

# *Whispering Hills llc* **NEWSLETTER**

January, 2021

## Happy New Year! Winter time tricks, Lunge lessons, Warm and Round.



Your horse is a Mirror of you and your abilities, strengths and weaknesses.



### **What Do I do With My Horse?! It's Freezing!**

Teaching your horse tricks is one of the most fun ways to bond with your horse.

We teach our horses tricks. Many of you have seen the smile trick and the come to me mounting trick. Kensey has taught Dually how to shake, say “No”, smile and he lays down. Ricoh shakes, bows, gives you a leg up, lays down

and much much more. Bravo knows how to put his head down and keep it there and come to the mounting block from far away.

You can teach your horse tricks and have a better understanding of how they learn. Whatever trick you want them to learn, you must have a clear target of what your trick should look like then break it up

---

into pieces. The most complicated tricks are a series of other more easier tricks. For example: The bow. Depending on how you ask your horse to bow it will start differently. The way shown in this picture the bow starts with the head lowering. The first stage of the trick would be to ask the horse to lower his nose to a certain point on his leg like his knee. Using a small treat of your choice, as your horse lowers his head toward his knees or even down you would say a quick , “YES!” and give him a



treat. Repeat this until he can consistently get to your first target. All the while you keep in mind the main target below. Next after your horse has completed the first target make a second and so on until you get to your overall target.

Training, and trick training is all a series of asking a question and rewarding the correct answer. When they get the answer incorrect sometimes we merely don't give them a treat (A neutral operant) or we can use negative reinforcement to quicker mold their behavior for

quicker results. Horses learn the best with positive reinforcement. This is the model BF Skinner studied in 1948. It is called Operant Conditioning. To learn more about **Operant Conditioning** Click [here](#). This is a very good article with videos that I often reference. I love how the pigeons can become gamblers just as humans can, because of Scheduled Reinforcement. Have you ever been a pigeon in Las Vegas!? ☺ Trick training is training and it is a great way to understand why your horse may be reacting to situations as you ride. Everything I train a horse to do is done with Operant Conditioning. My horses learn how to learn. As they do this, they are more, “In the game” with me. The game of learning ... they then will give me their effort to learn what it is I am asking of them. You don't always have to use treats, you can use any reward and it can be a scheduled reward just like in Las Vegas. If you would like to start some training tricks and need some help to get started, you can schedule a trick training session with Jennifer. Some of this topic will be discussed in Group lessons.



## Round a Warm

The round pen is up and it is equipped with a heater in the center. It is just enough to take off the chill. Thank you Ron !!!!

---

## Lunge Lessons

You may have had the opportunity to have a lunge lesson and some of you may have never heard of them. Lung lessons (Longe in Europe) are lessons that you take that require you to



have a lesson with someone on the ground holding a lunge line. The rider will not have the reins. *Lunge lessons are a wonderful thing* for a few reasons. They are a lesson in balance, strength and trust. [Here](#) is an article about the Spanish Riding School and their lunge (longe) lessons.

When I give lunge lessons, they can be on your horse or one of our school horses. The horse is fitted with side reins so that they carry themselves correctly so the rider can learn to balance on a balanced horse. The rider can learn many things about themselves. A few things they may learn about may be their level of trust, the trust of the horse, themselves, their riding ability and sometimes even the trust they have in their instructor and other humans.

Many times the rider will learn about their **limitations** within their bodies. Some riders will feel that they can twist easier to the right than to the left, others will feel themselves weighting one side over another and losing balance when they don't have stirrups.

Strength is another measure that will show up. Loss of **strength** in the core is mostly what shows up. We learn that we tend to ride relying on the reins more than we ever imagined. When you take a lunge lesson you will learn many stretches and strengthening exercises and more, that will help your riding no matter what discipline you do. If you would like to schedule a lunge lesson contact Jennifer. In February's newsletter we will be talking more about strength in the saddle.

## Around the Farm:



The Sues have been thinking in the box and outside of the box!



Tara >  
<Daisy  
Tucker  
And  
Kensey  
Bravo >





## Saddle Racks

*(Reminder Page)*

There are a couple of fold down saddle racks around the barn, Look for them to hold your saddle while you get your horse ready.

