

# Savvy Times

Welcome to the Journey! Issue 18, February 2008

International Savvy Club Magazine

Learn how to make  
your own carwash for  
less than you think Page 32

What to do (and not do!)  
with your horse Page 14

Are you prepared  
for a horse health  
emergency? Page 38

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# MAJOR EQUESTRIAN

How good does your horse want you to get? Learn about the four specific areas you need to become skilled in, both on the ground and when riding and how to get there step-by-step. The focus is on developing you as a Horseman, who can prevent and solve your own problems, know how to teach horses... someone who would even impress the horse!

## SESSION THREE – Reveal The Truth

*The Challenging Horse Demystified*



Pat Parelli takes a challenging horse and solves problems using the principles he's become famous for. Reading the horse, revealing the Horsenality, developing trust on the ground first. This is a transformation you don't want to miss!

## DAY 2 10:00-4:00pm

# Day 2

### A Savvy Club Exclusive, MEMBERS ONLY EVENT:



(New members from Day One are welcome to attend too) Savvy Club Members and their Guests (with Buddy Passes) attend Day 1 and 2 for FREE!

*"By revealing your horse and discovering your potential... you WILL live your dream." —Pat Parelli*

Gain new insights and understandings up close and personal with Linda & Pat Parelli. This day is completely devoted to the dedicated student and features Pat and Linda's top and upcoming young horses.

- Learn more about Horsenalties
- Understand The Four Savvy's: On Line, Liberty, FreeStyle, Finesse
- Know what Levels 1-2, Levels 3-4 are all about and how they can help you get to where you want to go.
- Problem Solving: Examples will vary — impulsion / troubleshooting in the Seven Games / leads and lead changes / collection, etc.
- Free Seminar Workbook

## 2008 TOUR DATES

### NORTH CAROLINA

Williamston, Feb 9-10  
Senator Bob Martin Eastern Ag Center

### ARKANSAS

Little Rock, March 1-2  
Arkansas State Fairgrounds Complex

### NORTH CAROLINA

Fletcher, March 29-30  
Western NC Ag Center

### MASSACHUSETTS

W. Springfield, April 12-13  
Eastern States Exposition

### PENNSYLVANIA

Harrisburg, April 19-20  
PA Farm Show Complex & Expo Center

### OREGON

Redmond, May 10-11  
Deschutes Fair & Expo

### MONTANA

Billings, May 17-18  
MetraPark

### COLORADO

Denver, June 21-22  
National Western Complex  
Events Center

### WISCONSIN

Madison, July 12-13  
Alliant Energy Center

### ARIZONA

Prescott, July 19-20  
Tim's Toyota Center

### MISSOURI

Kansas City, Sep 20-21  
American Royal Center

### TEXAS

Ft Worth, Sep 27-28  
City of Fort Worth  
Will Rogers Memorial Center

### FLORIDA

Jacksonville, Oct 18-19  
Jacksonville Equestrian Center

▶▶ New Tour  
in 2008!



PAT PARELLI



LINDA PARELLI

## Why do thousands of horse lovers give up?

They get frustrated, hurt, criticized and pressured.

And the horse is often given the blame... He's crazy, lazy, unpredictable, undependable, stubborn, dangerous...

**Invest just ONE DAY** of your life to see how **EVERYTHING** you've dreamed of and want to do with your horse can be accomplished without force, fear or frustration—  
for both you and your horse.



PROBLEM SOLVING



ADVANCED HORSEMANSHIP

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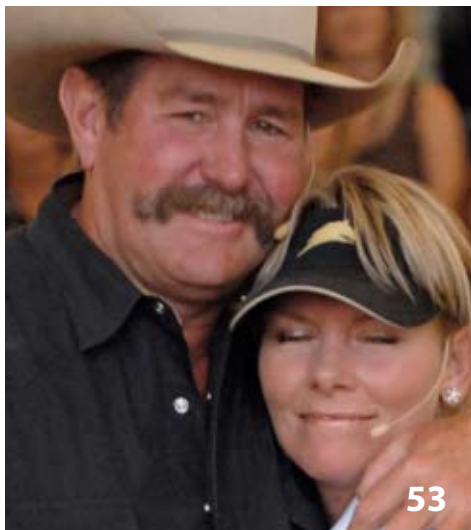
Reserve your tickets now at:  
**WWW.PARELLI.COM**  
**1-800-642-3335**



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# Savvy Times



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## FEATURES

### 5 | Taking Matters into her own hooves

It's a great feeling when your horse follows your leadership and accomplishes a task. It is another feeling altogether to have your horse start the task without you. "I didn't think much about it until... she began moving backwards between the poles."

### 14 | Horsenality Do's and Don'ts

If you have tried to figure out who your horse is or what your horse needs using the Horsenality Profile, don't forget the keys to understanding your equine friend. Linda Parelli gives the ins and outs of how both you and your horse can improve your relationship every time you are together.

### 53 | Dear Friends

What an incredible 2007 Savvy Conference! If you were unable to attend this year, or maybe you did attend, relive the special moments and memories with Linda Parelli. Linda recaptures the excitement and energy of this spectacular event.

### 67 | The Road to the Savvy Conference

The journey continues with Atwood Ranch Naturally and the Parelli Preschool Program. Follow Kalley through the development and progressive events that brought the Atwood yearlings to the 2007 Savvy Conference.

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**On the Cover:**  
Linda Parelli and  
Remmer at the  
Florida Parelli Center



*It's not about disposable horses...*

*It's about relationships for life.*

*It's not about quick fixes and artificial aids...*

*It's about savvy—true understanding and expertise.*

*It's not about winning and others losing... It's about win-win:*

*you and the horse need to feel good about it.*

*It's not about me me me... It's about changing the world  
for horses, becoming a person of knowledge and influence,  
and sharing what you know.*

*It's not about fear and doubt... It's about unconditional love*

*and trust. Love for the empowerment of others;*

*and trust, that you'll never ask the horse to do something*

*that would hurt or diminish his dignity.*



Reveal your horse. Discover your potential. Live your dream.

## Savvy Times

**Parelli International Savvy Club™ Magazine**

**Issue 18, February 2008**

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**Taking Matters**  
into *her own hooves*

by Darin Gabbert

The story of how a little  
incentive goes a long way for  
a Left Brain Introvert...

by Darin Gabbert

I have had a great breakthrough with my horse over the last week. She is really becoming more interested in doing liberty. Last week, I was doing a pre-flight check at liberty; as I was standing on the near side in Zone 3, I reached up to put my hand on the saddle and before I could get my hand up to the saddle, Cookie (my appendix Quarter Horse who will be seven y/o in April) started to side pass towards me! She and I had been doing that with a Carrot Stick, but this was the first time that I had seen her do it without a stick. I was so happy that I immediately got a biscuit out and gave it to her, which I have come to realize was her intention all along. This week, Cookie has been very focused when we do liberty, but yesterday was completely different than anything she's done before. After an initial warm up at liberty, I went to the center of the indoor arena and sat on a mounting block. Cookie followed me over and waited, as I thought of things we should do. Apparently, I was not getting her biscuit out of my pocket quickly enough, because she moved off to my left toward some ground poles laid ten feet apart. I didn't think much about it until she turned around and looked at me. As soon I looked at her, she began moving backwards between the poles, this from about 15 feet away from where I was sitting. She got about half way down the line and stopped, seeming confused, so I wiggled my stick at her and she caught the hint and finished backing through the poles. She looked at me, staying where she was until I put my hand in my pocket. Seeing that, she knew of course that her treat was coming and she walked back over to get her reward. I was floored!!!

