



The Equestrian Center, LLC



Hoof Prints & Happenings Newsletter

Volume 5

Issue VIII

December 2009 – February 2010

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Visit Sam's new BLOG

“Alternative Horsemanship with Samantha Harvey” for the latest adventures, ideas and horse advice!!!

<http://learnhorses.blogspot.com>

As I was driving the four hours from my remote WY hideout to the Salt Lake City Airport I began composing this blog in my mind. Then as I boarded the plane for the first leg of my trip home I encountered a young family with two small children with their father relying completely on his Seeing Eye companion. As his trusted pal guided him carefully and calmly down the narrow plane aisle I felt a slight lump in my throat and started to think back to all the times that I'd felt that same feeling from horses that I had been working with.

My personality is very much "Need to see it/experience it in order to believe it." As I interact with society I am constantly stressed by the general "chaos" people accept as their lifestyle and their feelings towards this "living in the gray" to think that this level of stress is normal to have in their lives.

In my opinion many people are drawn to horses because there is a calm that the horse can offer us. The person may not realize what exactly it is that the horse is offering, but I find there is an honesty in our horses that is rare to find within people. The horses treat us with an honesty that the rest of society does not. In doing so, they wind up building a relationship with us, and because of the "safety" and "honesty" they offer us, they end up being a person's emotional outlet.

After settling in on the plane I opened the in-flight magazine and was struck by the irony with the first article I read, which was written by the Harvard Business Review and was titled "The Long Term Effects of Short-Term Emotions."

I will include the first paragraph:

"The heat of the moment is a powerful, dangerous thing. We all know this. If we're happy, we may be overly generous. If we're irritated, we may snap. But the regret- and consequences of that decision- may last years, a whole career or a lifetime. At least the regret will serve us well, right? Lesson learned- maybe."



Here people were thinking that operating in the "chaos" was the norm and that good things would result of it. For years I'd been working with people trying to clear the "gray" areas out of their relationship with their horse, and now a BUSINESS magazine was trying to do the same thing to get people to make clear black and white business decisions. Wow.

Horses tend to strive at operating within the "black and white" area and that is what allows them to survive and gain confidence in life, leading them to clarity and a calm mentally, emotionally and physically. It is unnatural for people to demand that of one another, but with horses, it's mandatory for clear communication and trust building. There is something about surrounding oneself with animals that demand honesty from us at all times that is emotionally relieving for us. I can't recall the number of times a client and their horse has struggled and persevered to reach that euphoric high from finding a clarity with their horse. Their tears tend to come flooding out soon after!

Working with the horses is rewarding to me because no matter what has happened in life their honesty never waivers. They aren't moved nor do they care about however "good or bad" our day was. They don't care if we woke up in a good or bad mood. What they do care about is the honesty that affects the quality of our communication and OUR mental availability towards them. If WE are not 100%, how can we ask our horses to be? I joke in some of my clinics about "leaving reality at the door" when a person heads out or a ride I believe if we treated our horses as if our life depended on it, just as the man with the seeing eye dog on the plane did, the honesty and clarity of our interaction and how we communicate with our horses would allow us to build a trusting partnership in our horses from the start..

To honesty- Posted By SamanthaHarvey
to [Alternative Horsemanship with Samantha Harvey](#) at
2/03/2010 09:16:00 AM

Dressage Clinic- Audit

Greetings from California. I am writing to inform you and your fellow Dressage riders about a wonderful and exciting Dressage event this March. Olympic Gold Medalist Heike Kemmer will hold her first clinic at the West Coast. She won team gold at the 2008 Hong Kong and 2004 Athens Olympics. On March 26 through 28 she will be at the Christiane Noelting Dressage Center in Northern California, working with 10 upper level riders every day. This will be a great opportunity to spend a weekend auditing the World and Olympic Champion working with local riders.

Please be so kind and forward this email to your equestrian friends. More information can be found on http://www.christianoelting.com/clinics_kemmer.html.

I know that it is quite a trip to the Sacramento area. Therefore I would offer a 15% discount on the [auditing price](#) if a group of 10 people decides to come. We also have a special hotel rate with the local [Comfort Suites in Vacaville](#) for \$69.99. For more information call me at (707) 454 0565 or email back. I am happy to answer any questions you might have.

