



The Equestrian Center, LLC



Hoof Prints & Happenings Newsletter

Volume 3

Issue VI

June-October 2008

Summer at a Glance!!!

Summer finally arrived and we have enjoyed yet another fabulous season! Clinics, working students, camps and our full training programs have continued with much success. Remember there is still time before we head down to our winter location in Yuma, AZ- don't put off calling us any longer! Email today and find out how TEC can best help you and your horse!
<mailto:sam@learnhorses.com>

Toll Free 866-904-0111

hoofprints@learnhorses.com

www.learnhorses.com

Upcoming Clinics

Sept 13 WSU Veterinary Students
 Moscow, ID
 Natural Horsemanship Clinic

Sept 14 Benewah County Fairgrounds
 St. Maries, ID
 Natural Horsemanship Clinic

Sept 26, 27 & 18 Palisade Riding Club
 Palisade, CO
 Horse Camp Clinic- Horsemanship

To participate or audit in either of these clinics please email sam@learnhorses.com

THE SMALL PRINT All information presented in this newsletter is ©2008of The Equestrian Center, LLC & Samantha Harvey and may not be copied, reproduced or otherwise used unless permission granted in writing.

Grouse Creek Trail Ride



(above rider should wear helmet)



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

Ask the Trainer

Topic_Info: Re-educating a Horse
Name: Bob Location: Texas
Date: August 27, 2008

Question:

To start training a horse (older horses that haven't had a whole lot of human contact,) but have had training in the past. What would you work on trust first and then dominance?

Answer:

You've asked the biggest question there is in working with horses... If you asked ten different trainers you would get ten different answers... My outlook is that I treat horses emotions and mental stability similar to that of humans. The more I get a horse or person to trust me, the more confidence they gain and the increased "try" they will have when addressing whatever I may present. Their respect will increase as they find that the "risks" they are willing to take in "trying" new things or actions help them wind up in a better place mentally, emotionally and physically.

I personally hate using the word "dominance" because it has a negative connotation. I'd rather you think of your time with your horse as the same balance he would find if he were in a herd. There is only one leader in the herd. So you have the option that either your horse or you can "lead." If your horse leads, his priority will be food. Then his priority will be sticking by or finding other horses. But, if you give your horse clear scenarios presented in a "safe" setting such as a round pen, where he can start to learn what behaviors will work and those that will not when he interacts with you, he will start to mentally learn how to "learn" and "try" to address what you are asking of him.

Remember horses are big and strong animals, but their emotions and mental stability are just as sensitive as it is with people. Also as with people, your horse's actions are a reflection of his mental and emotional status. (CONTINUED →)

If you can get your horse to slow down and "think" his way through something, his body will stay far more relaxed and compliant. But, if you physically try to dominate the horse and push or force him through something you will never change how he feels about what you have asked him to do, and so each time you present the same scenario he will become increasingly resistant. Rather if you change how he feels about what you are presenting, then he will be able to address it and move in with that ideal "warm fuzzy" feeling.

If you try to use force to get your horse to comply, which you may be able to do for a while, over time it will take more and more artificial equipment (open any magazine or go to any tack store and you'll see thousands of "short cut" aids) to get your horse to do what you would like. Although he may not act "huge" or dangerous, there will be an internal resistance and frustration inside of him that will increase every time you interact with him. Finally it may be a month or years later, he will reach the day when he can no longer be "forced" to do what you have asked and will "all of a sudden" freak out or act up.

It will take much more patience, effort, availability and time from you in the beginning to build a quality foundation with your horse, but it will affect his entire outlook of life with humans. Instead of having the teenager perspective of "Why should I?" which is how most horses operate, with trust and respect your horse will offer you a "What would you like me to do?" attitude which will be safer and more rewarding for both of you.

Good Luck,
Sam

For more Ask the Trainer advice or to submit questions please visit the link:

<http://www.learnhorses.com/forms/forum.htm>

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE SAM AS A
GUEST SPEAKER OR CLINICIAN? EMAIL
HER TODAY TO FIND OUT MORE!
sam@learnhorses.com**

Short term and overnight boarding

We receive a lot of calls regarding boarding and we would like to explain our facility. We do not offer regular long term board- although we do offer facility memberships where members can come and use the TEC premises by the day, week, month or season.