***I figured that I wasn't getting her biscuits out of my pocket quickly enough to suit her, so Cookie had taken matters into her own hooves. I decided to see what she would do next, so I waited on the mounting block and didn't ask her to do anything.***

After three or four minutes, Cookie walked back over to the poles and turned around. Taking this as a sign that she was ready to do something else, I decided I wanted her to go put her nose on a cone, about twenty feet to her left. When she started to back through the poles, I raised my hand to get her attention and she stopped. I pointed to the cone, but she thought that I wanted a side pass and she began to side pass through the poles. She side passed through the poles before I could stop her so I gave her a biscuit anyway. After she had finished the second biscuit, I sent her back to the poles, where she again turned to face me, without my having to ask. She waited for me to tell her what to do and I pointed to the cone once more. She tried to do the side pass between the poles again, but I stopped her before she got up a head of steam. I pointed to the cone again, and she looked, but seemed confused. She looked around



*Cookie is now initiating new things to do on her own*



and moved her feet back and forth as she was trying to figure out what I was asking, so I pointed at the cone again and she stopped her fidgeting and looked where I was pointing. As soon as she saw the cone, she knew what I wanted and went straight to the cone and put her nose on it, looked back, and seeing my hand go into my pocket, came back for her biscuit. About this time, my friend came in with her new horse (a Tennessee Walker) and I helped her with some issues that she's having with mounting. Cookie went around the arena, keeping herself interested, by tasting the various jumps and cones scattered throughout. After 5-7 minutes, I looked to see where Cookie had gotten off to, and found her on the far side of a jump that was about 30 feet away. As she saw me looking at her, her head came up and she looked at me with intention. I figured that I would try to get her to come to me by going over the jump (2 feet high) so I tapped my Carrot Stick on the ground in front of me. Cookie immediately saw the opportunity for another biscuit and didn't even think twice about what I wanted her to do. She knew that I wanted her to come over the jump, and I could see her thinking about how best she might do so. She thought about stepping over and began to try it, but didn't like that option; so, without hesitation, she jumped over the pole, light as a feather. I was in my pocket for her biscuit before she landed! Cookie has always been an easy horse to get along with, even though she's sometimes less than enthusiastic about putting much energy into our playtime. What has really been an eye-opener for me is to see how SHE is now initiating new things to do in order to get a biscuit out of my pocket. Yesterday, she took tasks that we had done in other places (backing through the poles) but hadn't done for a while, and did them herself, knowing that I would give her a biscuit if she did.

I am SO happy!  
D.



# A Horsemanship Experience BIGGER Than Anything You've Ever Dreamed...

## Pat Parelli Centers COLORADO & FLORIDA

Additional information on courses can be found at [www.parelli.com](http://www.parelli.com) or by calling 1-800-642-3335 (USA)

Remember: Savvy Club members receive 35% off!

### 2008 FLORIDA

Course 1: Liberty & Horse Behavior  
Jan 27–Feb 8, Mar 16–28,  
Oct 26–Nov 7

Course 2: Fluidity I—Freestyle Feb 10–22,  
Mar 30–Apr 11, Nov 9–21

Course 3: Fluidity II—Finesse Feb 24–Mar 7,  
Apr 13–25, Nov 23–Dec 5

### 2008 COLORADO

Course 1: Liberty & Horse Behavior  
May 18–30, Jul 6–18, Aug 24–Sep 5

Course 2: Fluidity I—Freestyle Jun 1–Jun 13,  
Jul 20–Aug 1, Sep 7–19

Course 3: Fluidity II—Finesse Jun 15–27,  
Aug 3–15, Sep 21–Oct 3

Current course availability can be found at [www.parelli.com](http://www.parelli.com).





# Global Community

Reader submissions from around the world

## United States

### Savvy Enough to Read His Signals

Dawn Skeim, Georgia, USA

I had only seen Parelli on RFD-TV and was not really sold on the idea. On a whim, my daughter and husband submitted an application for our QH Skip to be a demo horse in Perry, GA in 2006. To our surprise and delight, he was accepted! I really didn't think Skip was that bad, just some annoyances to be worked out. Pat brought out behaviors in Skip that I didn't even know were there! (If you were in Perry, you know what I mean).

Pat recommended a Level 4 Parelli instructor play with Skip for a while. Unable financially to do that at the moment, I decided to tackle Skip myself. I took what Pat said to heart and did not ride him for about a month, just lots of playing the Seven Games and establishing a relationship with him. He has come a long way, while not "officially" through Level 1, we have moved on to some Level 2 things and even took Skip to a 3 day, Dan Thompson clinic in late March 2007. Many people there had seen Skip in Perry and were glad to see our progress and that I had not given up on him.

*I have a much better relationship with my horse(s), and am Savvy enough to read his signals and know when to say "not today!"*

If not for Parelli I probably would have sold Skip, or be using him as a "pasture pet" since my confidence in him was getting to such a low point. I still have days of frustration, and days that I hope to ride and end up only doing groundwork, but that's OK! I have a much better relationship with my horse(s), and am Savvy enough to read his signals and know when to say "not today!"

I look forward to continuing with the Parelli system to share LOVE, LANGUAGE, & LEADERSHIP with my horses and to spread the message of the Parelli system with other horse lovers who may be skeptical (like I once was).

## Canada

### Skittish to Skittles

Karen Sundquist, Sherwood Park, AB, Canada

I got involved in Parelli about a year and a half ago because of a couple of fillies I bought at an auction. Actually, it was one in particular I was desperate to find help with. I named her Skittles the second day I had her because she had jumped the fence to get into the pasture with my other horses. Her comfort zone was about 60 feet at that point (skittish ... Skittles), so I had a heck of a time trying



Top: Skittles & Karen, Bottom: Skittles and Karen & Indy

to get her back into her paddock with the other filly. Now, her chest was torn from jumping the barbwire and I had no way of treating her. OH MY GOODNESS, what had I gotten myself into?!?!? Fortunately, the cut on her chest was low and continually draining, so with the help of antibiotics mixed in grain, no infection set in and she healed nicely. But she remained unapproachable. I read just about every natural horsemanship book I could get my hands on and they all provided lots of anecdotal stories and plenty of the "why" behind natural horsemanship, but none of them helped me with the "HOW" Until, Parelli!

Long story short, because of Parelli, I now have a rideable two year-old filly, which has gone from extreme right-brained extrovert to left-brained introvert – with only occasional right-brain behavior (that still baffles me!). She continues to challenge me (as does my other filly, IndyAnna, and two older horses), but the leaps and bounds I've made in my ability to read each horse and react appropriately, has literally changed my life. I earned my Level 1 red string on my mare (Gypsy) last year and am working toward my blue string on her. At the same time I am constantly applying every scrap of knowledge I gain from the Savvy Club and Levels DVDs to the fillies. My goal is to find good homes for each of the fillies in the next year and continue to improve my savvy on my older mare and gelding.

I am really looking forward to getting to Level 3 on both my older horses. Thank you Pat and Linda for your extraordinary gift – the gift that keeps on giving! You have changed my life and made my four horses so much happier as well.

