. Humans can train horses to bow on request, but we simply are asking them to do something they already are capable of. The same is true of circling, backing, trotting...but what is important is that we sort it out so that horses understand our requests and then perform them with a willingness because they feel good and relaxed about doing them with us. Groundwork is a great way to set up this kind of rapport.

Harry coined the phrase “with-you-ness” to refer to what might be called the ultimate refined form between the horse and the human. I was delighted to grasp this concept when I first heard Harry share it at a clinic years ago. I wrote it down word-



for-word, and later shared a whole chapter on it in the book “A Horse’s Thought.” That definition is:

“A way of the horse and human each responding to the other while participating in the same experience—both aware of, and being sensitive to, the mental desires, emotional balance, as well as physical needs of the other, during which time there is no fear, anxiety, resistance, or resentment.”

So, in whatever we ask of our horses, if we first pay attention to where they are paying attention, and then do the work to redirect their focus if it is wayward to get it with us, then we are setting them up to win and make meaningful changes for the better in all we do with them. It is helpful to train yourself to observe when a horse is heading down the trail to trouble from the moment you fetch him from the field or stall, put a halter on him, lead him from here to there, and so on.

You can use most any groundwork activity as a with-you-ness barometer and to get your horse more attentive if he isn't. We can use backing as an example. Ask a horse to back straight away from you a few steps, stop, and remain in that new spot standing relaxed and calm. What a horse presents when you try a bit of groundwork like this provides insight into his mental state and tells much about if he can follow a feel presented by a person, leave other thoughts so he can follow along with the request, and be settled about it.

Often when I work with someone for the first time I'll ask the person to back a horse with the lead rope. People commonly respond by approaching the horse, taking a tight hold of the lead rope close under the halter, and pushing the rope towards the horse's chest. I then ask the person to back the horse while standing in front of the horse without stepping toward the horse. Someone who is unfamiliar with sending a feel up the lead rope will be unsure about how to accomplish the task, and a little coaching is needed.

The first point to understand is how to make a request of a horse. Harry says it simply, "Begin where you want to end up." So to ask the horse to back, begin by putting the feel for the horse to back up on the lead rope in the way you would like it to be in your perfect reality. For me, that is an almost imperceptibly light up-and-down wiggle on the rope. At first, a horse who isn't used to this won't understand it and may not pay much attention to me. However, horses don't miss much and even though they don't yet have a frame of reference for that slight feel on the lead rope, it needs to be there to give them the chance to hear it and act on it.

A sensitive horse might step back almost immediately. A not-so-sensitive horse might stand there not even making an attempt to search for what you're presenting until you get very active with that lead rope. But in all cases when the horse begins to think about the situation and try something different it is time to release your "ask" on the rope. Horses learn from this release—they desire that sweet spot of balance with a person and prefer to avoid escalation in the presentation. If you are consistent with handling it, they begin to hunt for the answer to what you are asking in all the different kinds of requests you make of them.

There is an important point to consider here—where the hoof really hits the highway regarding the true relationship between a horse and a human—which is that one must watch out to make certain that the horse begins to think backwards as we build on our humble beginnings to get him to step back.

If I ask the horse to back and he takes a reverse step but his mind has not yet let go of going forward, then the moment I release for his backwards step he may be coming forward again. If he is unable to stand relaxed after backing, then he has not really thought about going backwards. He hasn't let go of thinking about going forwards even though I managed to get his body



to move back a step. He may have gone backwards to avoid the pressure that is applied, but he wasn't going along with the feel I presented and really thinking backwards—and there is a big difference between these two things.

When a horse thinks about going backwards (or doing anything, for that matter), he will show commitment to the task. If we offer the slightest hint for the horse to back with a feel on the lead rope and he does so with his head low and a softness, that's a pretty good indication he's happy to back and thinking backwards. If we do not get through to the horse's mind with an ask and truly get a change of thought, then we haven't accomplished what we intended to and we won't experience a true willingness and with-you-ness with the horse.

Put another way, I don't simply want my horse to back when I ask. I want my horse to hear my slightest ask, be backing readily and wholeheartedly, and have no tension in doing it. As I work on backing in the groundwork, I will begin to hold out on giving a release if all these criteria aren't coming through until they do. So a step backwards won't get a release from me pretty soon if the horse's head is up and he is stiff as a board. In that case I will continue with my ask until he not only steps back but the head comes down and he softens which happens only when he starts to think backwards with me.

I could go on for volumes about the many nuances and applications of groundwork and what a great tool it is to develop our relationship to horses, and I have written many books that delve deeply into this subject. But, the crux of the matter is that the underlying principle to achieve with-you-ness always points back to where the horse's attentions are focused.

Harry says, "The best thing we can do for our horses is get them into the habit of letting go of a thought." If we become aware of when horses aren't truly with us and then get them to let go of their thoughts in the groundwork to come along with what we present as a general bases for all interactions in those relationships, then that togetherness will carry over into the riding. It becomes a way of life between us, and the best benefit of all is how relaxed and willing our equine companions can become at all times when we interact with them.



Six Tools for Vaporizing Anxiety

By Scott DePaolo

My grandfather gave me a toolbox years ago that says on the front “Scott DePaolo champ.” Inside are a few tools. The important thing about tools is learning how to use each one for its intended purpose. With a tape measure, for example, an inch is still part of a foot, and in life, it is necessary to break goals down small enough to be successful. A level establishes a horizontal line just like we strive for a straight line with our horses. A hammer uses a nail, but if we only know how to use a hammer, all we can fix is a nail. We must be familiar with the right tools to do the right jobs. Abraham Maslow said, “What one can be one must be.” But when fear holds us back, it is difficult to be what we must be. Maslow also said that we have a choice to go forward or back into safety. I’d like to share tools that are scientifically proven and cowboy endorsed to help us vaporize anxiety so that we can move forward.

In horsemanship, I’ve noticed that a lot of people step backwards into safety. “If something can go wrong, something will go wrong,” we say. We bypass anxieties. We ride our horses with strings attached. “I’m a real horseman, but I don’t go in the mountains because I’m not good enough,” or “I don’t perform for people because I’d hate to mess up,” or “I don’t load my horse on a trailer because you never know what could happen.” We wind our way through life far away from what causes anxiety since we know that it is bad and needs to be avoided. Yet what if our potential lies, not in safety, but on the other side of anxiety? That new job is over there, the perfect spouse is over there, that sporting event you’ve wanted to do your whole life is over there, a new horse is over there: everything is on the other side of anxiety. Still, we stay in our comfort zones. We watch TV to numb ourselves, we go to bed, get up the next day, and do it all over again. But that’s not what living life’s about. If you are a person who tends to deal with fear, learn this: fear is not a you thing; it’s a human thing. And we are just as panicked and flight-responsive as our horses are.

Our human race has been known to be watchful, wired to stay away from a saber-tooth tiger, to stay away from a Tyrannosaurus Rex, but I’ve never seen a saber-tooth tiger and I’ve never seen a Tyrannosaurus Rex. It’s not the big scary things we tend to worry about; it’s the small things that get us, little by little, day after day after day.

So how do we vaporize anxiety? Here are six tools. Not all of these tools will work for everybody, but it’s better to find two that work really well than remembering all six. These tools work in conjunction with learning how to use them. If we don’t spend time practicing when we’re not anxious, they’re not going to work when we need them.

1. Guard self-talk. Sixty percent of self-talk is negative. We can realize what we are doing that’s causing anxiety and change it by predetermining what to say with self-affirmation. “I” statements are most important for people who have poor self-talk. “I can,” “I will,” “I am.” Ask, “What would I say to a best friend going through my situation?” Write out affirmations that can be read every morning and moved into the day with.

