



Connections

ENHANCING LIFE'S RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH CONNECTION.

FEBRUARY 2008

Greetings Barn Buddies!

I hope our newsletter finds everyone filled with cheer. I know that my cup is overflowing because I have so many things to be grateful for. My gratitude list could go on and on, but the one blessing that I want all of you to know is that YOU are all at the top of my list. MM Training and Consulting has so many extraordinary clients. I am continually fascinated by the interesting, funny and loving people that this business puts me in contact with. You all truly make my day, and I am honored to work with each and every one of you. So, to start this newsletter off right, I would like to give thanks where thanks are due and say, "Thank you Barn Buddies for being my blessing."

While reflecting on this past year's blessings, I am reminded of some great memories. One memory close to my heart and definitely worth mentioning is the three teenagers (Alyssa, Beth, Alex) that started their own colts with the MM Training Program. They all did such a great job, and I am so proud of them. Since the training bug has always been such a big part of my life, I am always overjoyed when others catch the bug with me. Can you all imagine knowing what these girls know at their age? One can only imagine what the future holds for them.

Another memory occurs that could be sad if there weren't so many funny, good memories to over shadow it. Our dog, Buddy, the self appointed greeter and loving friend to each person who visited our barn, had an accident and was put to rest. Buddy provided us with a number of amazingly funny stories during his time with us, just ask Joe. You can read a small

tribute to Buddy later in the newsletter.

And speaking of my husband, Joe, wow! Every memory I have of this past year is richer for him being in my life. He has been such a great sport when it comes to his horse crazy wife. Not only is he very supportive and helpful, he also takes on learning and riding with passion. It was fun attending a clinic with him at Suzy's with all the girls and traveling with him to local and not so local shows; even giving lessons to him was fun. Well, most of them were fun. You all know me better than that! Joe stretched my instructor skills to another level this past year. He's a very good student and very talented. But I just hadn't worked with anyone quite like him. Joe can be described as a very confident daredevil, and the details that I offer him on good horsemanship sometimes seem to get in the way of his having fun. Seriously though, I feel Joe has added a needed dimension to MM Training and Consulting with his gift of nurturing and hospitality. If you know the colors and team dynamics, you will know that Davalee and I need blue roans on our team. I'm just not quite sure why it takes so many of them to balance us out (Barbie, Sue, Betty, Rick, and now Joe). Hmmm!

There are so many more memories from 2007, but I am excited to announce the new opportunities we have for 2008. One small change is that we will combine our 3-D Rider™ Training Under Saddle and Equitation clinics. This change will leave time for our Performance Coaching clinic and schooling show, which you will not want to miss because it will prepare you for our biggest surprise of all, our new MM Training Versatility Award! This award is exclusive for MM Training clients, and it is in honor of my mom, Betty Nagle. She has spent many years growing her horsemanship skills and has been a great inspiration to many. It will be a fun challenge for her to keep going at 73 years old and for others to have a goal and

by Marcia Moore Harrison

incentive to keep growing their horsemanship skills. I hope many of you take advantage of this opportunity. We are going to have so much fun!

I would like to give thanks where thanks are due and say, "Thank you Barn Buddies for being my blessing."

In closing, I hope you all enjoy our newsletter. We have such a great team that brings it to you. While I concentrate more on training and horsemanship in my article, *Getting In and Getting Out*, Davalee's article, *Enhancing Life's Relationships Through the Color Tool™*, is more concentrated on the similarities of horse-human and human-human leadership. As many of you know, we can learn so much about ourselves and our human relationships while working with horses. I know many of you mothers with children who ride will relate to Sue's article, *The Bobtailed Nag Isn't Always a Horse!* Sue's role with MM Training and Consulting, along with editing, is to illustrate more of a humanistic side to our horsey life style. Sue is not only a rider but the mother of a daughter who rides. Sue is not a professional trainer, and she currently does not give lessons, so her perspective is fresh and different from Davalee's and mine. Once completed, our articles move on to Barbie, who is very creative and our master designer. She takes what appears to be a lot of disorganization and magically puts it into an orderly and beautiful layout for you to enjoy. These girls are all amazing. Just as life with a good partner takes our life experiences to another level, working with a team that is equally yoked takes my MM Training and Consulting experience to another level. I hope our energy and passion is evident for you, our clients, and that we can have an opportunity to be a blessing to you in 2008. Please come and join us! It's going to be an amazing year!