## Australia

### Personal, Horse and Human, Thresholds

Yvette Fenning, Rockhampton, Australia

A few weekends back, I spent eight hours working with my 26 year-old gelding, Mick, helping him to load on a float [trailer] with confidence. After six hours Mick was standing confidently with his front feet on the ramp of the float. As I had not anticipated it taking me quite this long, I had not taken food with me, nor had I accounted for two hours of heavy rain. But neither of these problems stayed me from my task. Mick and I carried on regardless of hunger and level of wetness. The following day I spent another two hours and Mick was able to stand confidently inside the float and have the ramp closed. I admit that at some points I was in tears, and I am sure at some point, Mick was in tears. When I was crying Mick allowed me the time to compose myself again and when I could see he was crying I gave him the time he needed to collect his thoughts again. Together Mick and I went through many of our own personal thresholds that weekend and it was completely emotionally exhausting for the both of us.

Fortunately, I have the greatest husband in the world, who sat in the paddock with me for every minute of those eight hours and offered me nothing but kindness and encouragement the whole time. Even when completely at the end of my savvy tether, exhausted, drenched through and starving, Andrew urged me to dig deeper and not give up. Andrew is not a 'horsy' person and has very limited knowledge of the Parelli system. But he assured me that he could see the progress Mick and I had made, and urged us to continue.

Many other men would not have had the patience to sit there and watch this slow process of a horse and human working through deeply embedded fears. In fact, I had no idea that my husband had that kind of patience or belief in me. I can't express my gratitude enough to him. Thank you Pat and Linda for giving me the tools and techniques I needed to help my horse and thank you Andrew for giving me the time and belief in me that Mick and I both needed to get through this.

## United Kingdom

### Colourful and Friday

Sally Swiers, North Yorkshire, UK

I am an Event Rider and British Eventing Accredited Coach, from North Yorkshire in England. In 2003 I went on a 10-week course at the Parelli Center, in Florida, training up to my Level 3. When I re-

turned home I started on my two homebred four year olds, Stanhopes Colourful and Stanhopes Good Friday. Putting into practice what I had learnt.

I never used to really enjoy 'starting' horses before Parelli, but I had so much fun playing and establishing a real relationship with them. It was great to have the opportunity to experiment with my own horses and I learnt so much from observing their responses to me.

I played a lot on line and at liberty, I backed them bareback and rode them in the halter for the first three months. I introduced them to jumping on line and took them Cross Country schooling on line at first. I got a few funny looks but that was OK.

I started eventing them both last year at pre novice to gain experience. This past spring they have both upgraded to intermediate in only their second season eventing. Colourful has now won four novice events and was 2nd in his first intermediate. Good Friday has had a 1st, 2nd and 3rd at novice and did her first intermediate confidently.

Both horses have exceeded my expectations, as they were not naturally brave or bold. But with a more natural approach their confidence and ability is growing.



**Colourful & Friday, and Colourful proudly wearing the rug he won at Chatsworth Horse Trials.**



# Be a Parelli Ambassador!

by Norma Safford Vela

***Are you Positive, Progressive and Particularly Passionate about Parelli? Would you like to help Make the World a Better Place for Horses and Humans? Would you like to be an integral part of the Parelli USA 2008 Tour Team, while sharing your Passion for horses AND the Parelli Program? You could be a Parelli Ambassador as Easy as 1-2-3!***

## **What do you have to do?**

We ask that you be an Excellent Representative of Parelli Natural Horsemanship. This would mean that you would dress like a professional and remember Pat's "Ten Qualities of a Horseman" in every interaction – Heart & Desire, Respect, Impulsion, Flexion, Attitude, Feel, Time, Balance, Savvy and Experience. Also remember Pat's definition of a true Horseman's attitude – Positive, Progressive and Natural. A lot of people are good at being Positive and Natural, but sometimes progressive drops off the plate – especially when it comes to computer skills, record-keeping, organization, creating and executing a plan, and internet savvy. These skills are all essential to being progressive in today's world. Here's a chance for you to advance your savvy in more

areas. You'll get support from folks who have these skills and can talk you through any aspect of the process. There are essays about each of the Ten Qualities on the group site and more – but they're only for Parelli Ambassadors!

## **Here's what some of our 2007 Ambassadors said about their experience: –**

*"Parelli has helped me grow personally. I've gained more confidence and assertiveness... I now seek out leadership roles to stretch myself and step out of my comfort zone."—Eleanor W.*

*"Being an Ambassador was not as easy as I thought it would be. But I found that just like the Parelli Program itself, the Ambassador Program is*

a personal growth Program. I had to step outside of my comfort zone and challenge myself to find new ways to make things more interesting for those I was approaching – but it was a lot of fun!”—Shannon & Steve B.

“While serving as an ambassador I felt like part of the Parelli Team. I really enjoyed meeting and speaking to so many different people.”  
—Jack D.

“My growth as a better, more understanding human for my horses carries over to the rest of my life, transforming me as well as my equine partners. As an ambassador, I aspired to be a living example of what this program can do for horses and people.”—JoAnna M.

“Being an Ambassador has been as much of an inspiration to me as any other part of the program. Coming into contact with other horse enthusiasts and seeing their smiling faces is truly a blessing.” —Teresa R.

“Part of what I appreciated so much about the Ambassador program was bringing the Ten Qualities so explicitly into everyday life. Applying

these principles to being with people and organizations, sharing about the Parelli Program and the tour was a wonderful exercise. Becoming conscious of applying these principles in all my interactions – home, work and play – plays a big step to becoming ‘unconsciously competent’ at applying them to all of life.”—DeeDee L.

“I loved the energy that was generated by everyone from the very onset of that first phone call to the continued correspondence. It was a major infusion of positive energy, and I really appreciate everyone I talked to who opened up the door to learning, leadership and fun!”—Pat T.

“The most valuable part of being an ambassador is spreading hope.”—Joy & Joe M.

“I found being an ambassador has helped me develop a long phase one in my life. I try to work, not only with my horse, but also with people in a different way. I allow them to think things over and then ask questions.”—Billie C.

### Steps to become an Ambassador:

1. You **MUST** be a Savvy Club **MEMBER**.
2. Log onto the **SAVVY CLUB** website to **APPLY** – Answer a few questions to help us know more about you. Everyone must go through this process. We choose our Ambassadors based on several criteria, including geographical location, confidence and commitment to the program.
3. Realize that you are Making a Commitment, which involves hard work, time and responsibilities. You’ll need to Take the Time it Takes to **READ** the materials sent to you, **WATCH** the Training DVD, **MAINTAIN** an Ambassador Worksheet of your contacts, and **ATTEND** the Tour event. You must also have **INTERNET ACCESS** and will need to **CHECK IN WEEKLY** at the Ambassadors’ Only Group site.



### What’s in it for YOU?

1. The opportunity to **SHARE** your passion for Parelli with other Horse Lovers.
2. Focus on Your Horsemanship – With the Parelli Attitude of **POSITIVE**, **PROGRESSIVE**, and **NATURAL** as well as applying the Ten Qualities of a Horseman, Eight Principles and Six Keys (now Seven!) to Success, you will have the opportunity to Put Parelli Principles to Purpose! Practice your Feel, Timing and Balance with **PEOPLE** and you’ll see it translate to feel, timing and balance with your horse. You’ll have access to the Ambassadors Only group site, which is loaded with Inspiration.
3. Get to Know Other Parelli People in your area. Many of our previous Ambassadors were delighted to discover new Parelli Buddies and have been able to start Parelli Play Groups!
4. As a **THANK YOU**, we offer Gift Certificates that can be used for Parelli Knowledge and Equipment!



