

About Holistic Horsemanship Training Methods

With nearly twenty years of experience working with a wide range of horses, I have developed and use my own training methods based on my experiences with horse herds and individual horses. I work with the psychological and physiological challenges a horse may have all while developing the desired skill set in each horse.

The concepts in Holistic Horsemanship Academy™ are taught daily in lessons, clinics and Master Classes at Holistic Horsemanship, LLC. Education about the horse is intertwined with the riding styles I teach: English and Western Dressage, Jumping, Trail Riding, and Easy-Gaited Riding. It allows students of all ages and experience levels to understand why they face personal equestrian challenges and allows them to reach their riding and training goals.

The critical underlying concept in all of my work is that:

**To the horse, the person should be seen as another horse in the herd,
rather than as a potential predator.**

There is an entire art to accomplishing this to the fullest extent possible with a horse. This concept will be better explained and applied throughout the Academy, along with the key components listed here.

The key components to my training methods are:

- Determining a horse's specific physical and psychological needs and meeting them based on the horse's place in the herd hierarchy, life experiences, current situation, and their personality. When a horse's needs are met, they can truly come into their own and meet their full potential.
- Being a firm, but gentle trainer with measured, non-violent responses to each horse's thoughts and actions based on their background and initial assessment.
- I am an all inclusive trainer: While there are key distinctions between breeds, the bottom line is that the "modern horse" as we know horses to be, is a 10,000 year old species. Human impact through creation of different breeds has not significantly altered the basal instincts or thought processes of the modern horse.
- I am not a text book or recipe-based trainer. If a step-by-step recipe is followed, horses and riders often end up frustrated and unhappy with the results. Horses are unique individuals and each has their own concerns that require customization in handling. My goal is always to provide horses and their riders with the tools they need to take their partnership to the next level.