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Enhancing Life's Relationships Through the Color Tool

by Davalee Minden

The barn was chilly and the lighting dim. Small puffs of dust rose up from the horse's hooves as my friend, Janie, led the gelding around the indoor arena. The owner of the horse and I watched from the sidelines as the pair went through a leading exercise. Apparently, the horse did not have a lot of ground training. He wasn't jumpy, nervous or excited; he was simply disrespectful. The gelding stepped into Janie's space and ignored her signals to move away. Janie led the horse in my direction, and they came to an undisciplined stop, the horse lagging behind.

"He's awfully red sorrel," Janie said, glancing at me while keeping the horse in her vision.

"Actually, I believe he's gray," I replied.

Curiosity got the better of the owner. "He's registered as a bay," she said, showing some concern that we were unable to recognize the color of the horse. The owner was correct. The weak fluorescent lighting glistened off the gelding's bay coat.

"We were talking about the 'inside' color of your horse; the color of his personality. It helps us determine if he will make a good match for my friend. My friend is looking for a laid-back, easy-going horse. We call that kind of personality 'gray,'" I explained. I didn't add that the downside to gray horses was exactly the kind of behaviors this gelding was exhibiting—laziness and a tendency toward disrespect.

As Janie and I drove away from the barn, we discussed the pros and cons of the horse. She thought that the gelding must be red sorrel because of the disrespectful attitude he had shown. We talked about the differences in red sorrel and gray personalities, and Janie came up with

a parallel from her experience as a sixth grade teacher.

"So, it's just like the difference between Chad and Mike, two boys in my classroom. Chad is generally agreeable, but if I try to push him beyond his comfort level, he will quit trying. Chad can be incredibly stubborn if he thinks he can't do something. I have to show strong leadership with Chad and let him know I have high expectations for him and that he has my support," she said.

I nodded my head. "Just like the gelding, Chad needs that strong leadership."

Janie continued, "It's hard for me to read Chad. I can't tell if he's afraid of failure, being lazy or being stubborn."

"Grays tend to be hard to read, and that's true of horses and humans," I agreed. "It's often very hard to tell if a gray horse is fearful. Its fear often looks like stubbornness. A gray horse might be very afraid of loading in a trailer but instead of snorting, jumping around and shying, he might just plant his feet and refuse to move. It's only when you make an issue of it and push him that the gray horse explodes and shows emotion."

"Hmmm, I never thought about using the horse colors with people, but what you're saying makes sense. Tell me how you would motivate a gray horse, and maybe I can apply similar principles to motivate Chad," Janie said.

"To improve the performance of a gray horse, you give it stress followed by recovery time. Chad will need you to increase your expectations and hold him accountable. But remember, grays are motivated by peace, so their reward is not just praise but also private time and autonomy. Maybe you could arrange for Chad to do some independent study as a reward," I suggested.

Janie looked thoughtful. "That's an idea. Mike, another boy in my class, has a red sorrel personality. Mike is very smart and athletic, but he is likely to challenge everything and anything I say. You always have to be on your toes with Mike because he can lead the rest of the classroom down the wrong path so quickly. Mike's very talented and a good student, but he takes a lot of my energy just to keep him occupied in a positive way," she explained.

"Red sorrels tend to be leaders with strong opinions. It sounds like you're doing the right thing by keeping him channeled in a positive way. Putting that work ethic and leadership to work for you instead of against you makes sense. Set firm but fair boundaries and high but realistic expectations. Red sorrels have an amazing ability to perform and meet goals. But, get into a fight with him and you'll lose every time. I've had that happen with a red sorrel horse. Red sorrels want boundaries, but the boundaries have to be strong, consistent and fair. If you're unfair to a red sorrel, it will fight back."

I never thought about using the horse colors with people, but what you're saying makes sense. Tell me how you would motivate a gray horse, and maybe I can apply similar principles to motivate a student in my class.

Janie nodded. "I can see opportunities to apply the colors to other kids in my class. For instance, I think Jimmy must be a palomino. He's always pulling something, but he's so funny that sometimes it's hard for me to discipline him. He's very bright and well...just plain likeable. However, he does tend to draw the class off track and make them laugh at inappropriate times. I know he's smart, but he doesn't get very good grades. He has a short attention span and doesn't get things done on time. He's also disorganized. He has a hard time getting the homework turned in that he does complete."