# How I Motivate...

## My Left Brain Introvert

### Tit for Tat

Nicole Ciarrocca, Fairfax Station, VA

My left brained introvert horse, Oakley, is a North American Spotted Draft (a Belgian/Paint cross). I have only owned him since February 2007, and he was sick all summer with Lyme disease, so we haven't done much play. The other day we went trail riding and all of those LBI qualities started to reveal themselves. We would be plodding along just fine when he would just stop for absolutely no reason at all! I would ask him nicely to go forward (by smiling with all four cheeks) and he would turn around and start to head home!

I quickly sifted through all of Linda's advice and came up with "tit for tat". He would say, "I want to turn around and go home!" I would say, "That's fine. We can turn around... and around" until we had made a full circle. I would stop the circle with him pointing in the direction we needed to go, and then I would ask him nicely, again to go forward. I would reach all four phases in the beginning - smiling with all four cheeks, squeezing my legs, tapping the reins on me, then on him. It took some time, not longer than two days (actually, it was only two hours!) and he began to understand. It got to the point where if he stopped, and started to turn, I would have him continue the turn until he said, "Oh! You mean you want to go this way!" By the end of the ride, if he stopped at all, all it took was a "smile" to get him going again. Thanks Linda!

### Playing On the Ground

Dania Fadeley and her partner George

I will start out with simple obstacles like sideways over a barrel, or squeezing into a trailer or under a tarp just to start some communication before really getting him amped up. I do quite a bit of stopping at objects while on a circle. I am not particular about the first few sends and stops, but after he starts asking questions, the game begins of how little energy I put out so that he offers to move. Slow Phase 1 and quick 2,3,4 really gets him moving.

I quickly move onto something else once he's stopping and going at light phases. We'll go sideways without a fence, falling leaf, jumping over obstacles, whatever I can think of. By this time my poky ol' quarter horse is offering to canter (which usually looks like a chore, on the forehand and on the wrong lead) on his hind end and collected, even suspended. AND his ears are glued to me.

He comes in for a treat and quickly puts his head down for some grass, like the fireworks never happened.

One very special and most important note: Whenever he asks a question he almost always wants to come in and I ALWAYS ALLOW

HIM! He goes out with his ears glued to me, and offers so much more. It's real incentive, as well as, reassurance for him. He can become RB extrovert at the drop of a hat if pressure is put on him at the wrong time and I have the rope burns to prove it! You might think that he sounds like a RB horse, but he's very clever, always thinking how to get out of work. He's the type of horse who will lie down on trails so you'll get off, or move very slow in between me and other horses when he's not getting attention.

Thank Pat and Linda, been with horses all my life and never had this much fun and understanding!

### King of the Trailer

Karen Greenberg level 3 student

I noticed my friend's young Fjord horse, Fallen, going from easy to load into a trailer to exemplifying Linda's cartoon of LB Introvert; Fallen literally sat down and refused to budge.

I suggested they leave their old step-in trailer locked up in the paddock for the four youngsters to explore on their own. It didn't take long before the horses had invented a game of "King of the Trailer", and self loaded at will. It took very little for us to direct them in and out of their trailer.

I brought my ramp load trailer over and we did a little "put your nose game" with a muck bucket of hay every third time as an incentive for playing the game. When I directed Fallen to the trailer she walked right on and found the hay net full of hay, to her delight. We asked her out and in a few times. Next thing I knew, if we didn't pay attention to Fallen she would self load into the trailer to hang out. Fallen is back to being a star at loading and with a good attitude.

### Feel Like a Winner!

Anne Shelley, Level 3 student, Iowa City, IA

Keep things interesting, set him up for success, reward every try, help him feel like a winner!

It can be difficult some days to determine what Bill needs: sometimes he is very confident and playful, feels like moving his feet, and needs to have a lot of variety in our play to remain interested. Other times, he is unconfident from the second I bring him into the arena, immediately seeking his "happy place" by going introverted. If the latter is the case, I try to play his favorite games at liberty until he starts licking his lips and asking questions. I feel liberty is my -- and therefore, his -- most accomplished savvy because playing online causes me to act more like a predator because I don't act like the line isn't there! Once Bill starts coming out of his introverted state, I will

play lots of Friendly Game, then start asking for a little more effort through the games, rewarding the slightest try with comfort and cookies. At the end, we both feel like winners!



### Easter Egg Hunt

**Jerry Wald and Banjo, Yukon, Canada**

I was amazed when I saw the Horsenality Chart and then started to chart Banjo to find out his Horsenality. I found out why my fast paced excitable self wasn't the best strategy for him. Well, since then I needed to be more aware of a loooooooong Phase 1 and a more intriguing Phase 2,3,4.

I also discovered that a horse Easter egg hunt was in order. What I do sometimes is setup a course in the woods for him then whistle and he comes a running. I play the traveling Circling Game on our way to the bush and he just happens to run into a pile of cookies... hmmm how interesting. When we get to the bush I have setup a Squeeze over a log and then I back him up between two trees and PRESTO a pile of carrots...hmmm this seems like a good idea. Then I let him lead and we get to a small bush and under the bush are some apples cut up...hmmm this guy is great to hang out with. Then we play Porcupine by pulling only one hair on his tail and I pulse my

hands and move his fore quarters near a bank. Then I Porcupine his neck down and bingo a small pile of grain. It takes about an hour to hang out and get through the course, but he and I enjoy it so much. I then ride him back bareback (which I need a lot of practice on anyway). I have to make it interesting 'cause right now it's 20 -25 below zero and I can't ride him too hard or play too hard because of the cold, but this is relaxed and fun. Sometimes we just ride up the mountain and have a fire with smokies (mini sausages, for those not in the know!) and he has some snacks too. It's the best.

### Happier with his Human

**Anne Gilbey, Australia**

Our journey began three years ago. I am 47, and doing post-graduate studies as well as working full time as a registered nurse.

My previous horses were all pretty tolerant, unflappable, and I am ashamed to say, never caused me to feel the need to think of their Horsenalties or consider their feelings. Then came Clay; a 161/2 hh, four-year-old quarter horse that came from a typical "horsey" family. On the surface everything was great.

We started fine, and then we started to get to know each other.

Clay is smart, realizing his new human had been "out of horses" for a while and was a bit "green". He soon started offering me his hind feet, began biting, reared, struck at me when being lead, barged, invaded my space, and refused to go when ridden. I had no idea what to do with this huge horse with the teenage attitude to match. Then after being introduced to a fellow horsewoman, she decided to loan me the Parelli Level 1 pack. She was also kind enough to assist in me not getting killed by this horse, and suggested we needed a huge change of direction.

I watched the videos, went straight to our local "Horseland" joined up, and bought the necessary tools and went home to "play"...wow. I was still terrified of this horse, but the communication and change began. I have nearly every media item, and written material now, and the latest horse behavior pack has opened new doors. My Left Brained Introvert is still extreme on most of the Horsenality Chart, but the explanations as to what motivates him are fantastic. Through this journey, I have been in hospital for six weeks with five operations for injuries after an explosion because I was tight. My husband won't let me back on him, so we are back to ground.

I was being too critical, and he is a lot happier now his "human" is accepting the horse that turns up on the day, he LOVES food rewards, and the fact that I am a lot more emotionally strong. This is working, and he is doing some lovely groundwork that is no longer a battle. He is looking so "rideable," and I am itching to get back on. I love this journey, and am working towards being the human my horses need me to be.



