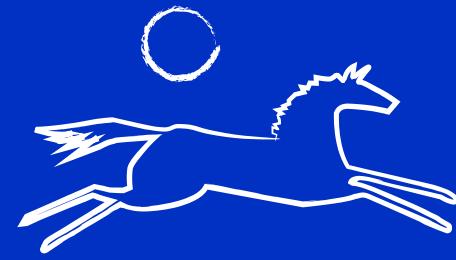


The
Wildhorse
Masterclass



Free 7 Day Course

With Chloe Phillips-Harris

Chloe Phillips-Harris is a top-level rider with over ten years of competing at the highest level in the sport of eventing. She has ridden, competed and produced horses to 4* level eventing, as well as show jumping and dressage from her base in Northland, New Zealand.



ULTRA-MOX

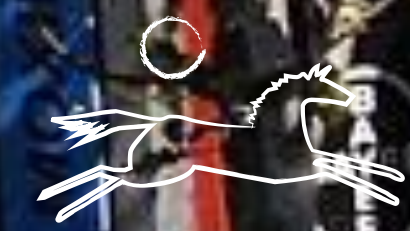
ULTRA-MOX
The Ultimate Equine Wormer

ULTRA-MOX
BROADEST SPECTRUM EQUINE WORMER

QUANTEL

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OXFENDAZA



Chloe has not only worked with hundreds of wild horses here in New Zealand, but she has raced 1000km across Mongolia in the Mongol Derby.

Led camel expeditions across the Gobi Desert in temperatures below -40c and helped take pack camels across the arid and remote Australian outback.

With a passion for animal welfare, she has helped set up aid programs in Egypt, India, and Fiji providing veterinary support and education to working animals.





Lesson 1 - Preparing For Arrival

Over the years I've worked with hundreds of wild horses from all over the country and have settling them down on arrival down to a pretty fine art form now. Here's some things that have worked for me and I think are important to help a wild horse settle in to a domestic life.

Remember you want to keep their diet as close to what it was in the wild initially. This will help with the ones that are fussy eaters and prevent any issues like colic, diarrhoea or stomach ulcers as they transition to domestic life.



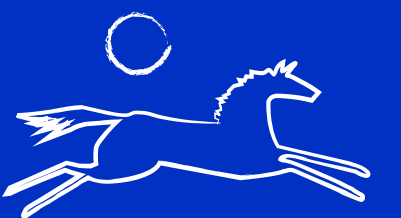
All horses need a minimum of 1-2% of their body weight in roughage each day. That's 1-2kg per 100kg of body weight, or 5kg **minimum** for a 500kg horse. Roughage and fibre comes from things like hay, baylage, chaff and their natural pasture forage. If you have a horse that's growing, came in poor condition or in bad weather conditions you will need to feed it even more.

Roughage is also important to help horses keep hydrated as a high fibre feed soaks up water and helps carry it through the gut. The next thing to remember is horses' stomachs are actually quite small. Unlike cows they can't fill their stomach and then sit down and chew the cud. Nope, horses actually need to have round the clock access to feed so they can browse and have little amounts often.

If feeding grain it needs to be broken down into many small feeds not 1 large one. Horses that go long periods without good roughage in their gut are much more prone to ulcers and stomach upsets. With this in mind here are my tips for getting your wild horse settled in and eating well if it's arriving from muster.

1.

Have the food and water already set up. It's usually a big trip for the horses from when they are loaded on trucks to arriving at their new homes. I like to have everything sorted so that they can unload off the trucks and settle straight down. I'll have some large water bucket already filled and a few piles of hay in the yard waiting.

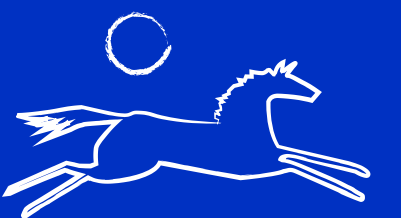


2.

What to feed? Some wild horses are fussy and some will eat anything in sight, over the years I've definitely had both.