Thank you! *Christiane Noelting*

Upcoming Events

February 7 One Day Horse Trials

Aragunga, CA Three Day Farm

February 27 Games Day

Yuma, AZ Burchbrook Farms

March 5 Arizona Ranch Remuda Sale

Prescott, AZ Prescott Livestock Auction

March 20-21 Three Day Farm Horse Trials

Aragunga, CA Three Day Farm

May 24-28 TEC Full Immersion Clinic 1

Sandpoint, ID Natural Horsemanship Clinic

June 7-11 TEC Full Immersion Clinic 2

Sandpoint, ID Natural Horsemanship Clinic

The Equestrian Center, LLC & Sam Harvey
 Summer Operation Sandpoint, ID April- Oct
 Winter Operation Yuma, AZ Oct-April
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Full Immersion Camps 2010

Our goal is the help riders and horses raise their level of awareness, increase their clarity in communication, to be safe and to have fun! Whether you are a trail rider, jumper, pleasure or endurance rider, enjoy cutting and working cattle, we encourage participants of all ages, disciplines and levels. Auditors may pay a daily or a discounted one-week fee. As of January 1st 2010 we will be accepting a nonrefundable 50% deposit to guarantee participant slots. Price includes: daily unmounted theory discussions, tack/equipment fitting & usage, individual and group instruction and pasture board (grass or alfalfa hay) for your horse. Sessions will begin at 8 a.m. and will end at 5 p.m. Horse arrivals are to be on the Sunday prior to the first day of the course. Free camping (sorry, no hook-ups) is available on the property. Participants must provide their own food and lodging. There is NO SMOKING on the TEC property. Dogs must be well behaved and remain on leashes at all times with their owners picking up after them.

http://www.learnhorses.com/2006/tec_registration-non-java.html

Full Immersion Camp	Camp Dates:	Participant Fee:	Auditor Fee: Daily or Weekly
Week 1	May 24-28	\$700	\$40 \$150
Week 2	June 7-11	\$700	\$40 \$150



Weathering the Weather

Over the past few years Mother Nature has offered more than her share of natural disasters challenging both humans and animals in extreme situations ranging from devastating fires, floods, earthquakes, heavy snows, long winter freezes, to "long term" power outages/shortages. I was inspired to write about this topic after a wet wintery day.

I'm sure you've all experienced a day like today no matter where you live. For those living where I spend my winters (SW AZ) the following weather report is rare and usually only happens once (yes, ONCE) a year because the norm precipitation is less than several inches for the ENTIRE year... According to the Weather Underground website it was reported today as follows:

"Very windy. Showers with a chance of thunderstorms. Rain will be heavy at times. Southwest wind 30 to 40 mph in the evening...becoming 15 to 20 mph after midnight. Gusts to 55 mph in the evening...becoming 30 mph after midnight. Chance of measurable rain 90 percent. High Wind Warning in effect until midnight MST tonight... Flash Flood Watch in effect through Friday afternoon... Tornado Watch 8 in effect until 10 PM MST this evening... "

I'm not going to give you the common "How prepared are you..." speech but rather something else. I'm also not going to focus on things such as riding on a windy day, or desensitizing a horse towards those "life threatening plastic bags" that whip past on windy days. I'm also not going to talk about evacuation preparedness for your four legged friends.

The point of this entry is to encourage **you** to be prepared by helping your horse *ahead* of time. As someone once told me "Expect the unexpected." You never know what you might face with your horse, but why "wait and see" how the both of you will handle an unforeseen event?

What I *am* going to address is how to get from POINT A (where your horse currently is) to POINT C (where he needs to end up) in an emergency situation while experiencing the least amount of stress possible (for BOTH of you.)

You may be asking why I called my second point "C." This is because there is also a POINT B that too often is forgotten about or not addressed with enough priority because typically during times of stress, panic, worry, fear, chaos, bad weather, and traumatic situations all too often people's and horse's brains check out. This of course is the *WORST* possible time for this to happen.

Point B that I've mentioned could be various situations. It might be the actual loading into a horse trailer to evacuate a property. Or it may be needing your horse to cross (while you lead him) the ditch/stream/river to get to higher or safer ground. It could be needing to have your horse ponied, →

(Continued)

roped, hobbled, tied or herded somewhere for his own safety. Or how about when you get that flat on your horse trailer or have engine problems and unload your horse on the side of a busy road. It could also be having SOMEONE ELSE having to handle your horse (they may not interact with him the way "mom" does) but he will still need to be participative.