# Horsenality™

## Do's and Don'ts

by Linda Parelli

*Knowing what makes your horse tick, what's important to him, what motivates, de-motivates, upsets or excites him, is a fantastic key to success with your horse. When you get it right all, or at least most of the time, both of you will be happier and achieve more harmony every time you are together.*

I think about how much my understanding of Horsenalties has impacted my relationship with my horses Remmer and Allure. It's almost magical sometimes and feels so easy. All I have to do is think about their point of view and then present my requests with that in mind. HUGE! And isn't that what Pat has always said...? "Cause your idea to become your horse's idea, but understand your horse's idea first". Looking at things from the horse's point of view has become a lot more defined by the Horsenality Profile because you get to do way more than approach him as a prey animal. Now there's a full bodied character to get to know.

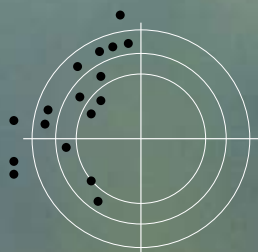
In the following pages, I've tried to give you a guide of Do's and Don'ts for the different Horsenalties. As you get to know them more intimately and notice the slightest changes, this will help you to do the right things more of the time and to adapt your approach and strategies when your horse moves between confident and unconfident, motivated and unmotivated. It is especially valuable if you have a horse that is more complex than average, and is, as we like to say, "all over the chart!"

### DO'S

This is a list of things that are good for each specific Horsenality. This will help keep you focused on what to do in your sessions and how to keep them flowing positively.

### DON'TS

This list should be like a list of warnings. That's because doing them will cause your horse to have problems with you!



*Linda's Trakehner Warmblood, Allure, is the poster boy when it comes to displaying the characteristics of a Left Brain Extrovert Horsenality.*



### Readers write about Horsenality:

Horsenality is so complex. My mare is not just one simple Horsenality, but it seems as if she can be left brain and right brain, introvert and extrovert, at the same time. When I bought her in April 2007, she was very left brain introvert. She did not like to go forward and would buck to prove it. After about two months, she started becoming a left brain extrovert, and she started to like going forward and definitely loving to run. That went on for about three months, and then she started showing signs of right brain extrovert. She would run and run and run, and it was obvious that she was scared. I really had to learn to interrupt her patterns. She has been right brain extrovert now for almost three months. Now, in the last few weeks, she's getting more left brain extrovert again! I enjoy playing with her so much, and I really have to get savvy with the horse that shows up. I think she wakes up in a different part of the corral every morning. She has given me a lot of emotional fitness. If I wasn't doing Parelli, I don't know how I would be able to deal with a new horse every day. I may not even own her, because at first she was such a challenge that I wondered if we were the right match. But now, we have such a strong bond and I love her and her horsenality so much. —Lacey Pelly/age 14, Level 2 student

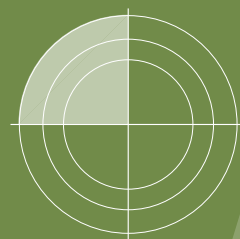
Recently I was spending some undemanding time with my two horses together and was watching them interact. I was trying to guess what mood they were in and if they were acting according to the Horsenality I had allocated to them.

As they played with and annoyed each other, it occurred to me they are very similar to my own two children. The older horse is like my nine-year-old son. Neither expresses themselves very well and both shut down if I ask too much of them or if they find something difficult. My six-year-old daughter is an extrovert who is very comfortable within herself and her abilities, and demands lots of attention but gives plenty in return. This is very similar to my young horse. HOW INTERESTING!!

Therefore the horses tend to interact with each other and with me in similar ways as my kids. Then I went on to the thought process of how differently do I treat the horses and the kids. Being extroverted myself I find it easy to cope with the outgoing, confident family members and struggle to have a binding relationship with the not so confident members.

This became very obvious when my older horse decided that he didn't want to be caught anymore. I had lost any trust he had in me and was worried I might make the same mistakes with my son. I am taking the time it takes to build my relationship with my horse again so that he will become the partner I have always wanted. Hopefully this will teach me the skills for a better relationship with my son, so that we will have a new level of connection and understanding.

Thank-you for giving me the tools for understanding myself, my horses and my family. As well as the techniques to deal with whatever personality/Horsenality shows up anytime so that I can be a great partner for my horses and a great mum and role model for my kids. —Kim Barker, Australia



## LEFT BRAIN EXTROVERT

*This horse is a playful character that needs interesting things to do. He is obsessed with learning and needs variety and new things to keep it fun.*

### DO:

- ✓ Teach him something new at least once a week.
- ✓ Keep sessions active, interesting and playful. Use obstacles, become more imaginative and when he's really playful, increase the pace and get him to do more.
- ✓ Mischief is his middle name; so give him things to do with that busy mind and mouth. This horse loves to play tricks on you, so why not teach him some tricks on purpose?
- ✓ Use long lines – 22' and 45'. Give him room to move!
- ✓ Praise him a lot: rubs and scratches, smiles, laughter... you having fun as well, is very rewarding for this kind of Horsenality.

### DON'T:

- ✗ Bore him with endless, mindless repetition. This guy is smart! When you know he's got it, move on. You can always come back to it and add polish little by little.
- ✗ Slow, calm riding is not really this horse's dream. He wants to be active, go somewhere.
- ✗ Short lines (12') are too confining when playing on the ground.
- ✗ Punish him, ever. He doesn't know he's being naughty; he's just having fun! If he's high-spirited, and you punish him he'll become aggressive. If you end up scaring or suppressing him he'll shut down and crawl inside his shell to save his dignity.

## Readers write about Horsenalities:

*Learning to read and properly respond to my horses' horsenalities has been the biggest breakthrough for us yet!*

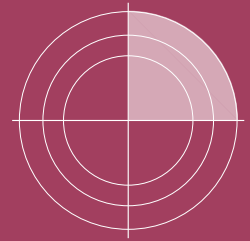
*I found myself challenged by my second horse, an extreme right brain extrovert with some left brain extrovert tendencies. Emmy is eleven years old and still green under saddle. We have been playing our way through the Levels on-line and at liberty. We were making progress, but at times I felt overwhelmed by her extremes.*

*I filled out the horsenality charts for my Levels Partner Mariah. I had to really think back to how she was before Parelli. Her "before Parelli" showed her to be an extreme right brained extrovert with right brained introvert tendencies!! I'd forgotten what we were both like in the beginning. We have come a long, long way. Currently we are officially studying Level 3. She is still primarily right brain extrovert but moderate to mild. Mariah and I are now true partners in all that we do.*

*I gained a whole new perspective when considering my relationship with Emmy. Not so long ago I was thinking I was not the human for her. I'd decided to sell her. Now, empowered by this new knowledge and understanding, I feel confident we too can make this journey together.*

*I lean towards being a right brain extrovert with some right brain introvert tendencies. "My horse is my mirror"...hmmmm how interesting. —Becky Andrew, PA*

*The concept of Horsenalities has completely changed how I play with my horse. I have a nine-year-old TWH mare who alternates between a LB introvert and RB extrovert. Before I started Parelli, I would get frustrated quickly when she was LB because she was very unmotivated and stubborn. When she was RB, I was scared because she was seeking 'the middle of the herd', which meant she was on top of me, literally. Getting the LHB pack and reading about Horsenalities has totally changed my relationship with my horse. I now understand where her behaviors come from and no longer get frustrated or scared. It has enabled me to work as a partner and has taught me the tools I need to get her back to center. The results have been amazing! The more I learn, the more she moves toward a LB introvert. I just can't get over the changes I've seen, and the things that I see now that I didn't see before. As with much of the Parelli program, the information gained from Horsenalities has transferred to my work. I work with men with Autism. Our clients are non-verbal and there's lots of overlap between my horse and work. Learning to be a better observer has taught me to see things in the guys I didn't see before. When behaviors arise, I don't just see the behavior, I see where it comes from, and learn what I can do to set them up for success. —Karen Farnsworth, CA*