I always start off feeding plain hay. This is the simplest to get them eating and its easy on their tummies plus provides the closest thing to a natural diet with plenty of fibre.

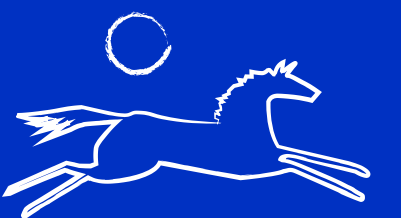
Make sure your hay is not to musty or old, if it smells funny some wont touch it. I'll usually provide a mix of hay left on the ground and in hay nets to so they have options to choose from.



3.

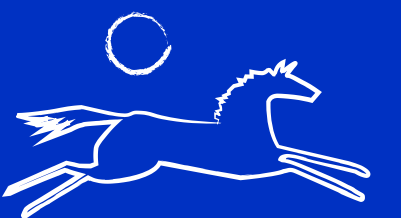
Always put more hay piles/hay nets than there are horses in the pen. This is to stop fights or some missing out on food. If they are eating hay well you can start introducing hard feed. Don't overdo it or go for something too complicated.

I will always start with lucerne chaff and then add a couple of handfuls of hard feed each time. Once they get a taste for it there's generally no stopping them. Only once they are eating well will I start adding supplements or other additives to their feed.



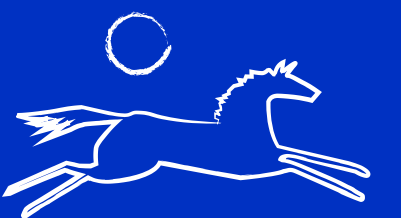
4.

Things like molasses, apples and carrots are **all new** to wild horses and they won't automatically eat them like our domestic horses. I don't add any to their food or water especially early on. Then I will sometimes add grated apple in with chaff or hard feed to get them used to the taste and pretty soon they all like them.



5.

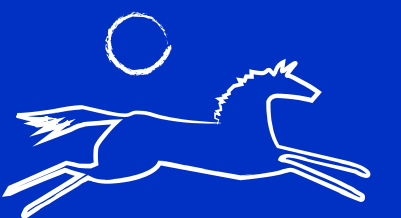
Lots of forage foods like hay, baylage or chaff are best for wild horses, try to avoid feeding big meals of hard feed or grains as their bellies are just not used to it and can lead to ulcers or belly aches. Small feeds often are best if you need to help a wild horse gain weight. Simple solutions like adding a little oil to their diet can help too.



6.

Some wild horses can quickly get on the porky side after arriving in captivity. Remember being overweight is not healthy for them either and quickly lead to conditions like laminitis. If you have one that looks like it can easily get too fat, slow feeder hay nets are your friend.

I find these especially good when the horses are still in the yards as it means they take a lot longer to eat their hay and also helps alleviate boredom. Especially if you can only feed twice a day a slow feeder hay net or simply putting two hay nets around the hay will mean your horse won't be standing for long periods with an empty belly.



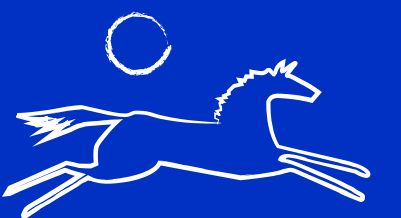
Lesson 2 - The Yard Set Up

Everything about their new life is well, new to your wild horse when they arrive. My yards all have 6ft solid wooden fences, a loading ramp and a race. It would be pretty hard for any wild horse to ever get out. However I don't want it to feel like a prison to them either!

Your yards should quickly become a place where they feel happy and safe and for my horses they definitely do even after they're allowed to go out in the paddock I often find they've let themselves back into the yards when worried or just to rest. So how can you make your yards a safe, secure and happy place for them to be?

Make sure at least one side is free from stimulus and provide some safety. What do I mean by that? Well I have a busy equestrian centre and my wild horse yards are right in the middle of it, there is always people, horses, dogs and a few chickens wandering past.