2. Breathe. Shallow, short breaths cause a fearful, flighty mind set, and nervousness results in short breaths and panic response because our bodies are saying, “You’re suffocating.” Deep breathing releases nega-



tive endorphins. Take 15-second breaths to change the focus to breathing and counting. Start with breathing out through the mouth in short puffs or “woosh” sounds. Then, breathe in through the nose for four seconds, out through mouth for seven, and in through the nose for six. Focus on really getting rid of anxiety with every exhale.

3. Power posture. We can unconsciously rate people by their appearance, and we perceive that those who have poor posture commonly lack confidence and self-respect. Look at a chicken’s posture when she’s taking care of her young; she makes herself as big as possible. Horsemen feel unstoppable when riding horses in power posture. This stance opens up the lungs, increases testosterone, and decreases cortisol for both men and women. Hold a power posture for two minutes by pulling shoulders back, keeping head and chest up, and standing up straight. Think of superheroes, like Wonder Woman or Superman, ready to do something super. Raising your arms up in a “V” for “victory” can have the same effect.

4. Feel a hair. We are only able to think about one thing at a time. If we stop to feel the intimate detail of any object, it will move the focus off of the fear. When driving, passing a semi-truck on a dark, rainy night, people often clench jaw muscles together and dwell on the thought process. Try taking a hand off of the wheel to feel every detail of the seat belt. It takes practice, but once there’s a little success, the results are indescribable.

5. Say “I am excited.” There is very little difference between the endorphin release of fear and excitement. Our minds can change the meaning. If we think about becoming happy, we will smile. If we smile, we will be happy. Holocaust survivor Viktor Frankl said, “Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms—to choose one’s attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one’s own way.” When I’m going on stage to speak, is what I’m feeling panic or excitement? Endorphins give a feeling we may not be used to. Step into that excitement, for “stop” actually means “go.”

6. Just do. If we do the thing we fear, then fear will disappear. Thought precedes action, and action precedes feeling. Let’s not hold back because we’re not willing to fail or be embarrassed. Move on from there. Anxiety is common for almost anything we try to do the first two times. If we’re willing to fail to be great at something that we’re unsure of, we will grow in confidence.

Dr. Stan Beecham said, “Fear is keeping you from reaching your potential. Conquering fear should be your primary goal in life.” Bull riders have no self-reservation; they are the ones who would be eaten by the saber-tooth tiger. We don’t all need to be bull riders, but we’re certainly not doing what we could. Let’s pick up a tool that we can use tomorrow because the easiest way to change the world is to change ourselves.



Feeling What a Horse Needs

Helping Shorty Part 1

with Tom Curtin Photos by Emily Kitching

Editor's Note: In an effort to help us develop our eye and understand what is taking place in a particular moment, we visited with Tom Curtin about a series of photos taken at his clinic last summer in Buffalo, Wyoming. It is a unique opportunity to learn what Tom is seeing and feeling from moment to moment and what these changes mean to him and this horse.

This is really a neat little horse with an extreme amount of self-preservation. In the little lady's defense her family bought the horse already started, and he just lacks a little bit of his foundation and confidence. You know how I feel about talking about "holes" in a horse; number one that's a negative and number two I don't believe that a horse has holes. But he might have areas that need to be addressed so we are spending a little time on the ground with this guy helping him get more sure about moving his feet.

When you are working with the tail on the outside it is different than pulling it between their legs. Here you are using that tail to work in a really sensitive area. It's less about the tail and more about the flank area. Addie has worked with this horse's

tail before and got him really relaxed. Here we are using something he's unsure of to get those feet to come alive and move; all I want him to do in the end here is be more sure about his tail, wherever it is. Between his legs, out the back, wherever. Since all we want to do is direct the life in the body through the legs to the feet, I'll use the unsureness to get movement so that the mind gets there.

Some horses you can pull their tail between their legs and it doesn't affect them at all, but on a lot of these horses when you do that, it brings up a whole different area and can get a horse really concerned about things. Does every horse need you to do this to get these results? No. Would it hurt any horse to be able to do this? No.



1. What we were doing was trying to get that horse to where he can soften laterally and travel around her, which is two different things but you are trying to get them to come together as one. She was trying to do this by picking this horse's tail up and trying to get him to walk forward in a circle around her. He doesn't quite understand and he gets unsure about what he is supposed to do. He's stuck there. His handler could have offered him a feel with her right hand to lead him on. She worked in that area a little bit and wasn't getting the movement that she needed.



2. What we're going to try to do is get this little guy's feet broke loose and get him to move. So I'm going to rig a little something up here. I can utilize his unsureness and self-preservation to get his feet to come alive. And all of this goes back to what Ray talked about... controlling the life in his body through his legs to his feet to his mind. You can get a horse to think about moving, but if you don't get to his feet then he's not moving. You don't see a lot of folks do this, and you have to be careful, because you can get yourself in a little bit of trouble here. But it's something that Ray helped me with a horse a bunch of years ago and it was very beneficial.



3. I have linked a little piece of lass rope into his tail. I double my tail and I double my lass rope and I push it through there and then I bring the two ends of my lass rope back through that tail. You can use any small piece of rope or string but I wouldn't recommend using a long lariat. Right there, he's kind of moving, he's kind of thinking about taking a step, but he's still pretty confident in what's going on right here.



5. You can see where that string is and we've brought that in between his hind legs. I have a hold of the lass rope and it's tied to his tail and it comes between his hind legs, kind of up in his flank area. And you can look at the expression on this horse and know that things are starting to change for him. He's getting slightly concerned about this.



4. I've just kind of tugged on his tail here, and I'm just going to try to get him to think about moving. I'm not doing anything different than what she was doing, but I have a little more distance from him and we're fixing to change this up here in just a second.



6. He's getting a little bit interested here, and I'm real careful. I don't just go to pulling and jerking on this thing. I have his tail in my hand there and that's where the lass rope plays an important part. It lets it be long enough so that I can give him some slack in there if he needs it. But you can start to see that he's thinking about moving a little bit. And that's all we want to do. If you look at that photo, there's a nice little float in the lead; my posture is pretty quiet. His posture is really nice and soft laterally, and we have movement.



7 Look at the expression on his face. We aren't doing a whole lot different, we're still giving him a place to go. I probably tugged on that lass rope to keep him moving. You can see his front foot is kind of alive, back feet kind of planted, but look at his ear and his head. That's not a look of being real soft in there laterally. He's looking there because he's starting to get concerned. He's accepting what we are doing, but he doesn't feel good about it. It's important in that area that we recognize those things and we soften to those horses.



8 If you did too much right here it could go in the wrong direction and he wouldn't have a minute in there to feel what it can be. This isn't what I want him to do. I'm trying to figure out what he needs to where he can move his feet and not get so stuck. Going back to the history of this little guy, he gets to planting his feet and feeling like he doesn't need to go anywhere. And then when he does he gets real unsure about that. Addie and I are visiting about a few things. You can look at his posture, his ears and his eyes and know that he's accepting this right at the moment, but it does not feel good to him. We're just going to give him a minute there.



9 We're going to ask Shorty to move a little bit. You can see that the lead rope has a little float in it, but the lass rope has a bit of tension in it. I kind of tugged on that, and that is where the lass rope is a benefit; it gives you a little more distance, where you are not right up there next to his tail and his flank.