"That sounds like a palomino," I replied. "Palomino horses are likeable too, and very charismatic, but they can be a challenge. They're always into something, and they lack focus and work ethic. In order to get them to perform, you have to provide them with structure and discipline. That doesn't mean drill them continually. It means focusing on specific parts of a maneuver until you see improvement and then letting them do something else. It also means you have to let them have plenty of play and free time. My suggestion for motivating Jimmy is to let him move around in the classroom whenever possible. Make sure that the majority of his day is structured so he knows what's coming next, but create variety in the activities within the



Learn more about the colors and how they relate to horse and human behaviors during one of our upcoming clinics in spring 2008.



structure of the day. Help him learn to focus in short bursts, and allow him to change activities when he's done something well. Don't take away his recess time as a punishment. That would be like locking a palomino horse in a stall with no turn out time. Pretty soon the horse would be climbing the walls, and that's what Jimmy will do, too."

"Wow, I think I've been approaching him all wrong. The busier Jimmy gets, the more I try to control his behavior. It sounds like a better idea would be to give him an opportunity to get rid of some energy," Janie said.

"Give it a try," I replied. "It doesn't surprise me that your first reaction is to try to control him. That's natural for your blue roan personality. Jimmy can really benefit from your structure and focus if you will work with his need for creativity and his boundless energy."

"I know I have a blue roan personality, and I think I get along with other blue roans very well, but tell me what you've

learned from working with blue roan horses," Janie asked.

"You know that blue roan horses are motivated by relationships. So are blue roan people. Acknowledging and rewarding their effort is important to keep blue roans motivated. You must be very fair with blue roans, especially when you discipline them. If they perceive that you have been unfair, or if you hurt their feelings, they will hold a grudge. If a blue roan horse thinks it has been abused, it will become defensive. Blue roan horses that have been mistreated are often misread as red sorrels because they will fight back. If trainers treat the blue horse like they would a red horse, it compounds the problem, as the blue roan horse will see that as further abuse. It can be a downward spiral. The important thing is to find a place where you can reward a blue roan horse. Give a blue roan some grace when they make a mistake. Take your time and develop your relationship with a blue roan, and you can turn things around. The

same is true with blue roan people. If they believe you have mistreated them, they will hold it against you. Develop a trusting, forgiving relationship with them, and they will work with you in incredible ways," I said.

Janie looked at me. "You know, it's wonderful how much you can learn about people through studying horse behavior and personalities. I think I will be able to recognize human personalities and motivations much easier by applying what I know about the horse colors. Just think, this whole conversation started as a horse shopping trip. I guess that means we should go horse shopping more often!"

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Round Pen Reasoning

by Sue Karges

For many years I have treasured the task
Of starting young horses on their life's path.
As I taught I learned.
As they worked they earned
My profound awe of what they will try to do
Simply because we ask them to.

We study bloodlines, dream and plan
For them to do things they don't understand.
We ask them to yield and flex and bend
To accomplish goals they can't comprehend.
We expect their best efforts even when they hurt
We win our rewards from their tracks in the dirt.

No clearer time do I question this than when
I first turn a colt into the round pen.
He comes in scared with his head in the air
Searching for a hole in the wall that isn't there.
As his feet go faster his brain is on hold
And then the mystery begins to unfold.

As he circles in vain he runs low on air
And begins to see things that are with him in there.
His eyes fall on me and the panic renews
But I stand without threat as his brain gets the news.
He begins to realize it's just him and me in the pen
And from there on it's time for his work to begin.

His fear and his own will are what stand in the way
Of the horse he needs to become some day.
As I patiently begin to teach him to trust
I make the "wrong thing" as hard as I must
Yet the "right thing" will be his full life of reward
And that's when my thoughts turn to my Lord.

How we humans struggle and circle in vain
Thinking we are in control as we go round again.
How tired God must get of our constant willful sin
Waiting for us to "join up" and come in.
How we can ignore God and get away from it all.

What a patient and loving trainer my Lord must be
That he waited so long in the middle for me.
Because He sees my purpose clearly and has His own plan
If I yield to His training and trust to His hand.
I finally figured out if I give Him my reins
Then I am set free from my fears and my pains.

Every colt that I start is a lesson for me
As I'm teaching I'm learning what trusting should be.
The more I ask of them I am learning to see
That I need to be asking what God's asking of me.
And most of all, just like the colt in the pen,
Just to take a step at a time as I listen to Him.

When that colt finally turns a soft eye to me
His eye is a mirror of God's love for me.

The Bobtailed Nag Isn't Always a Horse!

