

AGSC 252- Spring 2009
Horse Training Techniques

Instructor: Emily Costello

Office: MG 3073, Farm office (X4744)

Cell: 314-799-6077

E-mail: ecostello@truman.edu (best way to contact me, allow 2-3 day for response)

Course Description- This course is intended to be an introduction to techniques used for training young or otherwise in experienced horses. In the lecture we will discuss behavior, equine body language, equine vices, learning and behavior modification, and other related topics. We will also discuss characteristics that are desirable in horse trainers. In the lab portion students will gain hands-on experience with the training of young horses.

Horses for class

King (Mouse X Starr)- chestnut, yearling, QH, colt, sweet and friendly but will sometime overreact to new experiences- not very brave, takes him a while to figure things out, some separation anxiety with Zeke

Zeke (CJ Ira X Cowgirl)- bay, yearling, Appendix, colt, sweet and friendly, verging on pushing, very brave and will try anything with encouragement, can be stubborn, has a rather dominate personality, some separation anxiety with King

Red [Blackburns Red Eagle] (Blackburns Cowboy X Starr)- chestnut, two-year old, QH, gelding, pretty mellow, but a bit unpredictably explosive, can be very stubborn and hard-headed, need to be firm and fair with him, has problems unloading from the trailer, doesn't like water or clippers but will tolerate them, some separation anxiety with Glory
Glory [Misshurricanesglory] (Mr Blue Harlan X Hurley)- red dun, three-year-old, QH, mare, mostly quite and easy to work with but will occasionally "space-out", walks and trots undersaddle, rather wiggly, learns slowly, must re-present things as if they were new each time, will buck like a rodeo bronco on the lunge line, but fine under saddle, some general separation anxiety

Sneaks [Sneaky Lil Monkey] (Mouse X Monkey)- chestnut, three-year-old, QH, gelding, usually very level-headed and easy going, has moments of silliness, well started undersaddle- walks, trots, and canters, will buck on the lung line, occasionally will buck a very little undersaddle

Clover [Leans Miss Clover] (Black Gold Reed X Bashful Bonita)- dark bay, seven-year-old, QH, mare, was started about 4 years old, had time off of get bred, very sweet and personable in the pasture, maybe or may not remember most of her training, has a tendency to rear when not happy with her current situation, may have some general separation anxiety when removed from her pasture

Goals for the horses

Yearlings

-lead easily from both sides

-be easily caught in the pasture

- stand "tied" quietly, ground tying is a plus
- lift feet from picking out and trimming
- stand to be groomed
- stand to be vaccinated and dewormed
- trot in hand and back up
- lead over poles
- load onto a trailer
- wear a bridle with bit
- wear a saddle pad
- stand quietly to be "clipped" with clippers
- stand quietly to be hosed and bathed
- be comfortable wearing wraps or boots on all legs
- be comfortable wearing a blanket

Two-year olds

- easily do everything on the yearling list
- wear a saddle (both types)
- work well in a round pen
- begin lunging
- begin driving
- stand quietly by the mounting block
- belly and walk around
- mount and dismount
- walk around under saddle
- maybe trot
- possibly bit-up

Older horses

- easily do everything on two-year olds list
- walk and trot in "straight" lines and circles
- work on the canter
- take on a trail ride (cross water)
- gain bit acceptance
- work on transitions between gaits
- back up quietly
- stand patiently while under saddle
- begin lateral work
- simple lead changes

Proposed Lecture schedule

- 1/12- Course introduction, working safely around young horses
- 1/19- No classes, MLK day
- 1/26- Equine behavior patterns and perception
- 2/2- Basic learning principles
- 2/9- Basic learning principles cont.
- 2/16- Different training methods/theories
- 2/23- Training methods/theories cont. and review

3/2- Written mid-term
3/9- No classes, mid-term break
3/16- Desirable qualities in horse trainer
3/23- Safety considerations when loading horses
3/30- Natural training aids
4/6- Artificial training aids and bits
4/13- No classes, spring break
4/20- Vices of horses, causes and management
4/27- Written final

Points- combination of lecture and lab points

Stall cleaning-	100
Journal entries-	150 (10pts/week)
Written mid-term-	50
Practical mid-term-	50
Written final-	50
Practical final-	100
Total-	500

Stall cleaning- Each student is responsible for cleaning the stall of their assigned horse *everyday* the horse is inside and the roads are driveable. If you can not come out, it is your responsibility to find some one to clean the stall. Stalls should not be cleaned during class time. Clean stalls help prevent thrush and breathing problems. Clean stalls are free of feces and urine-soaked bedding. The stall should be covered with enough shavings that it cushions your feet but you don't sink into it. Extra clean shavings should be banked around the edge of the stall should you can easily replace dirty bedding and also to prevent horse from getting cast. Please also clean the area directly in front of your horse's stall. If the manure wagon is full, pile feces and soiled bedding in one corner of the stall. Do not leave wheelbarrows full of muck.

Journals- Each student is required to keep a journal (electronic please!) of how each session with your project horse is spent. Please include goals for your upcoming session and then record how well those goals went during the next session (The goal can be simple). Please e-mail me your journals on **Friday every week**.

Turn out- Horses can be turned out in the indoor ring provided that no one is riding, the ring is free of anything for the horses to get into, and you are around to put your horse back in their stall. The horses can go out in the turn out pens behind mare motel if they boarded horses are inside (usually after 4 pm each day). Also be sure to turn your horse with at least one other horse of their age group.

Feeding- Students are responsible for feeding their project horses Tuesday through Thursday afternoon. Farm crew will feed them every morning and the other afternoons.

Additional notes- Any equipment (tack, grooming, stall cleaning, ect..) must be put back where you found it and in the same condition it was found in. All tack must readjusted if changed for you project horse. Remember that the schedules (especially for lab) are very tentative based on how each horse is progressing