You'll find if you've read any of my past blogs or if you've visited my [website](#) one of my main focuses is working on creating a horse's mental availability. ***So how does a horse's mental availability have anything to do with bad weather or an emergency situation?***

I have found a horse's physical actions are a reflection of his mental and emotional status. If he is feeling confident and relaxed on the inside, he'll be physically cooperative and happily participative on the outside. I wrote a recent post about not being "hopeful." You might take a moment to review it. Being challenged by a stressful situation and still having to "get the job done" with your horse is NOT THE TIME to start neither "training him" nor when you want to be "hopeful" in how you interact with him.

The point of this blog is to stimulate YOUR thinking about "POINT B." I'm not going to explain literally "how to" prepare for point B. There is no way we can ever expose our horse to ALL the situations he might experience in life. Instead if AHEAD of time (who knows when the unexpected event will occur) you have built a trusting partnership based on clear communication with your horse he will be mentally prepared and available under any circumstance presented to be helpful and **REASONABLE**. This will eliminate unnecessary stress for the both of you.

Your goal should be to encourage our horse to "**TRY**" to think about what it is that you are asking of him (even if he's never experienced the scenario before.) On the calm quiet days you will need to take the time and put in the effort to build a solid foundation with our horse by teaching him to mentally address and focus on whatever you may present.

By preparing ahead of time and without the stress of a "crazy" situation you will have established the tools in communication necessary to SUPPORT (not physically manhandle or force) your horse to explore his options and then participate in a reasonable manner during a stressful situation. Your end goal is for him to be mentally available to *search* for the "right" answer no matter the situation, circumstance or stress level without him having a complete mental break down.

Keep Warm! Sam

Ask the Trainer

This was a recent question from a new client... all too often people seem to look for a "mechanical" band for an issue rather than address the issue in itself...

Question: My 15 year old QH has a hard mouth. I currently ride him with a full cheek snaffle twist and with a standing martingale. But sometimes he puts his head down and tries to yank me down. I don't know what to do. Many people have suggested a harsher bit or spurs but I really don't know. What should I do? I need more control.

Answer: Thank you for writing, hopefully I can offer some alternative ideas and suggestions from what you might be thinking. Too many times our horses tolerate what we ask of them, but as we increase the intensity or performance levels, they start to show signs of stress, worry, insecurity, fear or "acting out" in dangerous or unwanted behavior. Most of their behaviors are seen as "suddenly" appearing, which is wrong. Many times horses attempt to communicate in many shapes, ways and forms when they are having a problem. Too many times people ignore their horse's pleas for help and guidance, forcing the horse to comply physically while he is mentally and emotionally stressed out.

Imagine if you were being taught something new by someone. If you had some concern or worry about, and they just kept telling you "it'll be fine" and you went along trusting them. Then what if "it" didn't turn out to be fine and you reached a point of being completely worried for your safety. What would you do to get them to believe you could no longer "tolerate" what they'd been telling you? You would do whatever it took to get them to believe you were REALLY having a problem. It is no different with our horses.

Too many times people are satisfied with "good enough" or "close enough" because they get so focused on the end goal, instead of the quality of the ride that will allow them to achieve the end goal. If the ride quality at ALL times is good, then the end performance will be the ideal without having unnecessary stress for either the rider or horse.

Most "run away" horses or horses that do not stop when we would like them to, do so because something is scaring them or making them emotionally uncomfortable and therefore they respond by physically trying to get "away." The only natural defense a horse has to protect himself is to run. The tack and equipment you use are only addressing the symptom (the not stopping) not the issue (your horse being mentally available to listen to your aids from the saddle.) The stronger and more severe equipment you put on your horse will only create more stress and worry in him. It may temporarily appear to be an easy and quick fix that will force him to contain his frustrated or worried feelings until the day he finally is pushed to his limit and he explodes. By only addressing the equipment used and its effectiveness will only delay your lack of controllability in your horse for a short period (like putting a band-aid on a wound that requires stitches.) I would say you need to go back and assess the clarity of your aids and the mental and emotional availability of your horse in order to create clear two way communication.

Break his "running away" down into steps. You might ask yourself these questions: When does he start to get strong when you ride? What kind of bit and other equipment do you currently use on him and why? Does it fit him correctly and is it effective? How soft and responsive is he towards your aids during your sessions when not running barrels? How effective are your aids? Does he respond worried if he is distracted, leaving his barn mates, riding in a group, etc.?