There's a common element among moms who ride and who also have kids that ride. That element is known as the NAG Syndrome, and both parties fall prey to it. For moms, the NAG Syndrome is complex and originates from having made a substantial investment of time, emotion and money to provide a horse for their child or children. For moms who have horse experience or who may even be trainers themselves, outfitting their child with a horse and all the accoutrements carries a certain sense of pride and level of expectation. In one sense, the child is now a reflection of the mom's horsemanship and her position in the horse community. This often is the trigger for the NAG Syndrome, an acronym which breaks down to NOW! ASPIRE! GOALS! These three words mean a lot to the mom—but to the child—not so much.

It might hurt my reputation as a trainer when our horses don't always behave perfectly, but it isn't about me, and I always have to remember that. It's about my kids and what they can do and learn. It isn't about me at all.

The NAG Syndrome kicks in most often when the child has plans to show the horse. The mom, realizing her child's riding ability will soon be judged, feels herself a bit on display and therefore wants the child to make the best impression possible in the show ring. Thus, the nagging

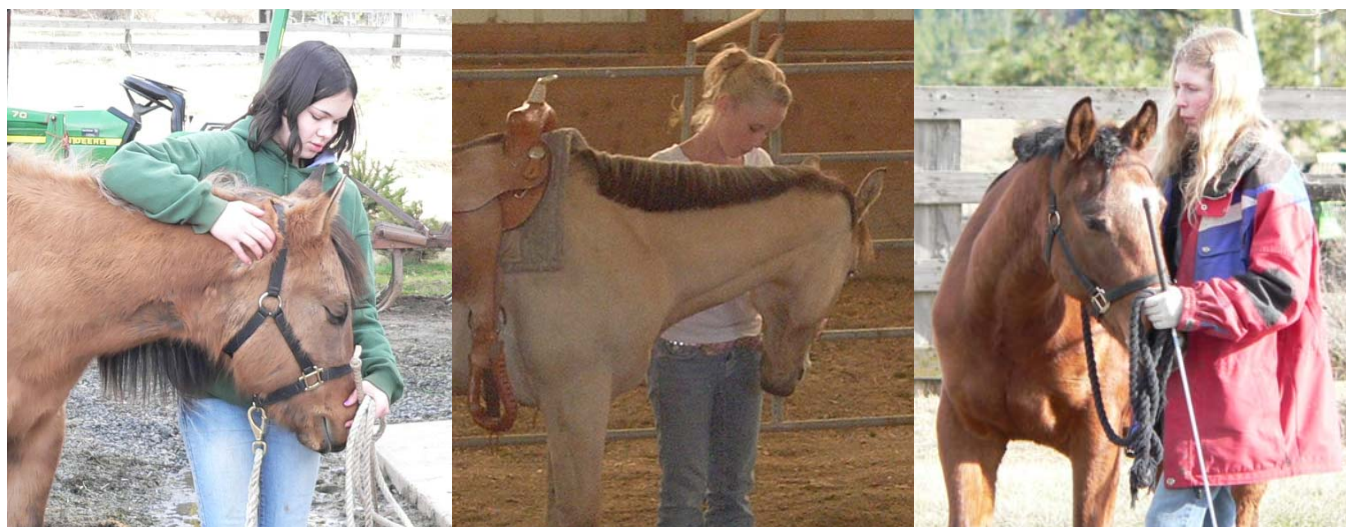
begins. It starts with urging the often complacent child to get out there right NOW and practice with the horse. The mom expects the child to ASPIRE to become the blue ribbon winner and to set GOALS to accomplish better horsemanship that will ensure more blue ribbons or at least respectable placings. The mother feels it is her duty and obligation to encourage the child since she has invested so much effort, not to mention the status of her reputation among her horsey peers. Unfortunately, "encouragement" is really nagging in disguise. It most often takes the form of coaching at the rail, enforced practice sessions at home and unsolicited advice anytime the child rides in the mom's presence.

This type of pressure is not unique to horse showing. It occurs, in differing degrees, in many youth sports and competitions—Little League, ice skating, gymnastics and beauty pageants, for example. Children in these situations have their own strain of the NAG Syndrome, which forms the acronym NOT! ACCEPTING! GUIDANCE! It manifests in many forms ranging from talking back, to not listening, to various displays of body language and perhaps the most frustrating of all to a riding mom—the child becomes apathetic and will not ride to his or her ability—or ride at all.

The team at MM Training and Consulting is no exception to the addictiveness of

the NAG Syndrome. Marcia recalls her own experience as both a mom and a horse trainer when one of her sons was showing several years ago. Marcia was strategically positioned outside the rail so she could coach her son while he was in the class. The next time he approached her spot on the rail, in anticipation of her words of wisdom, her son dropped his reins, shut his eyes and covered his ears! "It all becomes more about us than our kids if we aren't careful," Marcia said.