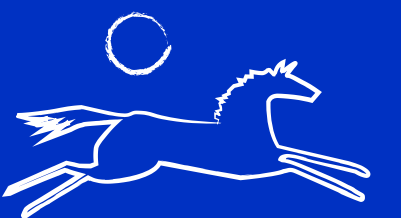
In general I think this is actually good for the wild horses as they quickly get accustomed to things going on around them and adjust to domestic life. We don't want to shelter them too much. But I always think it's important they have one area of the pen where they can seek shelter and feel safe and secure away from too much stimulus if they need a break. After all the first week or two they have to live in the yards as well as have their training in them.



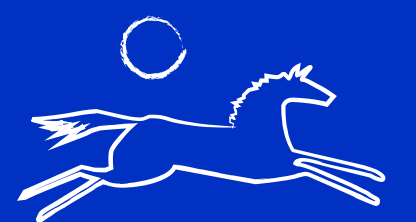
How do I do this? Every one of my yards has at least one side that is 'quiet' and either underneath a tree or is a solid plywood wall. What I mean by quiet is that no external stimulus comes from that direction, it's a visual barrier. This stops the horse being flooded on all sides from stimulus and I find it helps them enjoy their down time a bit more. A very shy horse might spend a lot more time by the quiet wall and the more curious will go to the other parts of the pen to watch whats going on in the world around them.

This can also help if you have more than one horse to work with too. If you have two pens you can run shade cloth down the dividing fence and this will stop them seeing each other while you're working one horse. This helps if you have a very flighty horse that is constantly spooking either when you're working it or in the pen next to you keeping the horse your working agitated.

I had a little stallion once that was absolutely terrified, he was okay to work with because he would focus on you and gain security. However when I went to the next horse he would be leaping, snorting like a gun going off and running around his pen constantly. This really scared the horse I was working, every time you'd get beautiful moment of connection the stallion next door would run past or into the fence. A shade cloth barrier really helped in this case because it meant the horse I was working wasn't constantly getting spooked or distracted by the horse running next door.



I find that once my horses have settled, have a connection and basic training has started, they are happy to go out into a paddock. My paddocks are standard height fencing and nothing tricky to it. Even the stallions are not a problem and I have never had to build extra high paddock fences or devise any tricks to get them to stay in. However unless they have had a few days of basic training and are no longer terrified of people I won't let them out.

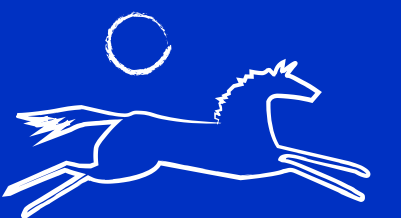


Lesson 3 - Extrovert or Introvert?



It's important before you even start training your horse that you take a moment to step back and asses exactly what time of personality your horse is.

Not all horses are the same and they are going to react slightly differently when we ask them training questions throughout the program. I tend to break it down to the most simple forms is your horse an **extrovert or introvert?**



How many did you get of each column? If you got more in the A column, your horse is probably an introvert. If you got more in the B Column your horse is probably an extrovert.

	A	B
When your horse gets a fright does it	React slowly or try to hide	React quickly and jump or spin
If you step in the pen does your horse	Look away and try to keep its head turned to the outside	Face up or look directly at you
Is your horse	Slow to move off pressure	Quick to move off pressure
Do you notice that your horse	Is much the same each day	Some days its very confident and other days its very fearful
Does your horse like to sniff and investigate things with its nose?	No	Yes
Would you say your horse is	Low Energy	High energy
Total for each column		

Extroverts

Extroverted horses tend to be super reactive, more prone to running, jumping or spinning when they get a fright. They can be inconsistent from day to day and easily get wound up. They need you to be calm, confident and consistent in your approach.

It's extremely important that you are methodical and predictable in your training to give them security and guidance. These horses are extremely quick to learn but also quick to misunderstand if you are not consistent. They like to face up and can be quite intense to work with.

Introverts

Introverted horses - Slower to react, sometimes find it harder to engage with the training. They will quite often keep their head bent away from you or lack the confidence to turn and face up or investigate and sniff things with their nose.