My guess is that he probably shows you signs of panic before he actually takes off. If you try to address this while it's happening, you are merely responding to his panicked reaction. You need to be able to recognize and RESPECT his behavior before or even when he STARTS to get panicked and be able to intercept his thoughts of running by offering him a better alternative. Keep in mind he will not listen to your aids unless they are both clear and effective.

Number one: The bit stops your horse. It does not ever stop your horse. His mental availability and respect of your aids is what allows him to physically stop.

Number two: Would you get into a car if you knew the steering or brakes only sometimes worked? If you wouldn't do that, then WHY would you not make it a number one priority to address steering and brakes when riding a thousand pound animal that has his own ideas and emotions about life?

Number three: Most horses have what I call a teenager attitude towards people. When someone offers the horse something most horses respond with a "Why should I?" attitude. Instead, our goal is to create a mental availability in our horses in order to have them offer "What can I do to make this work?"

Number four: Most people are reactive riders. They wait and see being "hopeful" about how their horse might respond. Then they decide if they like or dislike what their horse is offering. Instead you must **TAKE YOUR HORSE FOR THE RIDE** rather than going along for the ride. You need to tell your horse **AHEAD** of time what you are going to ask of him instead of hoping he'll figure it out.

Number five: Horses and people are "patternized" beings. They get very comfortable with what they know and as soon as something different is presented they fall apart. How often do you change your routine of when you catch horse, where you groom and tack him up, when you ride him, what you ask of him throughout a ride, etc. Your horse should be available to try and do whatever you make ask of him at any time, anywhere.

So even though your horse has been ridden for years you may have to go back to some of the basics and re-evaluate you and your horse. In your case I would gather that there is general lack of clear communication between you and your horse. There are many ways to break down his lack of willingness to lope at various speeds. Because he is currently confident that when asked to lope it must be at a full out speed, that is all he thinks he needs to offer you. You are going to have to be able to influence his brain with alternative ideas, clarify how and what aids you use, and help him start to gain confidence when he mentally addresses you so that he can then offer alternative physical responses, rather than the current conditioned brainless responses.

First look at yourself, you will need to evaluate how you are using what aids, when, why and with how much pressure and then break down exactly when your horse mentally "tunes you out." Remember that a horse can feel a fly land on his skin, if you are creating a lot of "activity" with your aids and not getting a response, your horse is tuning you out.

Many horses are what I call "shut down" (mentally unavailable) due to boredom and routine rides. It will take a lot of creativity to create interest in your horse so that he will begin to enjoy participating in the ride rather than tolerating the ride. You will also have to establish black and white lines that clarify which of his reactions to your aids and what behaviors will be acceptable and those that are not. The faster you can catch an unwanted response, the faster he can "let it go" and try another response.

The faster you acknowledge that he achieved your "ideal" response, (giving him a break, move on to something else, etc.,) the more confidence he will have to increase his level of mental availability and physical performance. As you increase your own awareness and thought process you will begin to be able to pin point where and when you need to do something different in order to get an alternative response from your horse.

Also you need to become aware if your horse only has a hard time slowing at the lope, or perhaps you may not have noticed, but I would guess, that asking him to perform various energy levels within the walk, jog/trot, he probably also has a difficult time doing- this only becomes worse the faster he moves, which is why at a lope he feels slightly out of control.

Many times when working on a repeated exercise, horses try to please us by trying to do what is "right" ahead of when we have asked them. In reining your horse probably has been conditioned to perform the pattern, rather than waiting for specific cues or direction from you. You need to have his mind available at all times to consider what you are asking, even if in the middle of a pattern. If you can influence his mind, then you can change his outward actions. The more he realizes you are helping him throughout the ride, rather than fighting to control his speed, the more sensitive he will be to listening to your aids.

Last but not least. Keep in mind that race horses run their fastest when they are straight... Mentally many horses are way ahead of where there are physically moving, so if your horse is moving too fast, offer him a circle, turn or specific task that will act as something to get his brain to slow down, and tune back in to where he currently is at. You can slowly make the task more specific, until he offers to slow down... then continue on with your ride as if nothing interrupted you... Soon it'll only take one rein about to offer him a circle, turn, etc. and he'll slow down... Again, check your body language... If your weight is forward, similar to that of a jockey, you are offering your horse to run faster... If your weight is back in the saddle you are offering him to slow down...

With patience and clarity you will start in small steps (literally) to begin creating the opportunity for a two way conversation. This will allow both you and your horse to gain confidence in the other which will then lead to a trusting and fulfilling partnership that will allow you to both enjoy a quality ride. Remember, when your horse shows signs of rushing, nervousness, concern, worry or stress he is not trying to act naughty, rather he is asking for your help. Good luck, Sam

Hyperflexion of the Upper Neck, [SHARE](#) [f](#)... This article has been reproduced with the writer's permission.