Davalee recounts her experience as a trainer/mom with two sons who won't listen to her until they are ready. "I train horses professionally, and yet people have seen my sons' horses behaving badly. They've seen my sons blame their horses for things that were not the horse's fault. This is hard for me to watch, especially when I know how to take care of the problem. But I try to keep out of it until my sons ask for my help. They've learned more about horsemanship from some of their bad experiences than they ever would have learned from me handing them a trained horse. They've also learned about their own characters and their ability to handle difficult situations. It might hurt my reputation as a trainer when our horses don't always behave perfectly, but it isn't about me, and I always have to remember that. It's about my kids and what they can do and learn. It isn't about me at all."



What does connection look like? Ask these young ladies that trained their first colts. Congratulations Alyssa, Alex, and Beth! We are so proud!



Then there are moms who have lots of riding experience but are not trainers facing the risk of damaged reputation. For them, the NAG Syndrome may originate more from emotion than profession. For these moms, riding is not only a hobby but also a passion they want to pass on to their kids. Often, these are moms who have shown a lot or perhaps just have a very deep love of all things horses. Naturally, they want their kids to ride and may expect them to share their level of passion and commitment to horses. But sometimes junior doesn't share the same enthusiasm as mom where horses are concerned. This creates a breeding ground for the NAG Syndrome.

Add in feelings of fear, frustration and lack of another horse for the mom to ride, and the NAG Syndrome can infect the whole family so that no one is happy, including the horse now standing idle in the pasture.

This scenario may sound familiar: a girl or boy has grown tired of either watching mom ride or riding behind her and has been begging for a horse of his or her very own. So mom acquiesces and provides a horse for the child, with the agreement that the child will help feed and care for the horse, and of course, ride it at least three times a week. All goes well for a while. But then mom makes the mistake of trying to teach her offspring the finer points of horsemanship and perhaps has higher expectations of where horse and rider should be than what the child has in

mind. Or perhaps the child realizes having a horse requires more effort than he or she is really willing to put forth. What ensues is a vicious cycle of the NAG Syndrome. The more mom expects, the less the child will perform. The child may even begin to doubt his or her own ability, as mother, though usually with good intentions, nags the child to ride more and ride better.

Certain variables can make this downward spiral even worse. For example, consider a situation where the mom has not purchased a horse for her child but instead handed down one of her horses, or perhaps her only horse, to the child. This may be a horse the mom has not only purchased but also has trained herself—training she sees as being “undone” as soon as the child starts riding it. This is a difficult situation for both parent and child. It becomes worse if the mom feels the horse is at risk for a certain amount of abuse, say if the child's feel for the mouth is not developed, or even more so if she feels the child's safety is at risk should the mount regress to the point of bucking or other undesirable behaviors. Add in feelings of fear, frustration and lack of another horse for the mom to ride, and the NAG Syndrome can infect the whole family so that no one is happy, including the horse now standing idle in the pasture.

So what can we do as moms to inoculate ourselves and our children against the viral nature of the NAG Syndrome? MM Training and Consulting offers a few preventative measures for moms who want

their kids to ride without becoming ensnared in this trap:

- ▶ Let riding be the child's decision.
- ▶ Separate parenting from being a professional horse trainer.
- ▶ Be supportive but act almost disinterested, especially if the child is showing.
- ▶ Don't use every second to try and teach the child something.
- ▶ Help your child choose three key words to help remember what to focus on like heels, hands or eyes.
- ▶ Step away from the rail; watch only from the stands or even from the horse trailer if it helps you keep from coaching.
- ▶ Let kids learn about setting goals and what happens if they don't work to meet them and what happens when they do.
- ▶ Don't offer advice unless the child asks for it or unless there is a real safety issue.
- ▶ Encourage the child to pick out (with guidance) and purchase his or her own horse; sharing horses does not work out well very often.
- ▶ Set an example by your own riding.

Avoiding the NAG Syndrome isn't easy, but it can be done. If you find yourself falling victim to it, MM Training and Consulting plans to offer a pamphlet of anecdotes and tips that will help you get through some of the same issues we have encountered but with a lot less stress.

We Lost Our Buddy

We're sad to report that we lost Buddy, our barn dog who was everyone's friend. Buddy came to the barn after Marcia rescued him from alongside the highway, injured from being hit by a car and all alone in a ditch. She brought him home, fixed him a warm box, and let Mother Nature take its course. Well, Buddy recovered except for a severe injury to his eye, which Marcia eventually had removed. This led to a few nicknames – pirate boy, one eyed Jack, hole in one – mostly given by Sue McMurray, who was fond of him and often let him sit in her lap.

