COLLECTION

by Jackie Roeser

Each step of a barrel racing horse's training is intended to lead to flawless turns that are fast and free. For the horse to develop that turn they need to be taught to give their head so the rider can drive the horse's hind end up under them and keep it there with their legs. When a horse gives their head the rider can begin to lift up their back with their legs and begin to teach the horse *collection*.

From the beginning of a young horse's career it is important to teach that horse to give their head at the poll when pressure is applied to the reins or to give their head to the side when asked. At Roeser Ranch we start in the round pen by bitting up our horses so they learn to move forward into the bit and give their heads. When we bit up a horse,

we use a snaffle bit and tie the reins behind the cantle of the saddle tight enough that the horse gives his head to the pressure of the bit and cannot toss his head in the air. Then we move them forward in the round pen first at a walk, then a trot and eventually a lope. It does not have to be done fast. You want the horse to learn to be comfortable and relaxed moving around you in the round pen without you being on their back. Once they have learned this, we ask them to turn into the fence, collecting their bodies, and turning off their pivot foot. This step is the beginning of a horse learning to collect for a turn by moving their shoulders across the turn, placing the inside

CT TRACER
2003 Futurity Champion – 2004 Derby Champion – Pro Rodeo Horse

ABOUT

Jacklin (Jackie) Roeser was born in 1955 in Gooding, ID to Elmer and Ruth Ellen Parke. She started showing horses in 4-H and then rodeos through college. After graduating college in 1977, Jackie started a 20-year teaching career and she once compared teaching children to training horses saying it was about the same… "both require patience and individualized methods." She was married in 1979 to Dan Roeser, the son of Idaho Rodeo Hall of Famer, National Finals Rodeo bareback and saddle bronc rider, and

National Reined Cow Horse Hall of Famer-Jim Roeser (who pointed her in the direction of horse training). She continued a successful barrel racing career for several more years earning many championship awards; then after the birth of their daughter, Annie in 1984, they bought a place and started training barrel racing horses and cow horses. To date, Jackie and Dan have bred and trained 22 barrel racing futurity and derby champions that have gone on to win at the amateur and pro rodeo level. Jackie continued to rodeo from 1990–2009 at the pro rodeos in the Northwest and California.

In 30 years training horses she has only bought 7 early in her career and 2 most recently. "I always ride mares because of their heart and try and for breeding purposes." Some of Jackie's favorite horses include Azure Bid, Fantastic Rocket, Sovereign Judgment, Circles Top Illusion, Miss Might Flight, Jimmy Some Sugar, and CT Tres (a daughter of Circles Top Illusion). She is currently training 3 more she is hoping will make it to the winners circle especially one, Easy Movin Chic (a granddaughter of Circles Top Illusion).

Besides the barrel racing horses Jackie has trained, she and Dan have built a horse training stable with customers from Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. Dan has become a nationally known reined cow horse trainer who serves on the National Reined Cow Horse Board of Directors. He is also a past president of the NRCHA, Idaho AQHA, and the IRCHA. Besides Dan's numerous rodeo winnings and championships, he has won numerous NRCHA and AQHA awards. They have also created a breeding program where they have stood up to 7 stallions in a breeding season. Jackie and Dan have said, "Our life style of training and showing horses has not always been easy, but it has been rewarding. We have built our business ourselves, we have been our own boss, and we have been rewarded by the true friends we have made along the way."

Above: **MISS MIGHTY FLIGHT**
4TH IN COLUMBIA RIVER CIRCUIT 1998, 1999
Below: **JIMMY SOME SUGAR & Annie Roeser** (daughter)
1998, 1999 Futurity/Derby Champion, High School & Pro Rodeo Horse

hind foot up underneath them for an easy turn, and to push off that pivot foot.

By teaching our horses this first step, we avoid head throwing and hollowing out of the back. This leads a horse to easily learn to backup. Once they have learned to give their head they can be taught to collect their back end, pick up their shoulders, and move their hip off the rider's leg to start learning to stop and collect for a turn. It is important for a barrel horse to learn to keep the forward motion when they collect and that is why we also teach them to ride up into our hands. All of this is done in a forward motion pushing with the back legs and moving the shoulders across and around the barrel.

When a young horse is started on the barrel pattern it is all about teaching the horse where to place his feet; and because I am not fighting with the head I can spend my time moving the hips with my legs and their shoulders with my hands and legs. These important first steps come into play when you need to correct a habit that might form from a horse getting sore, lazy, or thinking they know more than the rider. I can go back to the basics and fix the way the horse might have started using their body like dropping their shoulder or hollowing out their back.

Keeping a horse's back rounded also helps when a horse is on bad ground. If you watch a barrel race on bad ground, those horses that have learned to stay up under themselves with their shoulders up can get around the barrels without slipping or falling down. Most of the time when a horse goes down it is from a dropped shoulder or a horse being strung out behind.

It has been debated over the years by barrel racers whether a horse that has been taught to bridle up is too broke. Many successful barrel horses have not been taught to bridle up, but for me the benefits of teaching my barrel horses collection have been an integral part of their development.

Jackie

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