## RIGHT BRAIN EXTROVERT

*This horse constantly needs reassurance. He gets confused easily and then gets afraid, so he needs you to make things simple, which will help him relax; especially since that is not something that comes easily for him around humans.*

### DO:

- ✓ Use a lot of consistency, it's calming. For example, circles are great and the more worried your horse is, the smaller you need to make the circles. You could also weave around barrels or buckets placed six-feet apart. Frequent transitions also uses the principle of consistency... keep doing one-rein transitions every few strides, from walk to trot, until your horse refocuses and calms down.
- ✓ Speed up, match the energy and add "four ounces." You need to be asking your horse to go more quickly than he really wants to; this interrupts the fear pattern. If you don't feel safe and confident doing this when riding, get off and do it from the ground. For example, if your horse gets frantic and wants to head to the arena gate, paces at the gate, etc., take him there and get him to pace back and forth faster than he wants to do it! Do it until he relaxes and be ready to start again.
- ✓ Use longer lines when playing on the ground, it will give your horse more drift. (22' is ideal unless you are good with a 45' Line).
- ✓ Respect thresholds; use approach and retreat to overcome them.
- ✓ Keep learning sessions short and simple.
- ✓ Relax when he relaxes. Until then keep your energy up and get your horse busy.

Calming strategies: A Million Transitions; Small circles; Tiny figure eights; Falling Leaf (1/2 circle changes of direction while you walk forwards); Do what he wants, only faster and smaller—"and then some!"

### DON'T:

- ✗ Straight lines help a horse gather speed. You don't want this! Use straight lines only when your horse is more self-controlled.
- ✗ Don't hold him back; this increases fear. Give the energy a focus!
- ✗ On Line is better than Liberty if your horse is upset. That way you can "hold his hand". He'll tend to get lost and disconnected at Liberty.
- ✗ Don't teach your horse more than one thing at a time.
- ✗ Don't try to teach him when he's upset or unconfident. That's the time to use calming strategies.
- ✗ Forcing him over thresholds usually results in an accident.

Make it worse by: holding him back; punishing him; using stronger bits, tie downs, martingales, etc.; being too soft and not matching his energy; not knowing what to do – strong and focused leadership is essential; blasting through thresholds; getting mad or frustrated or scared.

### Readers write about Horsenalties:

The evening my husband and I watched the Horsenality DVD, we recognized the world awakening significance of this concept. By spelling out what natural horsemen know intuitively about how to read and interact with any individual horse, Pat and Linda have enabled our relationships with our horses to soar to a higher level. It sure has had a profound impact on my relationships with my horses.

The most dramatic change was with my eleven-year-old appendix quarter horse mare, who has right brain introvert tendencies. When I got her three years ago, I was told she was a bossy, alpha mare, and she earned the name Saphira (after a dragon). We started playing Parelli style from the beginning, but she was a "difficult" horse, very bracy, high-headed, panicky, and would often lock-up. If a twig would snap a hundred yards away, she would virtually leave the planet! And I was going to ride this beast.

I was just starting the Parelli program (apparently missing the part about picking the perfect partner), and wondered if she was just "too much horse" for me. I had the utmost confidence in the program (especially watching the incredible progress my husband was making with his previously stubborn and defiant, left brain introvert gelding), so we forged on thru the Levels program. We immersed ourselves in all of the Parelli's information and inspiration we could get our eyes on, and played hours and hours each week.

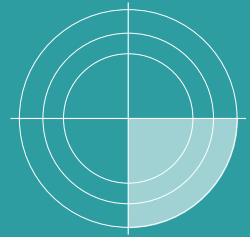
Despite all of this, we got stuck nearing the end of Level Two. I knew there was a trust issue, for both Saphira and me. We had come so far in our relationship, it was already a miracle. I never thought we'd be riding solo around our farm, or bareback, or she'd offer to step sideways to the fence for me to get on even when I wasn't planning it, but we had. She was becoming so soft and calm, I usually just call her Sophie (she's not dragon-like anymore).

Somehow, I wanted more. We still were not confident enough to do what I really wanted, which was trail ride off the farm.

Then, just in the nick of time, came the Horsenality concept with its' complimentary Leadership strategies. We put them to good use immediately, shifting in strategies as she shifts between right brain extrovert and introvert. Within four weeks, I was itching to ride off the farm with her.

I could have guessed it, she (actually, we) came off the trailer in a right brain extrovert mode. We played and then rode with a strong focus, with me matching her energy, and giving her tasks to do. After each back up, side pass, or tree we circled, her head (and my adrenaline) came down. Before I knew it, she was back to her usual mild right brain introvert mode, where I have to be mindful to slow down, and retreat/reapproach. At one point, we even played in the lake, where I just had to occasionally remind her that I was still there. Was this really my horse, who is normally reluctant to step in a puddle? (I'm sure she was thinking, is this really my human?)

Thank you Pat and Linda, for helping me reveal my horse, discover my potential, and live my dream. (P.S. I just passed my Level 2 yesterday!) — Christa Roser, PA



## RIGHT BRAIN INTROVERT

*This shy, timid, shrinking violet avoids pressure by retreating into himself. Success involves going very slowly at first and waiting for him to come out of his shell, to trust more. Pretty soon he'll be offering you more.*

### DO:

- ✓ Wait – wait – wait – WAIT! Ask your horse for something and then wait until he does it or looks at you to ask for clarification or more direction. If you just go through your phases to get him to act when you want, he'll be tense, lose confidence and trust. He may even blow up.
- ✓ Use the tiniest and softest suggestions and wait. This horse sees every little thing you do, sometimes he doesn't respond because his brain is locked up in fear.
- ✓ Be consistent. The Right Brain horse has trouble with change so do simple things with lots of repetition until he's calm.
- ✓ Confidence is everything. If you focus on this, your horse will give you everything else.

### DON'T:

- ✗ Make your horse do things when he's not looking at you. This tells you he's afraid of the pressure you are putting on him. You might not think it's pressure, but you can frustrate this Horsenality with phase 1, simply because you are asking and asking and not waiting long enough for the response.
- ✗ Ask too much. Ask less in the beginning and you'll get more in the end. Don't ask more unless your horse is calm and trusting.
- ✗ Use big phases. You don't need them. He can see you, he just can't think when he's afraid or rushed/pushed.
- ✗ Punish your horse for not doing what you want. Remember, this is fear, and punishment does not make a horse braver.