Buddy was a good boy, though at times a pest, especially when he chased the horses or when he would stand too close to the propane heaters in the aisle way and singe his fur, making everyone scream and jump out of their lawn chairs to get him away from it. Buddy also had an unfortunate habit of chasing cars, and he chased one too many this fall. His injuries to his jaw and nose were too extensive, and Marcia and Joe had to have him put down. We all will miss his thick brown body lying on our feet, his strong tail banging against our legs and his way of begging into someone's lap. RIP Buddy.



Getting In and Getting Out

Many of you have heard the terminology, “getting in and getting out,” when describing the correction for our horses. The other day I was reminded of this concept when I ran across the following quote from Aristotle.

“It is easy to fly into a passion—anybody can do that—but to be angry with the right person to the right extent and at the right time and with the right object and in the right way—that is not easy, and it is not everyone who can do it.”

Gifted horsemen seem to have a sixth sense about what Aristotle is trying to tell us. They seem to know exactly when or if to get into the horse, how intense to get into the horse, how long to stay into the horse, and exactly the precise time to get out of the horse. Although this seems to be a special gift for some horsemen, and the quote suggests not everyone can do it, I would like to believe that with knowledge, awareness and experience, everyone can learn it. Plus, we have to remember that whether we think of ourselves as one or not, we all are our horse’s trainer. We are either being an effective trainer or we are causing our horse’s problems. In my experience as a riding instructor, I have found three common mistakes that riders make in this area.

- ▶ Rider doesn’t believe in punishment.
- ▶ Riders are too scared of their horse’s response to correct it.
- ▶ Riders think they are correcting their horse, but their horse doesn’t know it is being corrected, and the rider ultimately quits correcting too early.

To help you gain more knowledge and become more self and horse aware, I will address each of these common mistakes.



Bobbi Smith listens closely during a clinic.

Rider doesn’t believe in punishment.

Most horse people crave a reciprocal connection with their horses. And, many believe they will lose that connection if they are too strict and/or punish them. I heard a national trainer try to pinhole this as a women’s issue. She was saying that women don’t believe in punishing their horses because they were raised to be nice and avoid conflict, so people would like them. This may be a small part of the problem, but in my experience, it is not gender specific. I have worked with men that felt the same way about punishing their horses. I think the problem is more from a lack of horse knowledge.

Riders that truly understand a horse’s natural instincts realize horses like them more if they see them as strong but fair leaders. A fair leader gives fair correction. It’s our job as horsemen to know ourselves, know our horses and sense what fair correction is for our horse. Correction given by a strong but fair leader is the right amount of assertiveness without aggression, balanced with the right amount of softness without passivity. Horses quickly understand this balance. They have to have a healthy amount of fear (respect), but they also need to feel the right amount of protection and nurturing (trust) from their leader. It is how horses are hard wired and how they behave in a herd situation. And, if horses believe in punishment for noncompliance, then we as horse handlers must believe it too.

Riders are too scared of their horse’s response to correct them.

With this problem, riders understand that the horse needs to be corrected but won’t do it because they fear the horse’s response and lack confidence in their own abilities to handle the response. This is certainly a recipe for a dysfunctional relationship between the rider and horse. It only leads to the horse becoming more aggressive and putting the rider into serious danger. Many times these people hop on a horse that is obviously being disrespectful and/or fearful, which always baffles me. I think to myself, “I am a horse trainer with many years of experience and an added advantage of very long legs, and I would not even think of getting on that horse! Why in the world are they getting on?”

by Marcia Moore Harrison

Obviously, my answer to this problem is safety first—GET OFF THE HORSE! Go back to the ground, and start forming a healthier relationship with your horse. Spend time learning how your horse responds to correction and teach it how to submit to correction. When you and your horse have a safe working relationship from the ground, then it’s time to maybe get back in the saddle. I say maybe because there are certain techniques for staying safe while you are correcting your horse in the saddle. If you are not aware of these techniques, I highly encourage you to get some professional instruction.

It is easy to fly into a passion—anybody can do that—but to be angry with the right person to the right extent and at the right time and with the right object and in the right way—that is not easy, and it is not everyone who can do it.

—Aristotle

Riders think they are correcting their horse, but their horse doesn’t know it is being corrected, and the rider ultimately quits correcting too early.

