

YOD NEAL



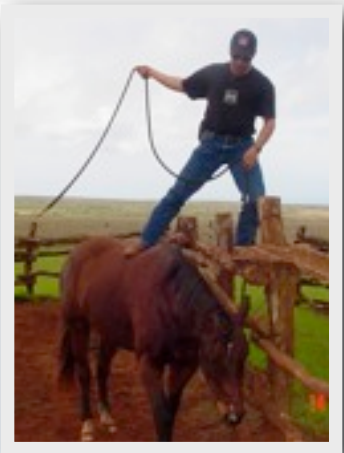
TRUE HORSEMANSHIP THROUGH FEEL

Hi, I'm Yod Neal. My life is devoted to the practice of horsemanship because the nature of the horse is something that rings true to me, both inside and outside the arena. Born in Wyoming on a quarter horse ranch, there really wasn't any option other than working with horses. Over the years I have developed principles which are based on many horse handling methods. With these methods I've had the opportunity to experiment with 'problem horses', colts of various ages, multiple disciplines and backgrounds. For over eight years I have been teaching these principles.

My main goal and concern is with people understanding the foundation of good horsemanship which is the root of all communication. Upon this endeavor the human can choose whichever discipline meets their needs, and at the same time have a greater sense of togetherness with the horse. I think what I have to offer is a no-nonsense approach towards the horse and the human. I am not stuck in one little path to say, "This is what works." I can go another direction to fit the horse and the human if need be. The ability to adjust to fit the situation in a moments notice is an invaluable thing to have. This is a feel that takes time to develop, but once harnessed, is the key. It is a combination of approaches, feel, fluidity, and

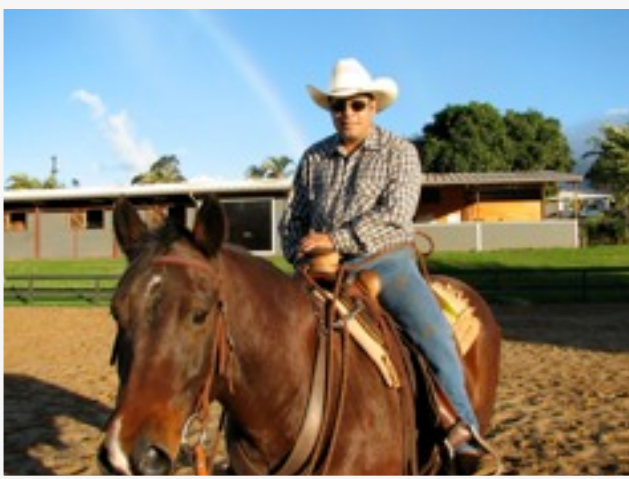
grace that come into play when working with a horse. Some call it "natural horsemanship" but I believe it is more about understanding a horse's mind and how a horse operates. You'll know you're experiencing success in your personal journey with horses when you're not just getting physical results, but also in their mind.

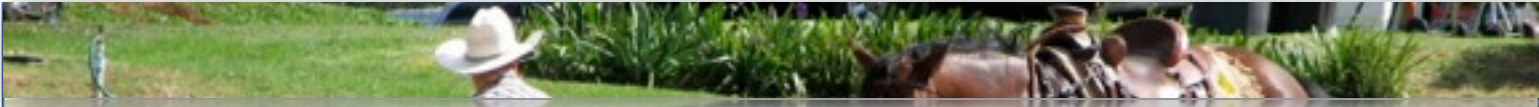
In the end, if I have done my homework correctly, my horse will be there for me and I'll be there for him. This is what a partnership is.



What can you do?

In reality, it all boils down to the horse anyway. Ask yourself this question before you want to do something with your horse. "Am I 90% sure what I am asking this horse to do will work out?" Well, if the answer is no, listen to that inner voice. It's there for a reason. Don't push yourself and the horse through something that you're both not ready for. When that little voice goes off in your head, guess what, it went off in the horses head 10 minutes ago. In this situation just back up to something both you and the horse understand and are successful at and build from there. There is no ego involved in achieving a partnership with the horse.





LET'S GET SERIOUS!



One thing is for sure, life is too short not to have some fun with yourself and the people around you. When you take your horsemanship so seriously that you can't laugh at yourself for making a mistake, or laugh at a situation, life just seems to lose its zest. After all, we are supposed to be in this "horsy" thing for fun.....right?

Although safety comes first, fun shouldn't be far behind. There are times when a horse and a rider get so frustrated and push themselves and their horse to the level that can truly be detrimental. Sometimes the remedies are easy when you think about what the goal is ... Have fun. Your horse feels what you feel, so think about them too.

For example, your horse has been stalled all day not realizing you've had a bad day at work, and you show up to "train" your horse. The combination of the two make for a messy interaction. Most often our horses are for pleasure, so don't forget what that means.

Some days consider just giving your horse a bath, or cleaning tack while they eat grass, or have them with you while you go through your day. Try this idea if you want to get to know who your horse really is. You'll not only learn a lot about them, but yourself as well.

- ❖ Put a halter on your horse with a 12-15 foot lead rope.
- ❖ Tuck the end of your lead rope into your belt.
- ❖ Walk about doing chores and enjoy just being with your horse.

The affect that this type of unconditional, natural interaction has on your horse will transfer under saddle in ways that can only be experienced. Your horses willingness and desire to please you as his partner will grow, and the bond you will share will grow even more. It takes time to build a relationship and it goes both ways. Don't expect the partnership to come if you're only showing up to "train" your horse.



My own journey...

Growing up on a quarter horse ranch in Wyoming I was exposed to 4-H, lessons, horse shows, and various other things, but by sheer luck I read about a clinician named Ray Hunt in a Western Horsemanship magazine. Mr. Hunt came to Wyoming and I attended his clinic that to this day is a marked turning point for me in regard to my work with horses.

After moving to Hawaii it was clear that resources such as trainers, clinicians, and other information was limited. At that point I took things into my own hands to continue my horsemanship journey. I read books, bought and reviewed videos avidly, wrote out ideas, and most importantly, practiced techniques on my horses. I became a worker bee dedicated to the horse. I learned so much by just spending time with the horses. They told me what the right answer was.



Recently I've been fortunate to work with Leslie Desmond who inspired me with her magical-like work with horses. I know that my journey has taken me to a place where I'm ready to go to another level in my own horsemanship.

I encourage you to pursue your dream in whatever path you choose with "feel."



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