



Second Chance Ranch Newsletter V. 2-8

My Horse, My Teacher: Real Life Experience

S. Potters

To most people, my adopted gelding is willful, pushy and a “clumsy oaf”. He is 1500 lbs of stubbornness and he does what he wants, when he wants. He is a draft horse that had no handling or training to speak of until he was three years old. At that point, he had no desire to learn about “manners” and “respect”. That is, in part, why he was given up to the rescue. But to me, that is a challenge.

Over the years, I found that mostly, the challenge is to convince him that what *I* want is really what *he* wants as well. I bribe him when I need to (he loves food!), praise him when he’s done it right, and annoy him when he’s being obstinate until it becomes easier for him to just do what I ask. As I said, I try to convince him to go along with what I want.

Convince. Never force.

I found out early on, my draft horse won’t be forced to do anything...and at his size, I really can’t make him listen. So instead, I ask. I ask because he’s willing to learn and trust, but he will not be bullied. He is the ultimate test of my patience.

But, in working with my gelding, I have learned many valuable lessons. They are lessons that any horse person would be better off knowing.

I have learned to always end on a good note. I have learned that baby steps can be the most rewarding measurements of progress. Most importantly, I have learned that the most difficult challenges in life are the memories that you become fondest of. When you look back at your life, they are the accomplishments you will be the most proud of.

My gelding will never be “perfect”. He will always try to run away from scary cows, he will probably never tie very well, and he will probably always try to buck me off when he doesn’t feel like working. I am certain he will always have quirks that frustrate and challenge

~ UPCOMING EVENT ~

**SCR’s 2nd ANNUAL TACK /
EQUIPMENT SALE and OPEN BARN.
AUGUST 27 & 28, 2005
9 AM – 4 PM
LOCATED AT OUR EAST GRANBY,
CT FOSTER FARM.**

**MEET OUR HORSES AND OUR
VOLUNTEERS.**

**GREAT DEALS ON EQUIPMENT,
TACK, and EQUINE ARTS/CRAFTS.
SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!**

Visit our website

www.geocities.com/scrrescue

Or

Contact Shannon at 860-593-1241 for
more information.

me. He has certainly taught me the meaning of patience.

In working together we have developed a bond that I will always treasure. At the end of a long day, I can always count on him to look at me with those deep brown eyes, nuzzle my hair softly, and provide a solid shoulder to lean on. He is a best friend to me. He is one of the great loves of my life. He is my horse.

**SCR WOULD LIKE TO THANK KAT FOR
HER GENEROUS DONATION OF RICE
BRAN OIL. IT IS CERTAINLY HELPING
GRANNY SMITH IN HER RECOVERY!**

**SCR WOULD LIKE TO THANK LYNDA
FOR HER GENEROUS DONATION OF
FLY MASKS TO THE HORSES IN OUR
CARE. WE APPRECIATE IT!**

“[The mare] set off for home with the speed of a swallow, and going as smoothly and silently. I never had dreamed of such a motion, fluent and graceful, and ambient, soft as the breeze flitting over the flowers, but swift as the summer lightning.”

Richard Doddridge Blackmore

“If you have it, you have it for life. It is a disease for which there is no cure. You will go on riding even after they have to haul you onto a comfortable wise old cob, with feet like inverted buckets and a back like a fireside chair.”

Monica Dickens

SCR WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE WHO HAS DONATED TOWARDS OUR UPCOMING TACK AND EQUIPMENT SALE! YOUR GENEROSITY WILL GO A LONG WAY IN HELPING TO CARE FOR SCR'S HORSES. EVERY DONATION, BIG OR SMALL, MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF THE EQUINES IN OUR CARE. ON THEIR BEHALF, WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS.

**BEST WISHES,
SCR**

~ Paul's Corner ~

“Maybe if we did a better job of listening, history wouldn't have to repeat itself.”

“Tolerance is based on courtesy, respect, and the suspicion that the other fellow may be right.”

“Never judge a book by its movie”
J.W. Eagan

Mustang Adoption

On August 20 and 21, 2005 the Bureau of Land Management will be auctioning off over 100 young mustangs at the Horsebarn Hill Arena at the University of Connecticut. The minimum adoption fee is \$125.

The horses will be available to the public for viewing on the 19th starting at 8am until 5pm. The adoption hours run the same on Saturday and from 8am until noon on Sunday.

All of the horses have been seen by a veterinarian, have had their vaccinations, have been de-wormed and have been blood tested. Applications must be filled out before a person can adopt a mustang. Applications can be filled out for review at the adoption, from Friday afternoon and all day Sunday. Or, you can pre-qualify by calling 1-888-274-2133.