This problem isn’t that riders don’t believe in punishment or that they are too scared of their horse’s response if they do give punishment. This problem has more to do with people feeling uncomfortable with their own assertiveness and not reading their horses. When riders feel they are really getting into a horse because they are stepping out of their box and feeling uncomfortable about their assertiveness, they are focusing too much on themselves and not enough on their horse. Horsemen need to read the response their correction elicits from the horse, not whether they feel as if they have corrected the horse, so it’s time to back off. A horse needs to be corrected with the right intensity and long enough for the rider to see a healthy fear response in the horse (respect). Seeing this healthy fear response will take some experience. Each horse is different. But when you do see it, you must back off IMMEDIATELY! Once again, we need to remember that to be a strong effective leader, we must be fair.

“Fairness” can present a very fine line when it comes to managing a horse’s respect level. If you find yourself correct-



ing your horse over and over for the same issue, you aren't correcting strongly enough. I call this nagging. Your horse's training will not move forward, and/or you will create aggressive behavioral problems because you are irritating your horse. On the other hand, if you over correct, your horse will become too fearful, and its training will go backwards. Most of those who feel uncomfortable with their assertiveness won't find themselves in the latter situation, but when or if this happens, all is not lost. You just need to take your horse's training back a few stages and spend time regaining his trust and confidence.

Becoming a strong but fair leader is our goal for bringing out the best in our horses. Although all human personalities have their weaknesses, and some of these weaknesses may make administering correction a little more challenging, I truly believe learning the art of "getting in and getting out" is attainable for any horse person. By gaining more knowledge, we can learn about the basic instincts of the horse, and start thinking more like a horse. When we learn more, we become more aware of the messages we are send-

ing our horses, our horse's response to certain stimuli, and what messages they are communicating back to us.

At MM Training and Consulting, we help riders learn how to "get in and get out" through our extensive Underground and Ground Training programs. These programs will give you and your horse the foundation for success in the saddle. But we don't stop there. We take ground training a step further with our What Color is Your Horse Really?™ program. This program carries people beyond basic horse sense into really knowing themselves and who their horses are through the use of our Color Tool™, a tool for recognizing horse and human motivations and personality types. With this added dimension to ground training, we can truly create the ultimate connection we want in our horse-human relationship.

Based on your personality tendencies and your horse's personality tendencies, we help you customize a training program especially suited for you and your horse. Although similar programs are popping up elsewhere, the Color Tool is exclusive to MM Training and Consulting. It is the most simple and applicable program I



Teach your horse to accept "scary" objects during our 3-D Ground Clinic.

have found and will not only enrich your horse-human relationships but also your human-human relationships.

Whether you have a yearling or an older, well trained horse or whether you are a new horse owner or consider yourself an advanced rider, please join us for our 2008 clinics. We have something for everyone!

MM Training and Boarding Stables

MM Training and Consulting operate primarily out of MM Training and Boarding stables, located on Hwy 95 approximately 6.4 miles north of Potlatch.

If you would like to schedule an event at your location, contact Marcia for rates and availability.

We would like to acknowledge the people behind the scenes who help keep the barn running and the horses well cared for. Without the help of our barn crew, the facility would not look or function the same. Our sincere appreciation goes to:

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Don Nagle | Betty Nagle |
| Joe Harrison | Rick Minden |
| Brandon Moore | Riley Moore |
| Ryan Minden | Tyler Minden |
| Sue McMurray | Barbie Miller |
| Alyssa Virgin | |



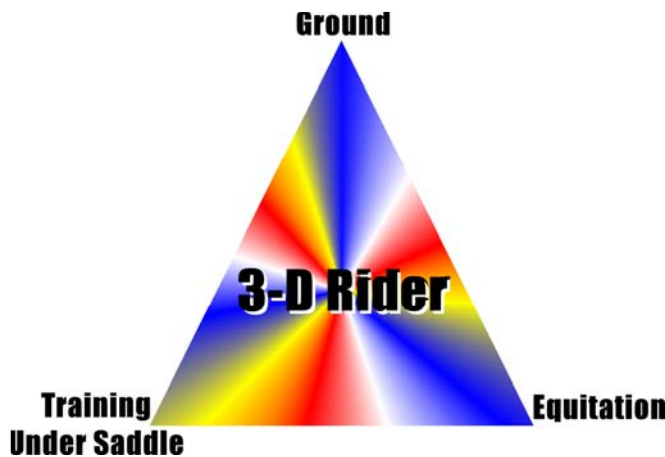


MM Training and Consulting
5985 Hwy 95
Potlatch, ID 83855
208.875.1309
www.mm-horsetraining.com

Clinics and Programs

Date	Clinic	Price
March 8-9	3-D Clinic 1 – Ground Training	\$150
April 5-6	3-D Clinic 2 – Equitation and Training Under Saddle	\$150
May 17-18	Performance Coaching Clinic and Schooling Show	\$150
June 26-29	Private Clinic at Suzy Epler's	—
July 8-10	Youth Camp	\$125

** Sign up for both 3-D clinics and Performance Coaching clinic and receive a free registration for the MM Training Versatility Award competition (\$25 value).