We are asking that your items be marked with your or your horse's **name** (s). Please put a bridle tag on your bridle. **Mark** your brushes, halter and rope etc.. ( Perhaps a magic marker or tag.) We have some great people but we all get confused as to whose stuff is whose... If it's not marked and it is in a common area... It is fair game. :)



marked with your or your horse's **name** (s). Please put a bridle tag on your bridle. **Mark** your brushes, halter and rope etc.. ( Perhaps a magic marker or tag.) We have some great people but we all get confused as to whose stuff is whose... If it's not marked and it is in a common area... It is fair game. :)

An easy place to get a tag is a pet tag at PetSmart. Or anywhere online.

## Group

Saturday **group** Clinic will continue to be at the time of 2:00 on Saturday until further notice. I will send out a text and email those that are interested in the group clinic. Text me if you have questions. 970-640-3726

## Construction!

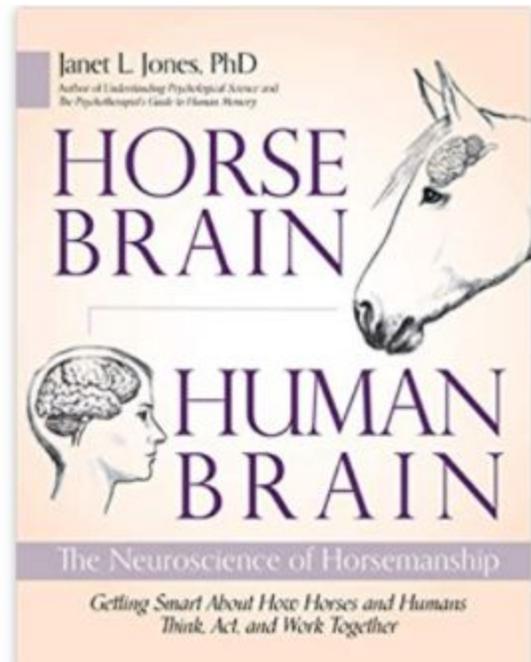
Ron got the round pen back up! Yay. Ron has also put in much needed new fencing on the North pens. Sterling and Hank were good boys not to walk away! He has also kept many things operating on the farm such as the beloved pellet stove in the tack room, the Ranch Rat Truck and the 4 wheeler. It's a never ending process. He does all this and is kicking butt selling homes too!

---

## Group Discussion: How to refocus a horse that keeps shying at an object.

*Horse sense is the thing a horse has which keeps it from betting on people.* WC Fields.

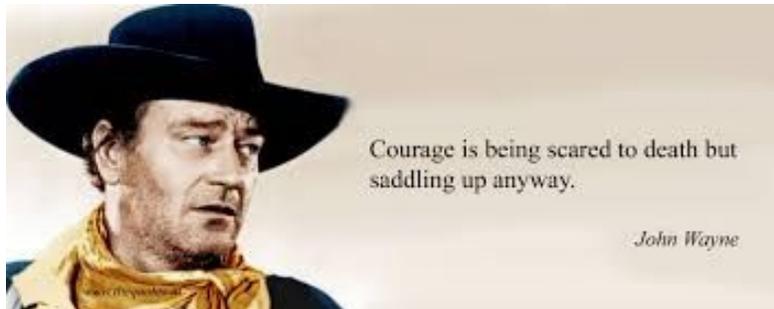
Sometimes the winter brings out only the crazies! The last couple of groups we have had few and fewer riders... and yes, that is ok, it is cold! Those that do come out and play, are noticing that their horses will act differently in the colder weather. They are more awake and more aware. I have been reading a book called Horse Brain, Human Brain. In this book PhD Janet Jones discusses why horses may react to things that seem so benign to us. She first discusses that **the horse does not see like we do**. They have a more FUZZY view of the world and they have less access to depth of objects. Along with that they have an amazing sense of smell and hearing. They usually are not wrong when they are sensing DANGER and not wanting to go to the area that may lead them to be eaten. (Like the corner of the arena by Forrest Jump.) What Dr. Jones suggests that we take all of this into consideration, and stop assuming that the horse senses and sees things like we do. She states that they are usually not wrong when it comes to knowing about things that are lurking in the woods. She tells a story about a horse that wouldn't go into a small wood by their farm. The owner hired a trainer to get the horse to go into the woods, after several minutes the horse did comply with the trainer, who soon agreed with the horse that they should not go in the woods when she saw a **bear!** So, moral of the story, listen to your horse, advise them that it is probably ok but consider they are better at listening and smelling and just may know what they are doing!



If we do want them to relax, she says that we should let them look at it for a bit. The reason is because they can then focus their slow focusing eyes on the area and get a good look. We should let them look out of one eye if they want and give them a good while to focus. Then we should proceed with our work and encourage them to accept the situation but never force it on them as it will make the situation worse.

