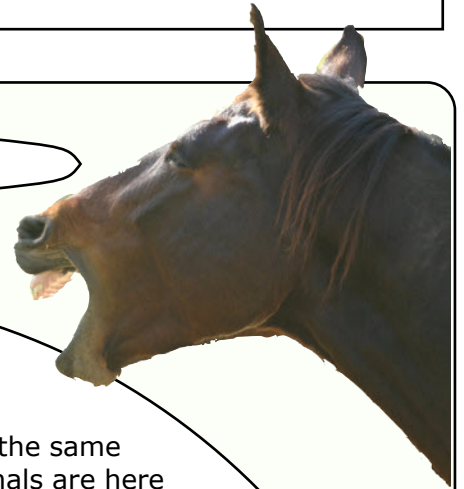


What to remember when training horses



There are many things that you need to remember when training horses:

Remember - as humans we tend to assume that animals think the same way that we do, have the same needs and desires and that animals are here just for our use. Traditionally that is how humans have thought about animals and it is only in more recent times that we have really begun to think any differently.

Remember - horses are very good at remembering what they have been taught. Once they have learned a cue and correct response it is not necessary to do it over and over again. Keep training sessions short and varied. Let the horse have frequent breaks so that he can relax for a couple of minutes.

Remember - you and the horse have a different agenda, horses do not care about such concepts as 'bettering themselves', personal development, 'no pain no gain', character building, competition, long term goals or indeed many of the things that we humans tend to think are important.



Remember - keep it simple. Horses are not stupid, but they do not speak English. Speaking louder, and repeating yourself over and over - hoping they will get it will not work. Instead if something is not working, you need to think of a different way of delivering the training so the horse understands.

Remember - the more trained a horse becomes the more that horse will do what you ask, when you ask, for as long as you ask. This is great as long as you understand this and you are careful to only ask the horse to work for as long as his or her current fitness allows. Trained horses will go till they drop if the human in charge does not understand that the horse is doing what it is trained to do, not necessarily what it wants to do or what is advantageous for its well being.

Remember - you can never have enough education. It is your responsibility as a trainer to keep an open mind and to keep learning. Luckily it is now far easier to keep up your education than at any other time in history (due to the internet). There has also been a huge increase of clinics that people can attend in order to learn more. So take advantage of these fabulous opportunities.

Remember - you must be fair, consistent, clear and don't blame your horse if he or she does not behave correctly. One of the most important things to remember is to always give your

Please remember

The information contained on this newsletter is the opinion or is based on the skills/experience of the authors -Jane and Stuart Myers
Any use or misuse of any of the information is entirely the responsibility of the user. We cannot be held responsible for what you choose to do with the information.

All the text, images and photographs in this article are copyright © and are the property of equiculture and cannot be reproduced in any context without direct permission from Jane or Stuart Myers. It is permissible however to forward this article in its entirety to friends, colleagues and club members etc.

horse the benefit of the doubt. Your horse is a product of your training, if he or she behaves badly then you need to learn how to train better rather than simply blame the horse. Horses, unlike humans, don't hold grudges, are not malicious, grumpy, moody or stubborn, they are simply a product of their natural instincts plus what they have learnt either through training (good or bad) or their own experiences.

Remember – some horses are more difficult to train than others. They all have the same basic instincts but have different temperaments (nature) and they have all had different past experiences (nurture). Depending on your current level of skill the horse may be too difficult a project for you and you may end up training the horse the wrong behaviours and/or losing your confidence.

Remember - if you are having a bad day, teaching your horse a new task might not be a good idea. If you feel yourself becoming angry and frustrated do something else that day. It could still be something with your horse, just something less demanding.

Training your horse should be very rewarding. There are times when it is easy to get frustrated as you will go through stages that are more difficult, but these are outweighed by the times when you and your horse have breakthroughs. These make it all worthwhile.



Please remember

The information contained on this newsletter is the opinion or is based on the skills/experience of the authors -Jane and Stuart Myers
Any use or misuse of any of the information is entirely the responsibility of the user. We cannot be held responsible for what you choose to do with the information.

All the text, images and photographs in this article are copyright © and are the property of equiculture and cannot be reproduced in any context without direct permission from Jane or Stuart Myers. It is permissible however to forward this article in its entirety to friends, colleagues and club members etc.