10 His head is up a little bit. He's making more tracks with his hind feet than he is with his front. He's not thinking forward as much as he's thinking about stepping over.



11 He's pretty concerned about things, but those feet are moving. They are going somewhere. When he does make the smallest change or the slightest try I'll be sure and recognize that so that I can let him think about it. He's going to start to come more and more alive. In some of these pictures he'll get a little more stuck, so we'll have to bring the life up even more. You have to do more now so you can do less later.



13 Now you can see he's kind focused on us and he's trying to figure out what we're doing here. We got those feet moving. My feet are going with him, but there is a little bit of tension on him. He's a little bit heavy on both ends, but his feet are moving.



12 He gets really unsure. The biggest thing is you don't try to make him stay there; you try to give that horse a place to go. Remember, our original goal was to get him to move his feet and go on around us. That's all we wanted to do. We didn't want him to get sticky; we wanted him to get round and go on around us. And of course that creates several situations and you do that for several reasons. This is no different than roping him around the flank or roping him by a hind leg, or pulling that rope up between his hind legs, or anything. It's just another way of being able to do that.



14 He is really trying to figure this out and check in. You can see the tension in the lead rope and in my posture. There is no softness here. His halter is twisted on him, and his ear shows he is concerned, but he's trying to check in and see what we've got going on.



15. Shorty's getting a little unsure again. That lass rope has come tight again and that tail is stuck up between his hind legs. He's moving his feet, but he's kicking at it a little bit.



17. He's definitely moving. I've slowed down my body and I've softened to him. See the float in the lass rope? This is a long way from as good as it can get, but this is the start. You see how that horse is slightly thinking about rounding his body? These are the things that you have to look for and you have to soften on one end or another to them or it's not ever going to get any better. When he rounded up and gets slightly in the direction that I'd like him to go, all I'm doing is slowing him down a little in the front, but I softened to him on his back end because he brought that hip in.



16. You can see I have tension on both ends of this horse to keep him moving. I don't want to soften to him here yet because it will take more to get him to go and he'll just get stuck again. I'm not releasing the tension on that lass rope.



18. There is quite a little change here. See how his feet are still moving? You can see in my shoulders, in my upper body position, that this horse weighs absolutely nothing, there is a float in the lead and there is a float in the lass rope. See it's back up underneath him. I've softened to this little guy on both ends. His eye is a little more on me, but he's also thinking where he needs to go. I'm not saying he's right yet, but he's really softening here. When he's thinking about softening, I already have to be soft. I can't be getting soft with him. My dad always used to say to me, especially when we were gathering cattle, "Don't get there, be there." If you have to get there, you're too late. So you have to be ready to be soft when you see this start to shape up so that when he gets here it don't weigh anything for him. We want to get to where this feels better to him than anything else.



19. He's gotten pretty quiet, so we're going to pull his tail in his flank area and ask him to start out again. I have quite a bit of tension if you notice on the lass rope, and I also have a little tension on his nose. I'm not trying to keep him round, I want him to work around me laterally.



20. This is a very interesting picture to me. If you look at the prior photo, there is tension in both the lass and lead ropes. Now, in this photo there is not. This horse softened to me laterally, so I got that piece working, but if you notice his feet haven't moved an inch. This is the part that is so important. You can see that I've softened to him a little bit, but the thing that I think is so important about this photo is that I'm not wanting him to go. I'm not worried about the maneuver. What I'm concerned about here is getting him ready to go. When he got ready, I softened to him. He hasn't even moved, but this is what a horse looks like when he gets ready to go somewhere. In the prior photo I'm offering him a feel. In this photo he offered me this back and I have to recognize that, to give him a moment to do what I speak of as fill in what I want him to do next. This is what the horse needs to learn. He needed to learn how to fill in a little bit. A horse that has a lot of self preservation you have to get them to do what Ray spoke of as come from the other side. It's not what I want; it's what does he need so that I could have what I'd like to have. So I'm just giving him a moment here to see what he's going to offer us next.



21. He's stepping forward. If you noticed, his little ears changed a bit, but he's not leaving there in a panic. He's got his foot moving. There is a little tension there.



22. We're still kind of working on getting him to take that step. You can see that I am traveling to his hip to try and get him to round out and come around me.



23. His body is rounded. His back feet have started to move. He's engaged his hindquarters but it hasn't come through in his front feet. Where this all resolves back to is a lack of straightness in these horses. When that horse has a curve in his body and he's traveling on an arc, to me that horse has a firmness and a straightness all the way through his body on that line. So that's where it can be so difficult for the human because if you can't draw a straight line between his ears and down his spine through his hindquarters, to a lot of people that isn't straightness. Ray always said "I spend the younger part of my horse's life getting them soft and supple so that later in his life he can be straight and firm, not stiff and hard." Because this horse has never learned how to get straight and soft and supple, you can see his back end coming alive, but his front end is stuck.

24. I got some movement in his feet, but you can see how I'm gathering that lead rope back up because I've lost that roundness. I still have some of it, but before that gets out of whack I have to gather him back up. We are moving our feet and kind of stepping into his feet, getting him to think about going forward and getting round. We are working on so many things: a softness, a lateral roundness and going forward. We are working on three different things right there to get it to come together as one.



25. We lost our roundness a little bit. This goes back to what a horse naturally does; a horse naturally travels in a diagonal. We have to teach him to travel on an arc laterally, and right there he is just trying to get his body lined up to go through this arc on a diagonal. You see how he's stepping his hip over? We have movement in the front feet now, but he's just trying to line that hip up. There is no softness here. He's just doing that so that he can go around the corner in a diagonal, so right here I give that rope a little tug. I want him to get moving. I apply a little life. He's using that hip in a self-preservation-type manner, but this is what he needs to get him round. You can see where I soften to him on the lead rope, but I still have a little tension on my lass rope to get him to move forward. He's got his nose over there and he's maybe a little too far in his front end rounded to the right. But that's OK. All we have to do now is leave that end alone, kind of soften to him and get the back end to think about coming forward. He's searching trying to find what I'm looking for.



26. He'll get soft on one end, then stiff on the other, and all we're doing is working on each end individually trying to get it to come together as one. He's got his roundness and his softness in his front end pretty good. If you look down the side of his body, he's pretty straight and pretty braced in there. I'm just pulling on that little lass rope to get some forwardness again. I just go back and forth till he learns to shape and come together. If I don't recognize the softness in the front end, it's never going to get right for him. And I shouldn't say right; it's never going to get to where it feels good to him. How do I know he's switched from reacting to searching? Because now he's getting more sure about things. You take something that he really reacted to and use that to get him to moving around. He's figuring this out on his own. We're just presenting him with some ideas is all. He's offering us things and we're offering things back so he has his front end in this photo kind of headed in the right direction, but we just need to get it to come through in the back end.



27. This is really interesting: his feet are moving, he's looking to go somewhere, and there is a little float in the lead. He doesn't weigh a whole lot here, but I'm working my way around there to keep that back end coming, forward.



28. Then he goes back to being stuck a little bit. See how his feet are planted. But I'm not pulling on his head. There is a float in there, but I'm tugging on that lass rope. You can see where his feet are and you can see where my foot has come alive and taken a step in there, and see how his feet have come alive.



29. His feet went to moving, and if you look at my lass rope, there is an extreme amount of float in it. But you can tell by where the nose knot is on the halter that there is tension on the lead rope. We got our forwardness, but we lost our roundness in the front. But we gained it in the back.



30. There is quite a bit of float in that lead, and you can see he's fairly round. Now he's not so upset; he's searching again. I have his tail kind of tucked up in there and he's just trying to figure out where to go.