The 3-D Rider program focuses on three foundational cornerstones. Clinics focus on ground training, equitation and training under saddle to synthesize transferable skills that help develop three-dimensional, outstanding horsemanship.

GROUND TRAINING focuses on developing the rider's ground training skills and techniques. Includes hands-on round penning, lunging and leading exercises.

EQUITATION focuses on the rider's position in the saddle and developing the use of natural aids to communicate effectively with the horse.

TRAINING UNDER SADDLE focuses on developing the rider's ability to train the horse and offers immediately applicable horse training techniques.

Youth Camp

The Youth Camp focuses on developing youth horsemanship and character. This clinic is a wonderful combination of fun and learning. For safety's sake, Horsemanship 101 is a pre-requisite for this clinic. Riders in this clinic must be able to lope their horse in a large outdoor arena comfortably and safely.

Horsemanship 101

Horsemanship 101 is a program for first-time horse owners, beginning riders, or for people who have never ridden with us before. It covers basic horsemanship skills and terminology with a heavy emphasis on safety.

Performance Coaching

The Performance Coaching Clinic gives riders advice on preparation, competition strategies and specific training tips for the show ring. A schooling show the next day allows riders to practice their skills as if they were at a real show, but with the added benefit of feedback.

What color is your horse

This leadership development system is ideally suited to help you further develop all of your relationships, horse or human. The program is available through presentations, demonstrations, or clinics for personal, professional and horsemanship development. *Booklet available for \$10*



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Clinic Registration

You may use this registration form for all family members.
 Fill in the rider's name and select the clinic(s) the rider will be attending.
 Pay by March 1, 2008 to get early bird prices.
 Mail to the address above.

2008

1. Name: _____ Age if under 18: _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Ground Training	Mar 8-9	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Equitation and Training	April 5-6	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Performance Coaching	May 17-18	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Camp	July 8-10	\$125
<input type="checkbox"/> Versatility Award Competition		\$25

(no charge if enrolled in three clinics)

Subtotal _____

Early bird coupon (expires March 1) **-\$25**

Total

2. Name: _____ Age if under 18: _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Ground Training	Mar 8-9	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Equitation and Training	April 5-6	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Performance Coaching	May 17-18	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Camp	July 8-10	\$125
<input type="checkbox"/> Versatility Award Competition		\$25

(no charge if enrolled in three clinics)

Subtotal _____

Early bird coupon (expires March 1) **-\$25**

Total

3. Name: _____ Age if under 18: _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Ground Training	Mar 8-9	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Equitation and Training	April 5-6	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Performance Coaching	May 17-18	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Camp	July 8-10	\$125
<input type="checkbox"/> Versatility Award Competition		\$25

(no charge if enrolled in three clinics)

Subtotal _____

Early bird coupon (expires March 1) **-\$25**

Total

4. Name: _____ Age if under 18: _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Ground Training	Mar 8-9	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Equitation and Training	April 5-6	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Performance Coaching	May 17-18	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Camp	July 8-10	\$125
<input type="checkbox"/> Versatility Award Competition		\$25

(no charge if enrolled in three clinics)

Subtotal _____

Early bird coupon (expires March 1) **-\$25**

Total

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Total from #1 _____

Total from #2 _____

Total from #3 _____

Total from #4 _____

Total Due

Note:

Space is limited. Sign up and pay early in order to guarantee your spot.

We offer a limited number of stalls on a first pay, first choice basis. To reserve a stall, please contact Marcia for stalling options and submit the appropriate amount with your clinic deposit(s). Other options include tying up to your trailer or bringing your own portable corral if you are camping overnight and will be in close proximity to your horse. Sorry, no rv hookups are available.

\$25 off

early bird

Coupon good for \$25 off registrations for clinics or Youth Camp.
 Payment must be received in full by March 1, 2008 in order to qualify.
 One coupon per person.



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