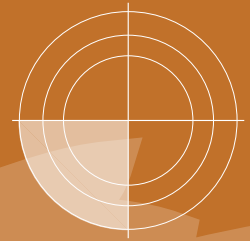
**Readers write about Horsenalties:**

*My horse, Jack, is a LBI with medium to low spirit and is every bit of the Horsenality chart on LBI and completely food motivated. After spending most of my life riding RB horses I found this horsenality very frustrating. I am a detail person, perfectionist, and very direct line. I absolutely love the home study courses and soak up all the new information as fast as I can get my hands on it. Jack, on the other hand, is unimpressed. Currently playing in Level 3, our journey has had its hills and valleys as we navigated through our differences in what our partnership was going to look like... feedback has included biting, bucking, leaving when saddling, as well as, the "you can't make me" look. I have seriously considered moving onto another partnership but in the advent of the newest material and recently attending a Level 3 clinic I have to reevaluate my reasons for doing so. I equated our journey to our family, on a road trip.*

*Ever been on one of those....? First there is the preparation, mapping out the trip, packing the car, arguing who gets to sit by the window etc., but for the most part, everyone is excited and ready to go on an adventure. Loaded up, we head out positive we are going to have a great vacation yet as the trip wears on all the highways and rest stops begin to blend together, the mutiny begins. The family is divided into two camps... some who just want to hurry up and get there and the others, who enjoy the journey. You know the type... they take the side trips to the Biggest Ball of Twine, the World's Double Barreled Cannon and the Cockroach Hall of Fame. The rest of the family can come along and be miserable or can join in on the fun. We still end up spending time together and eventually get to our scheduled destination, albeit a little later than originally planned, but the trip was not a failure. After arriving home, we do not get rid of the family, we actually tell stories recounting our time together with a sense of humor and laughter.*

*By now it is obvious which camps Jack and I fall into. The newest phrase added to my Parelli journey has become "practicing compromise." Isn't that what all relationships are about? Jack is teaching me it is okay to take the side trips and still have our final destination in mind. I am reminded all the negative attributes of LBI also have a positive. He loves new environments. We have been to a beach clinic and were the first ones to canter on the beach. We have galloped with exuberance on wooded trails. Less confident horses have had to stay in the ring as we were free to explore open fields. Our riding arena is 100 acres and some days that seems too small. I would never in my wildest imagination have been able to accomplish these adventures without my dominant, confident, LBI. He has taught me that being creative and imaginative is a necessary part of our relationship. Taking a detour, no sweat, we may not arrive on schedule but we had fun getting there!*

*— Sharon Wootten, Level 3 student, NC*



## LEFT BRAIN INTROVERT

*Welcome to the land of "Why should I? What's in it for me?" This horse reads people like a book. He knows what you want and he's not going to give it to you, unless you treat him right. Even though he appears stubborn or lazy, he's not at all lazy in the mind! Reverse psychology is where it's at, oh... and treats!*

### DO:

- ✓ Use incentive – treats, grazing, rest, scratches, etc. Incentive is not bribing because you'll ask your horse to do something before rewarding him. A bribe is when you use the treat to lure him into doing it. There's a big difference.
- ✓ Ask him to do less than he's offering. It will blow his mind! He'll then start offering more.
- ✓ Give him time to think. He's not a slow thinker; he's just got to stop thinking resistant thoughts before he can be more in tune with you.
- ✓ Variety is important, it makes life interesting.
- ✓ Use more drive than draw.
- ✓ Teach him some tricks. This is fun for both of you and is a good way to make him feel clever.

Likes – variety, rewards and food! Also responds well to going slow, relaxing, eating and doing things that are new and interesting.

Variety: straight lines, point to point, trail rides, obstacles, daily variety, tricks and learning something new.

### DON'T:

- ✗ Make him work. He uses energy only for the things he thinks are fun.
- ✗ Punish him. You'll have a big fight on your hands. This horse is a master intimidator of people when he dislikes them!
- ✗ Push him. He'll have you working harder than him! He's also great at objecting when asked to go faster and usually responds by kicking up, swishing his tail or laying back his ears. Just don't go there. Do the opposite of what he expects.
- ✗ Use much repetition. He cannot see the point in doing the same thing over and over and will lose motivation and respect for you. He's smart. Treat him like he is.
- ✗ Let your horse come to you with his ears back. Send/chase him away until he asks for permission to come to you.
- ✗ Get fooled into thinking that he's lazy. He's just unmotivated by you, so figure out how to make things more interesting?

Big Dislikes – repetition, treated like he's brainless, being rushed, lack of apparent purpose, no time to relax, a boring owner, too much work and not enough play. 🐾



# The 76 Endeavors with Pat Parelli By: Katie Drake

*There's nothing you can't do when the horse becomes a part of you.*



It's early Tuesday morning, and as I walk into the house I see Pat waiting for me. He's graciously agreed to let me interview him before he gets started with his busy day; so I get situated across from him, and pull out my little voice recorder and note pad. What I was supposed to find out from him is what knowledge he wanted people to come away with after his final demo at the 2007 Savvy Conference in Pagosa Springs, CO. For those of you who weren't able to attend, Pat started his demo by polling the crowd for every endeavor they could think of that people did with horses. He then categorized them into four groups, Online, Liberty, Freestyle and Finesse. In a very short amount of time, the crowd had come up with a list of 76 endeavors. Although not an extensive list, it was quite amazing to see all the things they came up with. As I get ready to ask my first question, I've already imagined he'll tell me something about how he wanted to inspire the crowd with all the things they may have never known they could do with their horse. Well, as it is always the case with my Uncle, I expect to learn one thing and he surprises me with something completely different.

What I'm going to share with you next is the conversation I had with Pat that day. It's about the incredible journey you can take with horses when you let them be in charge of the principles and the timeline.

## **What were you thinking about when you were planning this demo?**

The challenge I constantly find is that people tend to get very overly and narrowly focused. While focus is very important, so is scope and depth. One of the questions I get all the time is, "how does natural

horsemanship help me with reining, dressage, cutting, racing or whatever?" The fact is, the Parelli Program is way more than riding. It's based on four separate Savvys, and that's what makes it the greatest foundation program in the world for both horses and riders. What it does is builds the cake for whatever icing you want to put on it. What I like to do is ask people what their favorite kind of cake is. Then, I ask them what kind of icing they like best. Some people say, "Oh I like chocolate cake with raspberry filling", or "I like chocolate with hazelnut." The icing can be whatever you want, but the cake is the Parelli foundation. There's nothing you can't do when the horse becomes a part of you, and that's what the foundation program is all about; that's what Levels 1 through 4 are.

The Parelli program is made up of four things: the philosophy, the concepts, the theory and the details (the step-by-step of how you do it). And, what happens to a lot of people is they don't get rooted enough in the philosophy, and just when they start getting some results they quickly get lured by the desire to go do a sport when their cake is only half done (about Level 2). We then see those same people years later and they realize if they'd stuck with the program to get the cake, then gotten the sport specific knowledge they'd needed, they would have actually reached their goals much faster. And, they probably wouldn't have had to have gone through so many horses or changed trainers so many times.

What I've found is that the people who make it all the way through our foundation program, which is Level 4, then have that philosophy which takes them through the Seven Keys: Attitude, Knowledge, Tools, Techniques, Time, Imagination and Support. When they get to the support, they find the trainer who has the same philosophy who will get them to the sport using those principles. That's how we found Walter Zettl. Most goal-oriented people are attracted to people who are really aggressive about their own goals; instead of saying any goal is possible as long as the horse is in charge of the principles and timeline. That's where the Walter Zettl's of this world completely adhere to that and the congruencies are there.

Every person in the world has to solve their own puzzle. How do they live their dream; how do they reveal their horse; how do they discover their potential? All I can give them are the clues to the puzzle. What life does is give you a 10,000 piece puzzle. There's no picture on the front of the box, and you're not even 100% sure that all 10,000 pieces are there. Someone may have even thrown in a few hundred pieces from another puzzle, and you have to sort it all out. It's our job to turn that ten thousand piece puzzle into about a ten piece puzzle. Then, once you get used to putting it together, you can move on to a hundred piece puzzle, then you can do a thousand piece, then a ten thousand piece puzzle with your eyes shut. That's what real masters do. They not only do it themselves, they also help their students become great puzzle solvers as well.