31. There is a little bit of float in that lead, and his body gets really round right there. This is getting to where it feels pretty good to him. That doesn't mean it's going to stay there, but it means it feels good to him in that moment. He's starting to understand what we're presenting to him. It's starting to make sense to him and is starting to feel a little better to him. It's not all good, but there is a moment that feels better to him. It goes back to you can't teach him right or wrong, and that's the trouble people get into when they go to teach a horse a maneuver. The horse does something they think he's not supposed to and they think it's wrong. When he does something they want him to do, they think it's right. It's not right or wrong. It's just a matter of he feels better for a few split seconds in here than what he's been feeling. That's all you're trying to present to him. Things are going to get out of whack a little bit when you go to doing some of this stuff, when you are working on getting those feet to break loose and you have to find something that they are unsure of to get them to move their feet. That's something an animal naturally wants to do anyway. So you take advantage of that and you utilize that to get him to do and get him ready for what you want him to do.



32. His feet are stuck and he's elevating his head. He got unsure on where to go. He's a little stiff in front end but yet he isn't near as unsure as when he started. He's starting to think about engaging back feet, getting to go somewhere. That's a sign of unsureness.



33. Notice the float in the lead. I have to offer that if he has the front end rounded.



34. Things are starting to come together. There is a float in the lead, his tail is not way up under him and all four feet are moving. He's starting to get that roundness going.



35. This is a neat picture, big float in my lass rope, moving forward and soft.



36. It looks like we're getting him to think about keeping moving right there.



37. Float on both ends, the lead and the lass rope. And he's really stepping out nice right there.



38. Giving him a place to settle in there nice and round.



39. Float in both ends. In the entire sequence you can see him go from OK, to really unsure to, more sure, then unsure, then he really got more sure. As we moved along, the time of being unsure is less than the time of being more sure.



Preventing and Dealing With Foot Phobias

Part Two: The Older Horse

By Heather Smith Thomas

Often it's easier to start handling a foal's feet or any untrained horse's feet—and gradually teach that horse how to balance on three legs and allow you to clean, trim or shoe those feet—than to correct a horse with bad habits. A horse that is already set in his ways because of improper early handling can be frustrating and dangerous. Foot phobias can range from simply not wanting to hold the foot up very long to active, aggressive resentment—pawing, rearing, striking or kicking.

Some horses make it difficult for the farrier to work on them because they fidget and keep moving. If they try to move while a foot is being worked on they may lose their balance and want to take the foot away. The horse needs to learn to stand still. You may need to start over with this aspect of handling, and teach him the meaning of whoa. Give him lessons during routine handling and leading, teaching him to stop and stand. When you groom him or clean his feet, consistently insist that he stand still. Consistency in what you ask of him may be all that was lacking.

Handle his feet every day that you are training/riding him so he becomes at ease with your working with this—and relaxed—and not fidgeting from nervousness. Pick up all his feet and insist upon his standing quietly while you handle them. If the horse is fidgeting because of nervousness or lack of patience and he's adequately halter broke, leave him tied awhile every day so he learns to be patient and stand, rather than fussing.

When you are working with his feet, however, have someone hold him until he becomes at ease with this. Don't risk having him set back while you are working with his feet. This puts both you and the horse at risk for injury.

Tommy Boudreau (farrier in Mineral Wells, Texas) says he has several clients who need to do more work with their horses' feet. "I tell them that even though they might have the horse to the point they can catch him, they also need to get him to the point where he will stand tied, and learn patience. And they should not put themselves in harm's way if the horse is inexperienced or has bad foot manners. Don't just reach down to try to pick up a foot. This might result in getting kicked, pawed or stepped on."

He recommends gradually desensitizing the horse to having legs and feet handled. "First get him halter broke and trained to tie. Then you can start desensitizing his feet and legs with water from a hose. He may kick at the water, but you are not close

enough to be kicked. After he's used to water touching his legs, try touching his legs with a broom or a livestock stick or cane. This gives you a longer arm; you can be standing near his front instead of his hind legs if he kicks." Eventually the horse realizes he's not being hurt and is less ticklish about his legs—and you can start brushing them.

The inexperienced, unspoiled horse can be easily trained to have the feet handled if you take time and patience, letting the horse realize this is part of grooming/handling and that nothing is going to hurt him. "Learning to pick up the feet and have them held up, to be cleaned out with a hoof pick, should be part



If you are working with a horse that has some difficulties, have someone hold him to minimize risk of pulling back.

SOLID FOUNDATION



of the daily routine. Then you can get the horse accustomed to having the front leg put between your legs, or the hind leg laid across your leg,” explains Boudreau.

Many people hold the foot up briefly to clean it with a hoof pick and never hold it in shoeing position, so the horse doesn't learn to be tolerant and patient for the farrier. The owner needs to practice those positions and the sensations the horse will feel.

“Tap on the feet each time you clean them. Often the young horse does very well for his first shoeing until the farrier starts to nail the shoes on. The horse isn't used to that sensation and may resist. Use your hoof pick to tap on the feet.” Then lay an old shoe on the foot and tap on it, because this is a different sensation/sound than simply tapping on the hoof. Get the horse at ease with everything the farrier will do.

“This will make the first shoeing go a lot easier, without resistance. After the horse has his first set of shoes on, make sure you tap on those shoes every time you clean out the feet, every time you catch and saddle him if you are riding him, to desensitize him. If owners do their part, it can be easier to overcome a horse's foot phobia. By the time the farrier comes back in 6 weeks, this problem can generally be resolved,” he says.

“When working with a young, spooky horse, I advise clients to give themselves plenty of room, and always have a place to move away from the horse (not in a confined space). Work on a flat surface with no obstacles to run into if the horse spooks or jumps sideways. Always think ahead to what might happen and don't be in the way. The ideal place would be a round pen or arena, where footing is good. Use proper techniques to handle a skittish horse,” he says.

Some are not very trusting. You have to know the horse and have an idea about what might work or what not to try. It takes a lot of patient handling with some horses, and repetition. Horses are creatures of habit; you need to build good habits. “You can't expect a horse, especially a young horse, to be good about everything if you don't keep doing things with him. It helps to keep working with the feet,” he says. Horses become comfortable with things you do all the time that they know won't hurt them.

Sometimes a person buys a horse with uncertain history and it has a phobia about foot handling. It might be a great horse in other aspects, with a lot of athletic potential, but a monster when it comes to having the feet worked on. You may never know what sort of bad experience the horse had, to make him so resisting or resentful, but now the challenge is how to handle his feet.

Dean Moshier (a farrier in Delaware, Ohio) sometimes has to deal with horses that had earlier bad experiences. “I trim two old horses for an elderly couple and one of those horses wandered into their place many years ago. They tried to find its owner, without success, so it simply became part of their farm,” he says.

“The lady called and said they had to fire their other farrier because when her husband was holding this horse for the farrier it didn't like having its back feet handled and the farrier whopped the horse. When it got whopped, it levitated and inadvertently struck the owner and hurt him,” says Moshier.

When he took over the farrier work, he found this horse very nervous and quite challenging. “Normally when you touch a horse along his back, over his rump, down his legs, desensitizing him, he lets you handle his feet. Not this one. Any time you touched this horse past his girth he wouldn't tolerate it. Somebody hurt/abused/scared this horse, and he was not going to forget it. I was trying to figure out how I was going to pick up his back feet. I was being nice with him, petting him, talking to him. Then when I went to handle a back foot I just put it on a toe touch—resting his foot on the toe of my boot and not lifting it much off the ground. I discovered he was just claustrophobic and didn't want his foot held up,” Moshier explains.