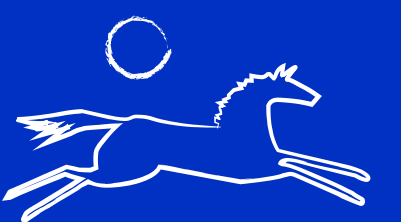
Sometimes it's a bit harder to understand or read their body language as they don't give much away. The great thing with these horses is that they usually make consistent progress and with good training and very predictable and reliable.

Lesson 4 - Character

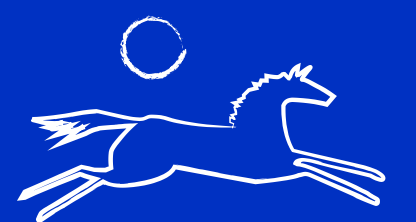
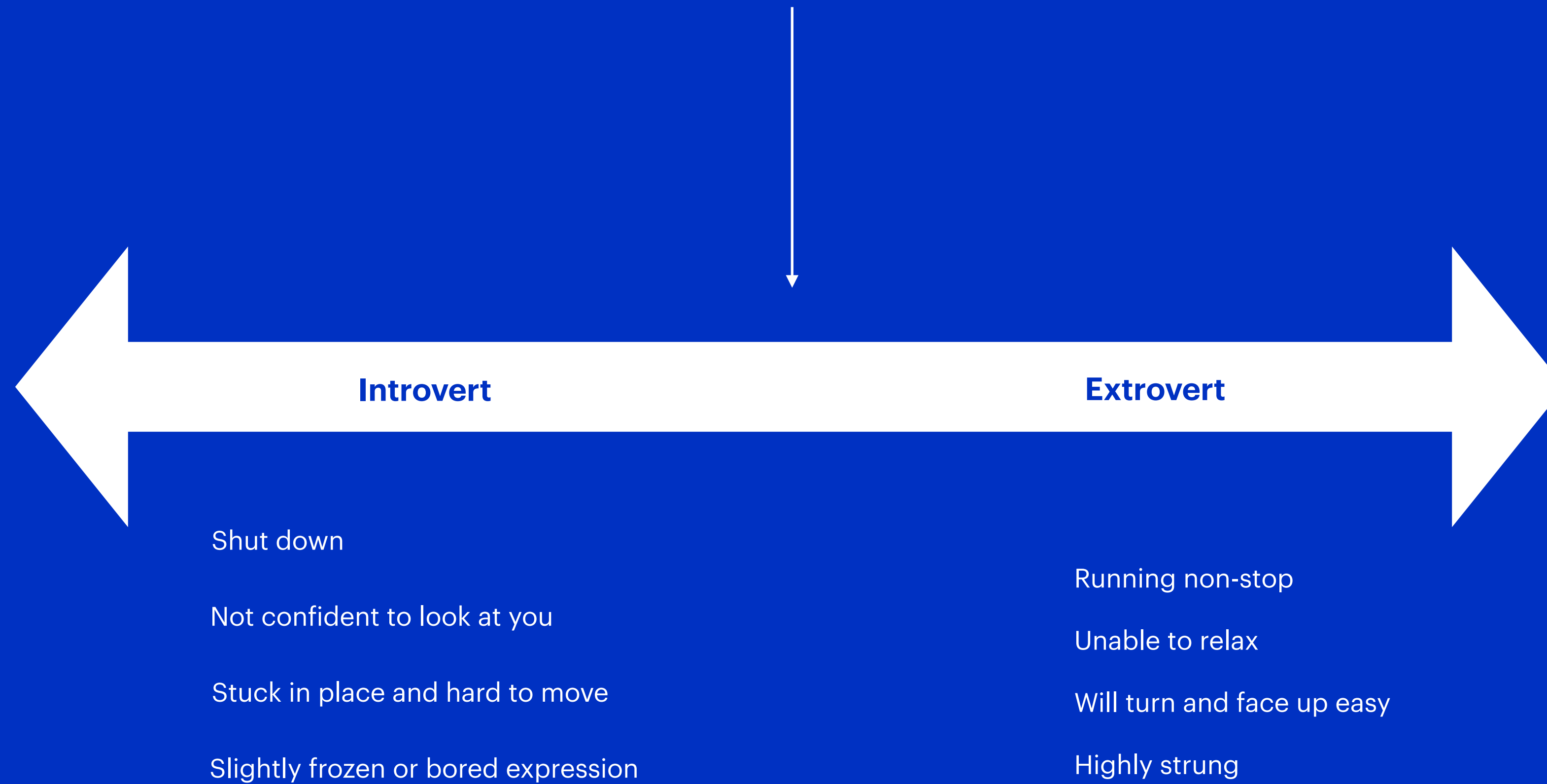