---

This weekend we did experience a thoroughbred mare that was very uptight. I told the owner that her target went from a refined vision of relaxation through the back and flawless leg yields, to just staying in the arena! Yes, we must adjust our minds' vision. Some days we get the lesson we want and some we get the lesson our horse needs. In this case, after the mare had had a long look at the scary forest, we put her to work placing her toward objects in the arena and changing directions often. Yes, we put her brain to work on a new problem switching her from the reactive right brain to the thinking and reasoning left side of the brain. It helped her a lot, she settled a bit. Some days you have to just say, "There is another ride, another day."



## Farrier:



Pete will return *January 12th and again in two weeks.* There is a schedule posted outside the tack room. Check it and please mark on it and make notes if you have information about your horses farrier dates or want to set up a time with Pete the next time he is here shortening horses.

We schedule Pete Degraw as a courtesy of Whispering Hills llc. If you need your horse to see Pete and don't think they are on the schedule, please let us know. You can call or text Pete or Jennifer as well. 970-596-2520 As always you can use any farrier you like. Please arrange to have your horse ready for Pete or be there to hold them.

---

## Veterinarian. Teeth floating.

Dominic Carrica was here dulling down our equine friend's teeth on *December 16th* We may be having the equine dentist to the farm again soon so if you need anything done, either in the way of teeth, or other health or maintenance please let us know so we can combine the Vet call.

Dominic will be out again to do teeth around **March or April** and any **Spring shots** Will be done by Dominic or John Harris or a vet of your choice. If you need your horse's teeth done or looked at let us know right away. If you do not have an account with Amigo Animal Clinic you will need to call them and set up an account. Please let them know you were referred by Jennifer Weber of WH and that the horse is at 2269 J Road, But... that the horse is yours and to be billed directly to you. Whispering Hills LLC provides our clients with at least two yearly Farm call vet exams. HELPING OUR CLIENTS help their horses.

## Gate Reminder!

Please make sure **gates are** locked and **chained**, AND have the **ELECTRIC FENCE ACROSS THE GATE !!**  
**Always!**

Don't let them out... *no matter what they tell you!*



## Learning to tie. Tying one on and keeping them there! (Repeat for those of you that missed it. May you not need to hold your horses!

Learning to tie can be one of the most difficult things about being around a horse. I have made [this video](#) in hopes to help. Here is also another [Youtube video](#). I add another twist that I have learned to better secure the rope.





## Ulcers.

Following the information about what to feed in the last newsletter, we will be talking about ulcers and how they start and affect our horses. Kim Maurin is researching the topic and will have more information for us.

[Here](#) is a short video about some possible signs of ulcers. Stay tuned for more information.



You may have noticed that we put out bales of hay when it got really cold. This is good for a few reasons, one it keeps the horses gut full which keeps them warm, two it helps keep them busy and not bored and it helps keep down the stomach acid. The problem is.. We can't do it all the time because they went through three bales in about 7 days!! Oh boy, do they love a buffet! We are now experimenting with the three boys up front and using a slow eat net around the bale. The last bale took the three boys 9 days to devour it. We will see how long it takes them with the net.

## Missed a Newsletter?

**They are all posted on the Whispering Hills Website !**

[www.whstables.com](http://www.whstables.com)

Whispering Hills LLC

Training, Boarding and Lessons  
2269 J Road Grand Junction, Co 81505

Let us help you enjoy your equine partner.

Contact us now BY PHONE!  
970-640-3726

Directions to the Farm

HOME

ABOUT

Whispering Hills the Property

LESSONS

CLIENTS

CONTACT

Congratulations!  
Western Dressage World and RMDS Regional Winners!  
Proud of You all !!

**Judi Devore-**

Grand Champion RMDS 1st level Freestyle  
Grand Champion Region 5 GAIG 1st level freestyle  
Reserve Champion 1st level Region 5 GAIGNationals  
Bound

**Krista Nobilo**

Level 2 Test 1 = 3rd place  
Level 2 Test 2 = 1st place  
Level 2 Test 3 = 1st Place  
Level 2 Test 4 = 1st Place  
Musical Freestyle Level 2 Adult Amateur = Reserve  
Champion  
Overall Level 2 Adult Amateur Champion

**Darby Savoca-**

4th in Level 1 Test 1  
3d in level 1 Test 2



See our website for more updates. [www.whstables.com](http://www.whstables.com)