“Horses are creatures of flight or fight. Almost all horses will choose flight, if given a chance. And if they can't flee, they fight. When we hold on to a foot—front or rear—we are taking away their ability to flee. If they are nervous, we cause a flight/fight response.” They feel an urgent need to get that foot back so they can flee from danger.



Dean Moshier trimming hind foot on a toe touch.

“They may not perceive YOU as the danger, but they want to be ready to run from danger if it appears. We are hindering that ability if we hold up a foot. Part of getting along with horses on their rear feet—whether youngsters or older ones that are difficult to handle—may be a compromise like using a toe touch,” says Moshier.

“That’s what I started doing with this nervous horse. Now we’re a dozen years down the road and I am still trimming those horses for those elderly clients. The nervous horse is going blind, so it is even more important that we have a good relationship. As claustrophobic as he was, it was amazing how quickly he got used to me, and I could just go around all four feet—and he would get the next foot ready for me to pick up. He came to trust me. He knew what I was going to do, and it didn’t bother him,” says Moshier.

Trust is the key to handling a horse’s feet, and in order to gain that trust a person needs to spend time with that horse, and gradually work on sensitive issues, to where the horse becomes at ease with the handling.

REHABILITATING A HORSE WITH BAD FOOT MANNERS

Some horses make it hard to trim or shoe them because they won’t balance themselves; they lean on you when you’re holding a foot off the ground, or get off balance and try to take the foot away—even to the point of rearing (with a front foot) or kicking (hind foot).

Before you punish this behavior, determine whether the horse doesn’t know how to balance himself (trouble finding his balance) or has a physical problem that makes it painful for him to hold up that foot or to stand with more weight on the opposite one (or has a neurological problem that may interfere with his balance), or is just doing this as a way to make you put the foot back down again. If the horse simply has trouble keeping his balance, make sure he’s always in a good position (standing squarely and not off balance) before the foot is picked up. If a lot of his weight is on that leg, encourage him to change position before you pick up the foot. Backing up a step can help him be more ready to pick up a front foot. Stepping forward a little may take the weight off one of his hind feet.

For the spoiled horse that deliberately leans on you or the farrier, sometimes the only effective way to break this habit is to make it uncomfortable for him to put so much weight on you. The reprimand should fit the situation and not be too extreme. You don’t want the horse to react adversely or you’ve created another problem. For some horses, a jab in the belly with your elbow (when holding up a front foot) is adequate. With others, one way to impress on them that they must not lean is to suddenly release the foot and let them nearly fall down. This gets their attention because horses don’t like to fall.

For a horse that absolutely won’t quit leaning (or refuses to pick up a foot and let you hold it up), professional help may be



COOL AND CALM — Even if you have a good technique for picking up feet and handling them, if you are nervous or afraid of the horse, this makes the horse nervous. Sometimes the biggest challenge in handling a foot-phobic horse is not the horse but your own emotions. Try to relax, take deep breaths, and lower your blood pressure. If you can stay calm, the horse is much more likely to stay calm. If you are confident and at ease, the horse will be less nervous about you working with his feet.

needed. Someone who knows what they are doing can tie up a foot (front or hind) so the horse must balance on the other 3 legs. This is generally done in an open, safe area with soft footing so that if the horse throws himself down he won’t injure himself. After fighting the restraint and finding he can’t put that leg down, the horse will realize he has to balance himself.

Keep in mind that the horse may have a physical reason for not wanting to pick up his feet. Sore feet, founder, navicular disease or arthritis may make him uncomfortable putting any extra weight on the other foot. Rule out a physical problem before you try to convince the horse to pick up his feet and hold them up for you.

If he is not at ease with balancing himself on 3 legs, lean against his shoulder or hip to encourage him to shift his weight



off the leg you want to pick up. Run your hand down his leg and gently pinch the back of his tendon at the fetlock joint, or press into the soft area between cannon bone and tendon. This will generally encourage him to pick up that foot. For a foal or young horse, tickling the back of the heel will usually make him pick it up. For an older horse, pressing the back of the heel will work.

If you are unsure about how the horse will react to having the back of his cannon pinched or his heel pressed and you don't want to bend that far down (vulnerable to being kicked or hit by the foot), try pinching the chestnut on the inside of the front leg, or the point of the hock on a hind leg, or pinch the tendon just below the back of the knee or hock. This creates a reflex action that causes the horse to pick up that leg.

Make sure you are not holding his foot or leg at an awkward angle that is causing him to lose his balance or want to take the foot away. If he is insecure about holding the foot up, punishment and force may aggravate the problem; he'll be more adamant about wanting to keep all four feet on the ground. One way to keep him calm and cooperative is to have a helper (holding the horse) feed him a cookie as a reward for holding his foot up and not resisting. If he's praised and rewarded when he cooperates, he may come to realize that having a foot held up is not threatening.

If the horse actively takes his foot away, refuses to let you hold onto it, or reacts by rearing or kicking if you try to hold onto it, different tactics may be needed. If the horse is reacting out of inexperience, fear or suspicion (perhaps a bad experience in the past), go back to basics. Handle his feet every time you do anything with him. Run your hand down each leg often, until the horse is not afraid of nor resenting having it touched. After he's at ease with that, encourage him to pick it up and hold it up briefly, then put it down again. Try to time everything so you are the one giving him the foot back, rather than him taking it away. If he does manage to jerk it away, pick it right back up again. Praise and reward him if he allows you to hold it for a few seconds. If this works, keep gradually increasing the time you hold it, slightly longer each time. Never punish a timid horse for taking his foot away. Be patient and persistent and keep working with his feet until he realizes this is not a threat and that foot handling is not scary or painful.

If the horse is very aggressive in refusing to have his feet handled for trimming or shoeing and a reward system—such as cookies for good behavior—doesn't change his attitude, he may need a more drastic method to convince him that he CAN hold his foot up and not take it away (or kick at you with it) any time he pleases. Done properly, by someone who knows what they are doing, tying up a front foot or a hind foot and letting the horse find out that he CAN'T take it away—and that nothing bad happens when he finally stands there quietly with his foot up—will change the attitude of most bad-to-shoe horses. But

this method should only be attempted by an experienced person.

A less traumatic way to deal with this type of horse (and worth a try before tying up a foot) is a Stableizer. This works well to restrain and relax most horses, so they won't be thinking about their feet and will associate foot handling with a pleasant experience (due to the endorphin release triggered by activation of pressure points).

This is a modern version of the slip-twitch (loop of small-diameter rope over the horse's poll and under the top lip, against the gum, like a lip chain) with a loop knot in one end so it could be tightened to put more pressure on the gum and poll. The pressure over the top of the head and under the lip affects pressure points that activate endorphins to create a sedating effect. Used roughly, however, the cord can cut into the gum or lip. The commercial version (the Stableizer) is more humane and easier to use and adjust.

The device slips over the head, behind the ears and under the top lip next to the gum. It is then tightened, using the cord handle, which utilizes two small pulleys rigged like a miniature fence stretcher. It is designed to put pressure behind the ears and under the lip. This stimulates release of endorphins, which block pain and make the horse feel calm and relaxed—making him feel good. The portion of the cord that goes under the lip is covered with plastic tubing so it won't cut into the gum or lip.