Now you know if your horse is an introvert or extrovert what do you do with that knowledge? My main goal with every horse is to create an environment where they can learn and become happy, relaxed and engaged in the lessons. This is the basis to forming a great partnership that will last all the way through the horses training.

That place of learning and confidence is somewhere in the middle of the two introvert and extrovert behaviours. The horses needs to have the time to engage with us, feel relaxed and be able to come out of his shell. It can't be running in fear or hiding in the corner.



The Middle Ground

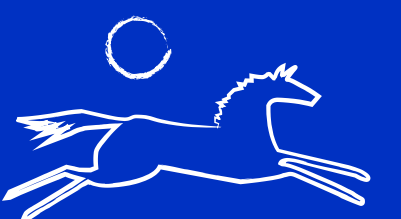


The middle ground where both types of horses can learn is where they feel confident enough to be moved about the pen without running or freezing. Are becoming brave enough to engage and look at you and are given time in between aids to process things.

If you are dealing with an extrovert, that runs at every noise or movement you need to focus on slowing it down and asking it to stay still for small periods of time. This allows its brain to have time to think and process. You need to be consistent and repeat things often even though the horse can learn quickly

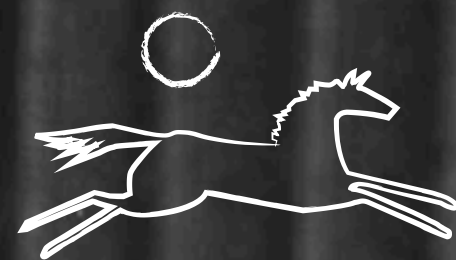
An introverted horses you have to encourage to move a little bit, so it can free up and mentally relax. It's so important with an introvert to reward any little bit of engagement it offers to quietly draw it out of its shell and help it gain the confidence to become curious. The introvert needs to have small sessions broken up by complete breaks so it has time to process away from you. Think of it as download time. Maybe 5 minutes in the pen and then step outside for a few minutes.

It is helping each horse reach this middle ground that the first lessons of the Wild Horse Masterclass are all about.



Lesson 5 - How To Make A Training Plan

The
Wildhorse
Masterclass



How to make a training plan?

It's so important to have have a plan of the relationship you're trying to build with the horse and the steps to get there before you even step in the pen with it. This helps give your sessions clarity and structure, making it easier for the horse to learn. This is also why I created the Masterclass, so people can borrow my plan and the steps involved to create a successful partnership with their own horse.

It's also to identify your strengths and weaknesses as a trainer. You might need time to gain confidence with some skills, while your horse might be quite good at it and vice versa. Here's a little form below, take a few minutes to think about this and answer realistically and honestly. No one is going to see your answers its for you to reflect on.

What's my main objective with my horse?				
Realistically what is my level of knowledge	Complete beginner	Novice- have owned horses but never had to train or produce one	Intermediate- have done some of the training before for horses I have owned or been involved with	Advanced- have worked with young or untrained horses before but want to get better
What makes you nervous. you can circle more than one	Not being able to read horses body language or understanding how a horse learns	Not knowing the steps involved	Feeling like i'm not progressing fast enough	Worrying ill mess up the horse
Do you tend to	Be very cautious in my approach to horses. Sometimes a little to timid	Be in a rush to get the bigger picture	I like doing the same thing many times	I hate repeating things
What kind of horse do you think your dealing with ?	Introvert	Extrovert		
How many hours each week can you set aside to training				
What is the overall time frame you've given yourself to achieve your goals?				
What part of the training process are you most worried about.				
What do you want to get out of the this most?	To become a better horseman	To have a well trained horse	Other	

Remember, all horses are different and will find different parts of the training difficult and so will you. I find no matter what personality I deal with by the end of the training they all seem to get there at roughly the same time, even though i might have to spend longer at different stages than others.