A Failure of Olympic Dimension - this article has been edited with the scientific data removed-To read more or sign the petition please click the Science of Motion link at the top of this article.

Instead of upgrading their equestrian education to the quality level of their horses, riders and trainers practicing the hyperflexion of the upper neck are downgrading their horses to ultimate domination by placing their horse in a situation where they have physically no way out.

This is a failure of Olympic dimension. Submissive techniques belong to the equestrian education of the medieval age.

A major obstacle, however, needs to be eradicated: an erroneous theory, which like a drug is feeding the dream that one will be winning while simultaneously destroying the partner without which one cannot win. No hope can be expected from the governing body. The F.E.I. has been efficiently lobbied and, in regard of hyper-flexion of the horse's upper neck has taken a non-committed position. The awkwardness and discomfort of the horses' body language have disgusted practically every rider and trainer possessing ethics and decency.

However one looks at it: from the perspective of the main ligaments involved, the muscular system, the kinematics of the limbs, or the biomechanical properties of the vertebral column, there is no advantage in over-flexing the horse's upper neck.

The head and neck carriage commonly presented at FEI dressage level is totally assumed by the work of the upper neck muscles. The nuchal ligament is then almost totally unstrained. "At a neck angle of 55° all portions of the nuchal ligament are unstrained." (K. S. Gellman, J. E. A. Bertram, The Equine Nuchal Ligament: Structural and Materials Properties, 2002).

The lowering of the neck that the horse spontaneously executes after work is not a stretching of the upper neck muscles as emphasized by traditional anatomist, but rather an astute way to ease the work of the upper neck muscles, thereby increasing the contribution of the nuchal ligament. So when a horse relaxes and lowers his head, he is giving his neck muscles a rest by changing his head and neck position which in turn means the nuchal ligament is now active.



The principle of storage and restitution of energy that is commonly accepted in respect of the long tendons and ligaments of the horse's lower legs, applies within the neck to the nuchal ligament. Large animals such as the horse cannot function on the simplistic concepts of muscles moving bones.

It would require enormous muscle masse and tremendous muscular energy to move the horse's limbs and body. Instead, the horse has developed a sophisticated mechanism of short muscles assuming optimum elastic recoil of long tendons, which in turn are moving the legs. It is this elastic recoil effect that reduces and enhances the work of the muscles.

The horse's energy saving mechanism does not apply only to the lower legs. In fact the fore limbs, all the way to the muscles supporting the trunk from the shoulder blades; the hind limbs, all the way to the pelvis; and the whole vertebral column mechanism, as well as the neck, are constructed on the model of energy saving and energy restitution.

In order to measure the strain energy storage capacity of the nuchal ligament, the two researchers from Cornell University, investigated the material and structural properties of the ligament. Observing differences in density and volume from the attachment of the nuchal ligament on the withers area by comparison to the insertion on the skull, Gellman and Bertram divided the funicular element into four equal parts.

Whatever hyperflexion of the upper neck is achieved in the warm up of a dressage ring or with draw reins in the warm up of a jumping ring, the “technique” is acting on a section of the horse’s neck that has very little tissue volume and therefore is incapable to sustain increased stress and is even not active in the horse’s locomotion!!!

The general consensus is that as the horse’s sustains the trunk between the shoulder blades, the deepness of lower curve lessens, allowing the upper curve to move the poll forward over the vertical of the mouth.

The line of function of the nuchal ligament, from the withers to the back of the second cervical vertebra, strongly suggests instead that, lowering the neck and therefore increasing the tension on the nuchal ligament may deepen the lower curve of the cervical alignment sagging the trunk between the shoulder blades.

