

Horses Are Like Computers

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Now that's a statement! Well, we use them a bit like computers (and a bit like motorbikes as well but that's a whole different subject). But lets explore the 'computer' comparison.

If your computer skills and knowledge are like mine then we have in common the understanding of how to turn them on, how to 'do' a word document like this one, send and receive emails, surf the web, do a bit of banking online, keep the books in order, play around with a digital image or two and keep the viruses out. Plus give or take a bit for some of us. And that's great!

But just think what else our trusty tower or laptop can do for us. Given the knowledge, tools (programs) and accessories we can actually create so much more. The bits and bytes are all there waiting to have the right buttons pushed. I marvel at the skills some people have at the keyboard. Plus they know how the thing works. Inside! They can diagnose and fix problems. They can foresee problems coming up and use their skills and nous to sail straight past without drama.

See where the horse-computer analogy is going here?

I now realise my horse knows much more than I gave him credit for. He is capable of sooooo much and I know sooooo little in the art of communicating with him. To do the communicating thing I now realise that human language, actions and thought just doesn't amount to much when it comes to horses.

Just think what life with our four-footed buddies would be like if we were like the computer whizzes. If we had the knowledge and tools and the understanding of how to use them, properly, with horse sensitivity, in a language they can understand, Wow! We could all be like Monty Roberts, Pat Parelli or any other horse-whispering hero. Actually we could be better than these guys (and girls) because we can learn from all of them and put into place a strategy utilising the very best all these 'masters' have come up with. Are you sitting up and taking notice now?

It all boils down to 'just what do you want from your horse coupled with just how much are you prepared to put in and learn?' People who are happy just doodling around on a horse that doesn't care one way or the other about the rider/owner are like me on a computer. No real urge or reason to get better than good. But because horses have lit my passion (we all need a passion) I want more. I want to have a fantastic relationship with my horse/s. I want to be safe with them. I want the best that nature can provide for my equine friends and I want us both to have fun!

Partnership is a word that is used often by enlightened horse/human trainers. Now I definitely don't feel a partnership with my computer but I am working on it with my horse. One of my trainers/teachers in natural horsemanship says the partnership has to be 49% horse, 51% human. That 2% difference is the leader factor. Humans have to be the leader and the horse has to respect the leadership. Otherwise there is no partnership or it is not as close as it could be.

Did you notice I slipped the words 'natural horsemanship' in the last paragraph? I believe the key to learning more and more about our horse/human relationship can be given an express ride using the principles of 'natural horsemanship'. Yes I do admit there may be other ways out there of developing this partnership approach but I haven't heard of or seen them as yet. Please let me know if there

is anything as effective as natural horsemanship. Because I'll study the experts and learn from them so I can become a better horseman and a better leader for my horse.

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