"Some horses have a user-friendly disposition and you can work with them to get over their bad manners, while others still try to be wild/evasive," says Boudreau. Occasionally a client buys a new horse and doesn't know the background or history. If that horse had a bad experience at some point in his life and is aggressively resisting any handling of his feet, this can be a serious challenge for owner and farrier. You may never know what caused his foot phobia but if you can't handle his feet you have a serious problem.

There are times when a person has to use something like the Stableizer, or involve the veterinarian to sedate the horse. "This may be the safest, most humane way to handle that horse—rather than fighting with him. This is sometimes the case when it's a horse that's not broke and the owner hasn't been able to get the horse broke and the farrier has used all his/her techniques to try to work on the feet. Maybe the horse needs trimmed badly, or has an abscess in his foot or something that really needs attention. This might be a situation where you have a veterinarian sedate the horse enough so we can get the feet picked up safely," says Boudreau.

"Some clients ask if I can shoe their phobic horse, and my answer is yes—it just depends on how tough they will let me get with him. My helper and I can lay the horse down, tie the legs together, put the legs up on a bale of hay and put the shoes on. But this doesn't resolve the problem of getting that horse trained to have his feet handled!" If you are trying to teach the horse to trust you, and have to do it this way, you lose ground.

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COMMUNITY LISTINGS

California

Dave Ellis and Jody Grimm
www.LSRanchNaturally.com
303-503-2911

Colorado

Last Resort Equestrian Center
LuAnn & Jim Goodyear
970-568-7682
lastresortequestriancenter.com

Annette Coker Horsemanship, CV
Equine Ventures 406-889-9875
www.CVEquineVentures.com

Florida

Ken Newman Horsemanship QED
407-617-3473
kennewmanllc@yahoo.com

Kentucky

Lester Buckley
Buckley Ranch & Sport Horses
Shelbyville, KY 808-640-1681
LesterBuckley.com

Maine

Piper Ridge Horse Farm
Frannie Burrige
207-793-4101
frannie@piperridgefarm.com
piperridgefarm.com

Massachusetts

Double B Ranch Bob Burrelli
Natural Horsemanship Trainer
bobburrelli.com
508-224-9430

New Hampshire

Kim and Warren Meyer
Star Lit Hollow Farm
603-642-5418
Starlith@aol.com
Starlithollowfarm.com

Oregon

Alice Trindle
tnthorsemanship.com
tnthorse@eoni.com
541-856-3356

South Carolina

Mark Goss
Mark Goss Horsemanship
on Facebook
406-360-6355

Virginia

Briar Creek Farm
Suzanne Petrie Liscouski
202-253-2644
briarcreekfarm@verizon.net

Europe

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Calendar of Events - See eclectic-horseman.com for entire year's clinics/event listings. Always check with sponsor before event as details may change.

Arizona

10/3-6 Buster McLaury colt starting & horsemanship 2 clinic, Benson, 520-548-7921

Arkansas

10/11-14 Lee Smith cow working clinic, El Paso, 501-454-3606

California

9/12-15 Buster McLaury horsemanship 1, horsemanship 2 and cow working clinic, Santa Cruz, 831-252-2163 bonnies@cruzio.com

9/29-30 Wendy Murdoch clinic, House of the Sun Ranch, Pine Valley, 619-302-7280 kcallaway@horseoffthesun.org

10/4-5 Trina Morris horsemanship 1 and cow working clinic, Rock Bottom Ranch, Ojai, 805-798-1991 scoeler@roadrunner.com

10/4-6 Dave Weaver and Gwynn Turnbull Weaver cow working clinic, Orland, 530-865-2610 info@thecalifornios.com

10/10-12 Dave Weaver and Gwynn Turnbull Weaver ranch roping clinic, Orland, 530-865-2610 info@thecalifornios.com

10/11-13 Dave Ellis top hand finals cowboy dressage, Rancho Murieta, 661-805-7114

10/13-14 Dave Weaver and Gwynn Turnbull Weaver advanced ranch roping clinic, Orland, 530-865-2610 info@thecalifornios.com

10/18-20 Brannaman Pro-Am Vaquero Roping, Santa Ynez proamroping.com

10/19-20 Dave Weaver and Gwynn Turnbull Weaver horsemanship clinic, Orland, 530-865-2610 info@thecalifornios.com

10/24-28 Bryan Neubert home clinic, colt starting, horsemanship and cow working, Alturas, 530-233-3582 bpneubert@yahoo.com

10/25-27 Ricky Quinn horsemanship 1 and cow working clinic, Santa Cruz, 831-359-3796 bayarea-horsemanship@gmail.com or 831-596-5858 KristiF@got.net

Colorado

9/28-10/1 Dave Ellis California vaquero style cow work, Parker, 720-281-0154

10/4-6 Lester Buckley V-6 Ranch cattle working clinic, Parkfield, 818-970-6659

Delaware

9/13-15 Buck Brannaman foundation horsemanship and horsemanship 1 clinic, Delaware State Fair Grounds, Dover, 410-745-3115 logcando@yahoo.com

Georgia

9/27-29 Buck Brannaman foundation horsemanship and horsemanship 1 clinic, Southeastern Arena, Unadilla, 478-256-4029 nancybarnes@icloud.com

Idaho

9/7-8 Lee Smith cow working clinic, Rigby, 208-589-2829

9/30-10/4 Martin Black advanced horsemanship and cow working clinic, Y6 Ranch, Bruneau, clinics@martinblack.net 208-845-2606

10/26-29 Martin Black fall session #1, Y6 Ranch, Bruneau, 208-845-2606 clinics@martinblack.net

10/31-11/3 Martin Black fall session #2, Y6 Ranch,

Bruneau, 208-845-2606 clinics@martinblack.net

Iowa

9/7 Kip Fladland ground-work and horsemanship 1 clinic, Griswold, missyandkip@lariatranch.com

Kansas

10/19-22 Dave Ellis advancing your horsemanship clinic, Kearny, 816-215-7842

Kentucky

10/3-6 Buck Brannaman colt starting and horsemanship 1 clinic, Master-son Station Park, Lexington, 859-361-9990 Georgesmock2013@gmail.com

10/19-20 Trina Morris foundation horsemanship and horsemanship 1 clinic, Shelbyville Fair Grounds, Shelbyville, 502-671-9829 skitkat5029@gmail.com

Maine

9/6-10 Bryan Neubert colt starting, horsemanship clinic and private lessons, Limerick, 207-793-4101 franie@piperidgefarm.com

10/10-14 Martin Black clinic, Brunswick, shinanatu@yahoo.com

10/19-20 Best Horse Practices Summit, New Gloucester, besthorsepracticesummit.org

Massachusetts

9/13-15 Bryan Neubert cow working and horsemanship clinic, Middleboro, 781-910-9597 drass@hotmail.com

Michigan

9/6-8 Buck Brannaman foundation horsemanship, cow work & ranch roping clinic, Bay Harbor Equestrian Center, Bay Harbor, 248-736-4440 sarahf@victorintl.com

Mississippi

10/17-19 Ty Evans foundation mulemanship, mulemanship 1 and mulemanship 2 clinic, Just Ride Horsecamp, Gloster, 769-204-3082 or msmuleman@gmail.com

Missouri

9/14-16 Lee Smith advancing horsemanship clinic, Mora 816-719-5988

9/19-21 Ty Evans foundation mulemanship, mulemanship 1 and mulemanship 2 clinic, Rambling Acre Farms, Clare, 989-240-3938 mitchmagnus@yahoo.com

9/28-29 Ricky Quinn foundation horsemanship and horsemanship 1 clinic, Archie, 816-309-8063 bmaddux@ymail.com