Heres some quick tips:

If you are on the more novice/ beginner side you may find you need to repeat lessons more often to give yourself time to feel confident moving about the horse and giving clear concise aids. You might find your horse is ready to move on before you are and that's okay.

If you are someone who tends to rush things or can be a bit erratic in your training, make sure you have a goal in mind that reflects the state the horse is in when you start working with each day. Learn to have some systems in how you approach the horse that are predictable and reliable so the horse can form some sense of security and confidence in what you are about to do.

If you only have an hour, a few times a week how you use that hour may very depending on the horse personality type you are working with. Giving more breaks might help some horses to learn faster while others can stay focused the entire session.

Identify your weaknesses and know what to do to overcome them.

Lesson 6 - Body Language Tips

Don't be a creep

How you interact with your horse is so important. You want to make your aids as well as your body language clear concise and easy for the horse to understand. Remember also that horses don't know what the plan is and have had far less time learning to understand human behaviour than we have learning about horse behaviour.

So many people get worried about 'upsetting' the horse so they creep around the pens, yards and paddocks. This only makes it harder for the horse to understand what you are doing and recognise a pattern in your behaviour. It's creepy to see another person creeping around you so imagine how creepy it is to a horse when humans start slinking about.

Instead walk and move about normally and confidently, it helps the horse understand far easier where you going and what you're doing and this helps them feel far more secure.

Be clear, concise and calm with your movements.

Like the last point horses love movement and aids that are easy to read. When I'm working with horses, especially wild horses I try to keep my movements and aids slow and clear. Lots of fast movements and aids, whether you're using your hand or the stick will only serve to excite the horse and get it moving fast too. The faster the horse moves the less time it has to think and understand what's asked of it.

Don't make it complicated. I hear lots of training philosophies these days about how to work with the horse, my best advice is to keep it simple. Mostly because people get confused if the method becomes complicated and in turn this confuses the horse. If the horse is confused and you're confused you are not going to make much progress. Keep your movements calm and steady, your aids clear and remember to **breathe** while working with your horse!

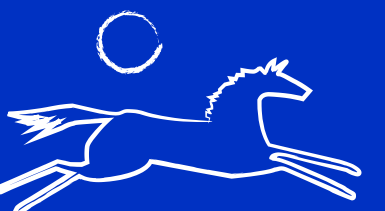
Lesson 7 - My Training Philosophies



Before you start, it's so important to be clear on what you want as the outcome for your training and what your beliefs are. Here are some of mine:

- My main aim is to create a horse that is curious, confident and engaged in the training process. If I ask it a question or to do something I want the horse to be willing and curious in figuring out the answer.
- I want a partnership with the horse and a shared language that goes both ways.
- If you can create a partnership where the horse loves their job and is actively involved in the training the sky is the limit in what you achieve. I have had hundreds of wild horses, ridden to the top level in the sport of eventing on my warmbloods and spent thousands of hours in the saddle riding through deserts, mountains and steppes of Mongolia. There is nothing quite like working with a horse that wants to do its job. That is where the magic happens.
- Only a certain amount can be trained through force and pain, quickly you will reach a dead end in how far you can go with your training. Plus why force a horse to do something when you can ask it and develop a willing partnership. Training through fear, punishment and force is incredibly crude and is never the answer.
- The basics is where it's at. If you want to create a beautiful partnership and connection with your horse, the basics is where it's at. Lots and lots of beautiful basics repeated often making for a magical partnership and the tough questions easy.
- This is true of any horsemanship or discipline.

Working with your horse should be a joy both for you and the horse. That doesn't mean there won't be tough moments, but overall you should enjoy the process and so should the horse.



Ready to connect with your horse?

wildhorsemasterclass.com