A secondary effect, known as “verticalization” of the dorsal spinous processes further aggravates the problem. “In the living horse, as is also the case in anatomical specimens, the lowering of the neck produces a verticalization of the spinous processes in the wither.” (Jean Marie Denoix, Spinal Biomechanics and Functional Anatomy, 1999)

The technique evidently increases the weight on the forelegs. In fact, in the late 1980, when Nicole Uphoff was preparing Rembrandt for the 1988 Seoul Olympics, the over-flexion of the neck was already in vogue. It was not the dramatic hyperflexion of the upper neck that is practiced today. It was more an overall flexion of the whole neck which was referred to as “deep work”. There was no more rational explanation at that time than there is today for the hyper-flexion of the upper neck. It was just something riders were doing hoping that it would help them to win. One of the theories was precisely that the deep work increased the load on the forelegs. “As the rider warms up with the horse’s neck over-flexed, the load on the forelegs increases. When the rider lifts the horse’s neck up before entering the ring, the load on the forelegs lessens and the shoulders exhibit greater freedom at least for the time of the test.” The theory was infantile. The extrinsic muscles of the forelegs adjust instantly to the load. Their adjustments are not retroactive. The difference, if there was one, was more like that of the saying of the man who hits his head against the wall because it feels so good when he stops.

However one looks at it: from the perspective of the main ligaments involved, the muscular system, the kinematics of the limbs, or the biomechanical properties of the vertebral column, there is no advantage in over-flexing the horse’s upper neck. Not one of the scientific studies has found any athletic advantage in over-flexing the horse’s upper neck. I am referring of course to the scientific investigations that have not been financed by the Rollkur proponents. The question is therefore why riders are using this technique?

In 1995, the great Reiner Klimke wrote, “Now we breed only Rembrandts and Gigolos, if we can- and therefore we have developed our sport. The riding has not become better.” Klimke refers to Rembrandt and Gigolo because they were at this time the best horses in the world. The prediction of the late Olympic champion was accurate. Breeding programs have since given births to even more extraordinary horses. However, with superior talent comes tremendous power, great intelligence and high spirit; so much of these qualities that conventional training techniques are overwhelmed. Instead of upgrading their equestrian education to the quality level of their horses, riders and trainers practicing the hyper-flexion of the upper neck are downgrading their horses to ultimate domination by placing their horse in a situation where they have physically no way out. Upper neck muscles as well as higher segments of the nuchal ligament are weak; and once trapped in this posture, either subdued by physical pain or because they have no way out, or both, the horse’s brain shuts off as a survival reflex. They execute the moves mechanically, focusing on staying alive.

This is a failure of Olympic dimension. The horses, the science and the tradition working together had the opportunity to further the standards of excellence. Humans as well as equine athletes come with superior predispositions but they still have to learn the subtle coordination of their physique that optimizes their talent. The sophistication made possible by an actual understanding of the horse’s vertebral column biomechanical properties demands greater engagement of the horse’s intelligence.

Submissive techniques belong to the equestrian education of the medieval age. There are approximately 344 articular surfaces in the horse’s vertebral column and their precise orchestration can only be coordinated by the horse’s brain with the rider’s assistance. Guiding the horse’s brain toward a physical orchestration far more elaborate than the limits of natural reflexes and that the horse mental processing could not conceive without the support of the rider’s analysis, is the partnership that classic authors and modern science are viewing as the ultimate achievement. Horses are ready, so are a large majority of riders and trainers.

Pony Pals Program

Ride our horse/pony or yours! We prioritize safety (helmets provided or bring your own) and the importance of horsemanship. Depending on the individual's focus and attention span we include topics such as: catching the ponies, grooming, tacking & untacking, safe leading & tying techniques, mounting- from a block, from the ground and emergency dismounting, veterinary care, trim/shoeing information, stable management skills, trailer loading experience, and so on. We try to keep the lessons varied and encourage students to ride English, Western or both in enclosed arenas (starting in 60' round pens), over poles, on our "beginner trails" (with an instructor), playing an array of games that help improve balance, coordination and confidence in the student and much more! WE NOW OFFER A LESSON/PRACTICE PROGRAM! Visit link:

<http://www.learnhorses.com/pony-pals.htm>

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TEC Training Programs

At TEC we look to build mental availability in the horse's Sam works with in order to achieve the physical goals we set for ourselves and our horses. Customized training programs are designed to suit both the owner and the horse's needs along with a realistic budget.

We offer training packages from one week to six months. We ask that horses are current on shots, vaccinations, worming and hoof care. Horses do not need to be shod because we have mostly sandy footing. Included in the training package is training and either grass or alfalfa hay.

Horses are kept with a maximum of three other training horses of the same sex in wooded pastures ranging from one to two acres. They are fed twice a day and have access to an automatic water system at the top of a slight hill- this helps with self-conditioning every time they go to get a drink of water and burning off any excess energy. We currently have a waiting list- if you would like to enroll your horse in one of our programs visit:

<http://www.learnhorses.com/training-programs.htm>