10/25-27 Joe Wolter colt starting/green horse, horsemanship 1, horsemanship 2/cow working clinic, Southwest Arena, Archie, 816-868-4413 roxsuzuspetals@yahoo.com or 816-223-7091

Montana

9/21-25 Dave Ellis fabulous horsemanship clinic, Wolf Creek, 303-503-2911

10/16-20 Martin Black horsemanship and cow working clinic, Wolf Creek, benmariaa@gmail.com

New Hampshire

10/25-27 Dave Ellis advancing horsemanship clinic, Northfield, 605-505-2561

New Jersey

9/20-22 Bryan Neubert horsemanship and cow working clinic, 7 Springs Farm, Pittstown, 908-238-9587 susan.witte@donjon.com

New Mexico

9/21-23 Lee Smith clinic,

video horsemanship clinic, Estancia, 208-745-0863

10/18-20 Lee Smith advancing horsemanship clinic, Reserve, 575-956-5553

New York

9/20-22 Ricky Quinn foundation horsemanship and horsemanship 1 clinic, Horseheads, 607-437-3744 ejcrossman@yahoo.com

North Dakota

9/5-7 Ty Evans foundation mulemanship, mulemanship 1 and mulemanship 2 clinic, Portland Equine Park, Portland, 701-430-9002 showerskitty@gmail.com

9/20-22 Joe Wolter horsemanship 1 and horsemanship 2/cow working clinic, Healing Horse Ranch, Marshall, 701-340-8830 joseph_reum@hotmail.com

North Carolina

9/13-15 Joe Wolter colt starting/green horse and horsemanship clinic, Sullivan Farm, Walkertown 919-210-7473 hopkin6136@triad.rr.com

Ohio

9/13-15 Trina Morris horsemanship 1 and horsemanship 2/cow working clinic, Simmons Equestrian Center, Negley, 412-398-8838 cowgirlmattes@aol.com

9/26-28 Ty Evans foundation mulemanship, mulemanship 1 and mulemanship 2 clinic, Elkins Creek Horse Camp, Pedro, 740-828-2453 or 220-201-4569 jjelly94@hotmail.com

Oregon

9/6-8 Alice Trindle PineFest Women's Retreat, Halfway, 541-856-3356 or 541-519-7234 tnthorse@eoni.com

9/13 Alice Trindle private lessons, Summerville, 541-856-3356 or 541-519-7234 tnthorse@eoni.com

9/20-23 Brent Graef foundation and advancing horsemanship clinic, Eagle Point, 541-821-0422 kim.ewalt1@gmail.com

9/21-22 Alice Trindle dressage clinic & lesson sessions, T&T Ranch, Haines, 541-856-3356 or 541-519-7234 tnthorse@eoni.com

10/5-6 Alice Trindle clinic, T&T Ranch, Haines, 541-856-3356 or 541-519-7234 tnthorse@eoni.com

10/18 Alice Trindle private lessons, Summerville, 541-856-3356 or 541-519-7234 tnthorse@eoni.com

10/26-27 Alice Trindle dressage clinic & lesson sessions, T&T Ranch, Haines, 541-856-3356 or 541-519-7234 tnthorse@eoni.com

South Carolina

9/20-22 Buck Brannaman foundation horsemanship and horsemanship 1 clinic, Double J Arena, Pendleton, 828-891-4372 laryanddottie1@bellsouth.net dottie-davishorsemanship.com

Tennessee

9/13-15 Ricky Quinn horsemanship 1 and cow working/ranch roping clinic, Lebanon, 231-838-7100 abyberglandman@gmail.com

10/10-12 Ty Evans foundation mulemanship, mulemanship 1 and mulemanship 2 clinic, Circle KC Ranch, Paris, 931-627-3553 or circlekcranch@gmail.com

Texas

10/4-6 Brent Graef foundation and advancing horsemanship clinic, Sanger, BrentGraef@Yahoo.com

10/10-13 Buster McLaury horsemanship 2 and cow working clinic, Bastrop, 713-392-3264 julielsinger@gmail.com

10/15-16 Brent Graef horse-

manship clinic, Lampasas, 512-556-2012 suekelley46@gmail.com

10/15-19 Buster McLaury home clinic, Paducah, contact 806-492-2711 806-773-2159 or 806-773-1649 mclaury_clinics@yahoo.com

10/18-20 Brent Graef foundation and advancing horsemanship clinic, Marvel, sundanceranch04@sb-cglobal.net

10/24-26 Ty Evans foundation mulemanship, mulemanship 1 and mulemanship 2 clinic, Ridgeview Ranch, Jacksboro, 817-475-9689 or 817-269-8477 ridgeviewranch1@gmail.com

Virginia

10/3-5 Ty Evans foundation mulemanship, mulemanship 1 and mulemanship 2 clinic, Fort Valley Ranch, Fort Valley, 540-933-6633 fortvalleyranch@gmail.com

10/4-7 Jody Grimm natural lessons and workshop, Lovettesville 703-599-3069

Washington

9/7-8 Trina Morris foundation horsemanship and horsemanship 1 clinic, Olympic Glen Arena, Port Orchard, 360-631-0322 or cass_olsen@yahoo.com

9/27-29 Joe Wolter horsemanship 1 and horsemanship 2/trail horse clinic, Cherry Wood B and B, Zillah, 509-829-3500 info@cherrywoodbbandb.com or jimmie@joewolter.com

10/25-27 Buck Brannaman horsemanship 1 and horsemanship 1.5 clinic, Tacoma Unit Horseman's Arena, Spanaway, buckclinicspanaway@gmail.com buckbrannamanspanaway.wordpress.com

10/29-31 Buck Brannaman horsemanship 1 clinic, Tacoma Unit Horseman's Are-

na, Spanaway, buckclinic-spanaway@gmail.com

Wisconsin

9/9-11 Joe Wolter horsemanship 1 and horsemanship 2/cow working clinic, Idlewild Farms, Sturgeon Bay, 920-493-1705 wendydw@idlewildfarms.com

9/12-14 Ty Evans foundation mulemanship, mulemanship 1 and mulemanship 2 clinic, RNR Ranch, St. Croix Falls, 713-483-9292 patti@rnrranchandtack.com

Wyoming

9/4-5 Dave Weaver and Gwynn Turnbull Weaver cow working clinic, Thermopolis, 307-851-0859 melissag@wyoming.com

9/6-8 Dave Weaver and Gwynn Turnbull Weaver ranch roping clinic, Thermopolis, 307-851-0859 melissag@wyoming.com

Australia

9/6-8 Tom Curtin clinic, TBD, contact Steve and Heidi Crowe 0-408973910 stevecrowe@live.com.au

9/10-11 Tom Curtin stockmanship clinic, 0-408973910

9/13-15 Tom Curtin ranch roping, ranch horse versatility clinic, 0-408973910 stevecrowe@live.com.au

10/26-29 Lee Smith horsemanship clinic, Winchelsea, VIC 0408178072

Canada

10/26-27 Trina Morris foundation horsemanship and horsemanship 1 clinic, Cochrane District Ag Society Arena, Cochrane, AB, 403-652-0348 dswastewaterdesign@gmail.com