However, we do offer short term (less than one week) and overnight board. We have outdoor 12 x 12 pipe corral stalls (uncovered) or ¾ acre pasture options. Hay is fed twice a day and is included in the \$15/night/horse fee. All horses must have a negative coggins and a current health certificate.

If you need a temporary facility for your horse or have friends passing through our area traveling with their horses, feel free to have them email or call to make a reservation. Or visit our overnight page:

<http://www.learnhorses.com/facilities/overnight.htm>

TEC Full 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 please visit the link: <http://www.learnhorses.com/training-programs.htm>

Unwanted Horses

TEC has been receiving numerous calls every day from people throughout the northwest looking to find homes for their unwanted horses. With the slaughter houses currently banned in the United States, Americans have not slowed the rate at which we are breeding horses for all purposes and the situation is out of control.

The US currently has thousands of horses that we are shipping to Mexico for slaughter. You hear horror stories of people showing up at an auction and receiving a few dollars per horse. Sadly enough there are many horses that are being turned loose or abandoned at boarding facilities, tied to the fence and left at auctions and turned out on BLM land.

I do not have a clean cut solution to "fix" the current situation, but instead I ask that we each start to think and act like responsible equine owners.

If every owner imagined every time that they bought or bred a horse that they were committing to the care, maintenance and well being of that animal for the rest of its life, whether it has health issues, lameness concerns or other factors that could interfere with the normal "ease" of owning a horse, perhaps there would be a few less horses continually "needing" new homes.

Our local rescue organizations are overfilled, price of hay is sky-rocketing, and diesel and fertilizer have gone through the roof. The next time you or if you hear of someone considering how "fun" it would be to own a horse, please remind them to play devil's advocate for a moment to consider all of the "other stuff" like the time, financial and energy commitments equine ownership may require.

People are emotionally "hopeful" when they fantasize about owning a horse. I have met hundreds of people, who have had "good" intentions when adopting unwanted, older or a "special" needs horse. (CONTINUED →)

Unwanted Horses CONTINUED

Perspective “rescue homes” rarely consider the possible negative physical and financial consequences or concerns because of their lack of horsemanship and inexperience and understanding of the animals. Needless to say, it seems that until a person has actually had either them self or their horse injured because of “lessons” learned the hard way, they do not consider the responsibility and risk that goes with owning a horse.

Weather is another issue people do not like to concern themselves with. In this part of the country many of us are lucky because we can keep our horses right where we live.

On those gorgeous summer days we enjoy watching our horses munching on the pasture grass, we do not mind the hike through the pasture to find where they have hidden themselves, and we do not think much of having our facility “spread out,” etc.

But what happens when it’s snowing with freezing temperatures and the wind is howling- how enthusiastic are people going to be in addressing their “high maintenance” horse’s needs?

Because finances play a realistic role in the quality of life that we can offer our horses, most of us do not have our “ideal” facility built. Summer make-shift fencing suddenly becomes an issue when the first bad snow storm comes and wildlife tears it down.

Other winter concerns should also include adequate wind block, hay storage, water heaters, and blankets for those severe freezes we have, etc. along with the functionality of trekking back and forth to the pasture or barn when the snow is three feet high.

Another issue is the individual horse itself. The older the horse, typically the more difficult it is to maintain their ideal weight with severe weather changes. They may require more feed or supplements than during the summer time.

Unwanted Horses CONTINUED

With winter also comes shorter days, so for those people who have “regular” jobs, there becomes less and less daylight left to enjoy their horses by the time they are done with barn chores.

The things that can go wrong can go on and on, but we also know that all of our efforts, time and energy can be very rewarding when we have those “ideal” moments with our equine partners.

Please **TALK** to other people throughout your horse community; let’s not be in denial any longer. If every one of us took responsibility for our own decisions, and viewed situations from a long term perspective rather than an instant gratification one, perhaps we could start to curb the spiraling out of control horse world. Remember the one who winds up paying the price for our rash decisions are the horses themselves.

The Equestrian Center, LLC & Samantha Harvey
Summer Operation Sandpoint, ID April- October
Winter Operation Yuma, AZ October-April

**We apologize if you have received this in error-
Please reply to this email with “Unsubscribe”**

Questions or comments?

**E-mail us at sam@learnhorses.com
Call Toll Free 866-904-0111 Pacific Time**

