A u g u s t 2011 - What Is The Purpose for Laying A Horse Down?

# SHERYL LYNDE & RICK HOFFMAN FOUNDATION TO FINISH TRAINING

# Hello Everyone

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE FOR LAYING A HORSE DOWN?

Teagan is a young mustang rescue that came to us from Heavenly Horse Haven. She was one of just a couple of horses that survived abuse and neglect out of a large group - approx 15 or more - the majority of the horses starved to death. Teagan survived mainly due to jumping fences to get to other sources of food and water. Teagan has an incredible amount of fear to the point of being dangerous - she has taken out teeth of Animal Control Officers and broken bones of other hopeful handlers.

Rick and I worked with Teagan to desensitize her and get her saddled - with Mustangs - everything just takes a bit more time. She would have some pretty big reactions, then we were able to work her through it and start all over again the next day. We decided she was a great candidate for laying down. Now laying down a horse has a purpose - and its results are not duplicated by any other method. But it needs to be done correctly and by a professional. Rick and I are guided by 3 rules every day we train. #I - We cannot get hurt #2 - The horse cannot get hurt #3 - The Horse has to calmer at the end of the lesson. The session with Teagan met with each and every rule.

There is no "gray" in horses thinking when it comes to fear they don't think about getting hurt - they think they are going to die. When you lay a horse down - it isn't about dominating them - it's about developing trust. Once they finally give in to laying down - they have given up. This is when we come in and touch and lay on them and rub every place we weren't able to touch safely while she was standing. She has given up and we have her in her most vulnerable position - yet in our hands she remains safe and unhurt - this is where the trust comes in. She has experienced her worse fears - yet she has survived.

The change in Teagan was immense - even to the gal who cleans stalls for us - Linda commented that she can approach



#### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE FOR LAYING A HORSE DOWN ... CONTINUED

her now. She is calmer and more trusting of us. She still has a long way to go - but used in the proper setting and for the right reason - this is an incredible tool to use. Horses do not like living in constant fear anymore than a human being does - this has brought her peace.

# **Upcoming Events**

Make sure you catch Best of America on Horseback on RFD-TV on Tuesday, August 23rd at 4:00 pm. They filmed the segment at Reed Valley Ranch and did a fantastic job. If you haven't been to Reed Valley - this will give you a great Birds Eye View of its beauty and all that it has to offer. If you rode in the segment - you can see the finished product and how professionally they put it all together. Don't Miss it!

**Rider Confidence Clinic** - What is your level of horsemanship and what areas do you lack confidence? How to gain more control on a loose rein, how to develop a more relaxed seat, how to overcome fear in your horse on a loose rein.

## Toddler Tour 2011 - News

Our first Toddler Tour we went to the Santa Margarita Trail and had a great day! Here are some Photos - there were over 10 different water crossings all ranging in depths - there will sandy hills to ride down and Rocky hills to ride up - all different footings and widths of trails. Great training for all that came - We had 3 and 4 year olds up to 8 year olds. Fun day! On October 1st at Reed Valley Ranch where we will be exposing all the horses to cows. Call for additional information.







Rider Confidence Clinic Our facility-Anza, CA 9 am - 4 pm Sept 3, 4, & 5 \$375.00 Limited to 8 riders

Horsemanship Clinic Tri County Fairgrounds Bishop, California Sept 9, 10, and 11 \$375.00

Toddler Tour Ride #2 Garner Valley - Fobes Trail Head Sept 24th \$50.00

> Toddler Tour Ride #3 Reed Valley Ranch Oct Ist \$50.00

**Call for reservations** 

Check Website www.sheryllyndeclinics.com for additional information or call 760-285-0160