Italy

9/12-15 Joe Wolter clinic, Circle V Farm, Cividale del Friuli, 39 331 158 3298

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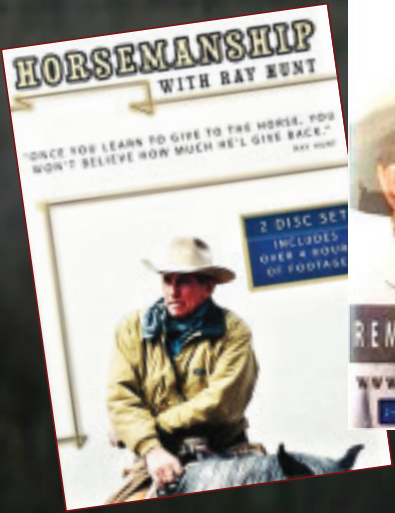
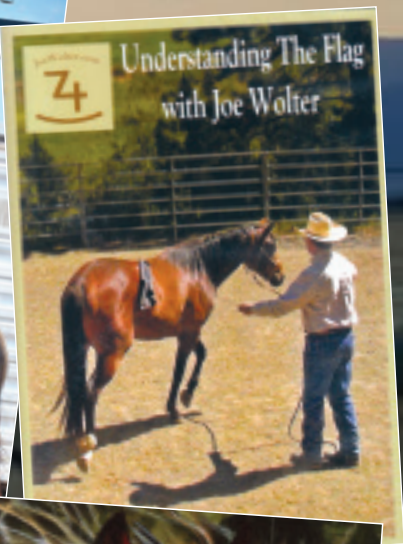
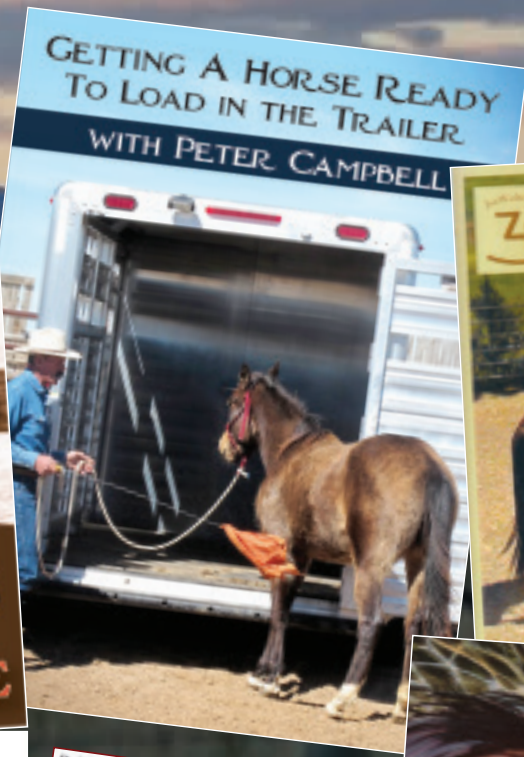
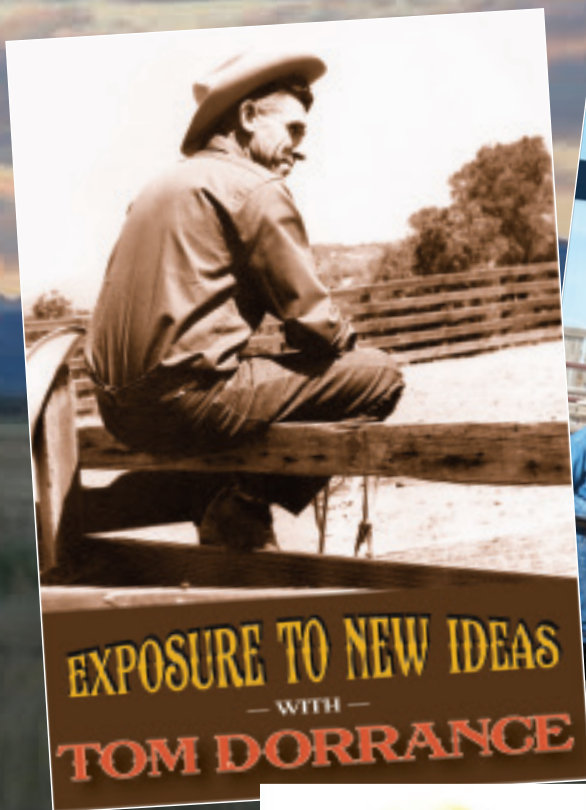
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Citing the many masters of classical dressage who wrote essays and even entire books about flexion at the horse's poll and longitudinal bend of the horse's body, Dr. Heuschmann strives to conflate the often complex classic literature with the results of his own studies as an expert in equine anatomy and biomechanics. He meticulously describes various movements used, their desired effects, and the truth behind the rider's role in each. In addition, he unveils his recommendations for dealing with the horse's "natural crookedness." Paperback, 112 pages.



Exposure to New Ideas with Tom Dorrance DVD \$49.95

Tom directs Bryan Neubert in the starting of two young horses at one of his clinics. Tom mentions several times that the learning that will take place for people will be when they go home and spend time with their own horses; the clinic is an opportunity to be exposed to some new ideas. This DVD also includes footage of Harry Whitney riding a horse through obstacles; fires on the ground and a bridge and closes with a conversation between Tom and Harry about "approaches." There are some great gems in these interactions. We hope you enjoy this project.

Getting a Horse Ready to Load in the Trailer DVD \$59.95

Peter Campbell demonstrates how you might get a horse ready to load in the trailer. Using four fresh horses just run in from pasture on the ranch he gets each one ready in the time that horse needs to feel comfortable about loading. Some horses take just a few minutes; others longer. The point is not the time that it takes, but that when each horse decides it is ready to load he does so with ease and confidence. We hope this DVD gives you an understanding of how to prepare your horse to load in the trailer and gives you some ideas to help your horse be safe and comfortable.

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Loading A Horse Into A Trailer \$29.95

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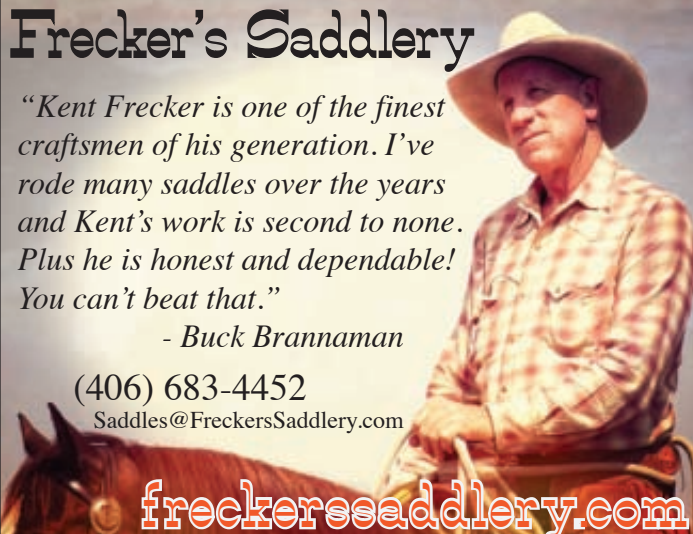

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What were they thinking?

"This was the first clinic that I had a chance to bring a horse and ride in, so that was exciting for me; it's easy to be a spectator. When it was my turn to go in and work I was just really wanting to be on time. This was my horse's first time on cattle. He's a little Mustang and was really tough to get started. He really took to it, almost like he had been watching the other horses. The way that he stopped and got started were almost better than any stops and starts I've ever had. It felt like I didn't have to do as much."

Ben Cunningham, at Buck Brannaman's horsemanship 2 class in Kiowa Colo. Ben works as a wrangler on the M Lazy C guest ranch in Lake George, Colo. He starts colts and works with horses for the ranch and helps people in lessons and working outside horses as well.