Once tamed and trained, Mustangs make wonderful horses. The versatility of them shines as they compete in Dressage, Western, English, Jumper and Cross Country events! Consider saving the life of a Mustang this month!

The University of Connecticut is located in Storrs, CT. There are several ways to get there:

From the West (heading through or from Hartford): Take Interstate 84 East to Exit 68.

From exit, take a right onto Route 195, 7 miles to UConn.

From the East (heading from Boston toward Hartford): Take Interstate 84 West to Exit 68.

From exit, take a left onto Route 195, and follow directions above.

From the Southeast Interstate 95 to 395 North.

Take Exit 81 West to Route 32 North. Follow Route 32 North to Willimantic. In town, turn right and go over bridge. Continue straight through the light and follow 195 North for 8 miles to campus.

For applications, adoption requirements or other information about the mustang adoption program, please visit <http://www.es.blm.gov/programs/whb>. For more information about the event, visit the University of Connecticut's website www.uconn.edu.

10 Ways to Become a Better Horse Person...

They say "Practice Makes Perfect!" The only way to get better at something is to condition yourself. Here are 10 easy steps everyone can practice to help them become better horse people. They poke fun at the situations we all encounter while working with our equine friends.

10. Drop a heavy steel object on your foot. Don't pick it up right away. Instead, shout, "Get Off, Stupid! GET OFF!"

9. Leap out of a moving vehicle and practice "relaxing into the fall." Roll lithely into a ball and spring to your feet.

8. Learn to grab your checkbook out of your purse and write out a \$200 check without even looking down.

7. Jog long distances carrying a halter and a carrot. Go ahead and tell the neighbors what you are doing; they might as well know now.

6. Affix a pair of reins to a moving freight train and practice pulling to a halt. Smile as if you are having fun.

5. Hone your fibbing skills: " See, hon, moving hay bales is FUN!" and, "No, really, I'm glad your lucky performance and multimillion dollar horse won the blue ribbon. I am just thankful that my hard work and actual ability won me second place"

4. Practice dialing your chiropractor's number with both arms paralyzed to the shoulder and one foot anchoring the lead rope of a frisky horse.

3. Borrow the US Army's slogan: Be All That You Can Be: bitten, thrown, kicked, slimed, trampled, frozen...

2. Lie face down in a puddle of mud in your most expensive riding clothes and repeat to yourself, " This is a learning experience, this is a learning experience, this is..."

THE NUMBER ONE EXERCISE TO HELP ALL OF US BECOME A BETTER EQUESTRIAN:

1. Marry into LOTS of money.

FEATURED HORSE: Miss Marple

Miss Marple came to us on July 3, 2005 through a local auction with two other horses, Pip and Granny Smith. Miss Marple is a chestnut grade mare. Her exact age is unknown, although we believe her to be around 15 or so.

Miss Marple caught our eye at the auction because she was covered in what we think to be scrapes across her side, chest, neck and face. All of those scrapes were missing hair and seemed to be swollen and infected. That first night we saw her at the auction, the house did not put her through for sale, so we did not have any opportunity to get her out of her unpleasant situation. In the past, this particular auction house has not agreed to sell horses to us privately on the night of their sales.

We returned to the auction house the following week, hoping to remove her from the auction house, and again we were disappointed to find that she was not being shown that night. We were happy to see though that the infection seemed to be lessening.

Third time is a charm, and finally we were able to convince the auction house to sell Miss Marple to us privately, since they were hesitant to put her in the auction looking as she did. They told us they thought she had an allergic reaction to a breast collar – that was what had caused the severe infection. They also mentioned, after we signed the papers, that she was impossible to ride! Rears, bucks, etc.

Since Miss Marple has come into our care, we have learned that she has severe trust issues, probably stemming from abuse. When we turned her out in the quarantine paddock, it took 4 weeks before we could touch her again! But, her "allergic reaction" – we do not believe it was an allergic reaction, but we must go on what the auction house told us – has healed up nicely, and the hair has grown back to cover her bald patches. We are slowly getting her to trust the people around her, and she in return is slowly letting us teach (or perhaps re-teach!) her to stand nicely for grooming, fly spray, fly masks, vet and farrier attention... We have not ridden her yet.

She will be a challenge for anyone looking to adopt her, but we think she will develop into a nice mare if someone is willing to put some time and patience into re-training her. If you or someone you know is looking for a project, contact Amy at:

SCREquineRescue@yahoo.com