### Why is it so important to develop all Four Savvys?

The program we have is a human potential development program. It has very little to do with training the horse. If you look at every great horseman, they have developed all Four Savvys. The five basic misconceptions people have about horses that we get from the very beginning are: 1. They're very simple so all you have to do is catch them and make friends with them, 2. Just saddle up and get on. 3. Kick them and they will go 4. Pull them to stop 5. Use the reins to make them turn. Those five lies are what make most people get to a juncture in the road and instead of deciding that they're going to put in the effort to learn all four of those Savvys, they believe the lie and take the other fork in the road. That's why our claim is that Parelli is way more than riding. People who can do all four Savvys, get close to, if not master, the principles of love, language and leadership. That's what's so unique about it. Choosing this fork in the road will cause you to take a journey and see all the beautiful sights. Rather than get on the Highway and drive for hours and hours and the next thing you know, you've gone from the East coast to the West coast; you'll get to go through Yosemite, over the Sierras, and through the Grand Canyon. This is one of those journeys that when you get to the other end you want to go back and do it again, and maybe with another horse.

### When did you first discover the importance of the Four Savvys?

When I met my mentor, Mr. Henry, all I wanted to do was learn how to ride and slide, spin and win, turn and burn, do lead changes and work a cow so I could win cuttings and stock horse contests. That's all I wanted to learn. I thought I already knew how to start colts, already knew how to do all this other stuff. If he hadn't insisted on me learning how to play with horses on the ground, I would have never become the puzzle solver I am today. Mr. Henry would say "I don't care how good you ride, if you don't know horses on the ground, if you don't know how to catch a horse that didn't want to be caught and teach him to want to be caught, if you don't know how to play with a horse at liberty, you don't know how to play with a horse on line, or get rid of opposition reflex with a horse on the ground, you're just going to be a horse trainer. You'll never make a horseman." His exact words were, "even the best horse trainer wouldn't make a pimple on a horseman's butt". That's what made me decide to take the other fork in the road, and that's what's led me to this. I now have a hand full of sports that are near and dear to my heart, but only if they're done naturally. It is really true that any goal is possible as long as the horse is in charge of the principles and the timeline.

Now, hundreds of thousands of people are following behind me. I want them to know what they're following, because I think a lot of people get lost in Level 1 and 2. Our program teaches people to have an attitude that is positive, progressive as well as natural. A lot of people are positive and natural but they aren't as progressive as they need to be, and then the horse doesn't live its dream because the horse has so much more potential and they enjoy a provocative lifestyle. They enjoy having someone keep the Seven Games alive, who doesn't let it turn into the seven jobs. It's all part of the puzzle. 🐾

## Here is the list of endeavors that the crowd came up with during the 2007 Savvy Conference:

### ONLINE

- Halter
- Vaulting
- Lead line
- Yearling Trail
- Showmanship
- Coon Jumping
- Therapeutic riding programs
- Breeding
- Parelli Games
- Currencies – Stallion Inspections

### LIBERTY

- Circus
- Arabian – Mini horse shows
- Movie horses
- Free Jumping
- Dancing with horses
- Parelli Games

### FREESTYLE

- Reining
- Cutting
- Working Cow Horse
- Jumpers
- Cross country
- Team Penning
- Trail Riding
- Endurance
- Saddle-Bareback Bronc
- Real Trials – Fox hunting
- Team Sorting
- Poker Run
- Calf Roping
- Gymkhana
- Bull Dogging
- Thoroughbred Racing
- Farm/Ranch Work
- Lesson – School Horse
- Harness Racing
- Orientating
- Competitive Trail
- Search & Rescue
- Packing
- Horse Ball
- Steeplechase
- Ski jarring
- Extreme Cowboy Race
- Cattle Driving
- Roman Riding
- Parades
- Swimming
- Parking Cars
- Chuck Wagon Races
- Chariot Races
- Western Pleasure
- Horseback Archery
- Parelli Games
- Mounted Police

### FINESSE

- Dressage
- Polo Cross
- Carosa
- Jousting
- Pole Bending
- Key Hole
- Mounted Cowboy Shooting
- Stadium Jumping
- Doma Vaquero
- Airs above the ground
- Saddle Seat
- Pick Up rider
- Parelli Games
- Combined Driving
- Civil War Reenactments
- Drill Team
- Western Riding
- Tent Pegging
- Trail Class
- Diving
- Hippotherapy
- Hunter Under Saddle

## Q & A Cradle Bridle

*Q: Hello! I am a Savvy Club member and was wondering if I could get some sort of response to Yvonne's segment on the December 2007 DVD.*

*In regards to the Cradle bridle, is this really the level of riding that the cradle is designed for? Isn't it to be used for refinement? What positive effect was the cradle having for this horse and rider? Are all of the necessary prerequisites in place? Why wouldn't this segment have been done in a halter or hackamore? I would just like some sort of explanation if this is where the program is headed...*

A: Yvonne bought her horse a few years ago. It is her personal horse, a challenging and 'unusual' Arabian that she loves and has learned a lot about. She was being trained as a two-year-old. She came to Yvonne as a Right Brain Extrovert, totally afraid and off her brain when asked to do anything. As she gained confidence, she finally revealed herself as innately, a Left Brain Introvert. So, Yvonne did a fantastic job of getting the fear out of her, and now she's dealing with the challenge of a dominant horse that does not like being told what to do. As long as she is trail riding, riding 'out', everything is super. But now she wants to progress in her levels, and that involves developing riding skills and riding in arenas (LB Introverts hate arenas!).

Concerning the Cradle, Yvonne had been riding her horse in the Natural Hackamore for some time, and was finding that as she wanted to do more particular things the horse could really push on and disrespect the Hackamore (those LB Introverts are fun!). So now she was at the stage to start doing more directing she needed to move to the snaffle. Her horse had terrible trouble with the snaffle (sliding through her mouth, tongue over the bit, head throwing, etc, etc.), so we tried her in the Cradle and it was fantastic. Her mouth got quiet and steering improved 500%!

***In this lesson, she made a big breakthrough. Inspired by my session on Ride In at the Conference, she realized that this is what she needed to do as the next step in advancing with her horse. Yvonne is not a very strong leader for her horse, so owning a dominant horse causes her to step way above her comfort zone.***

***And this is one sassy horse!***

She would have had quite a few struggles with the Hackamore (she already did!), and the snaffle would have been a lot worse for the horse because Escada is such a defiant girl. With the Cradle,

Yvonne could be assertive and not hurt the horse's mouth. LB horses are not naturally obedient in nature, you have to earn and demand their respect and without causing fear.

***The Cradle has proved to be an incredible tool for helping us get control of Zone 1 of the defiant LB horse (in the guiding sense) but without hurting them or having to get heavy handed. I know there is still a lot of skepticism out there about the Cradle because people think we have gone 'normal' and are resorting to mechanics or leverage. But it's actually the opposite.***

It's a tool that communicates more precisely and without pain, and it actually teaches people to become more sensitive with their hands because horses become so much more positively responsive.

So Yvonne is brave enough to put herself out there and show her struggles and breakthroughs, and we think it's important to do this kind of thing rather than pretend everything always goes smoothly for people. We've had a lot of thank you responses as a result of this segment because so many people can identify. You got to see the very first session. And you should see her now!

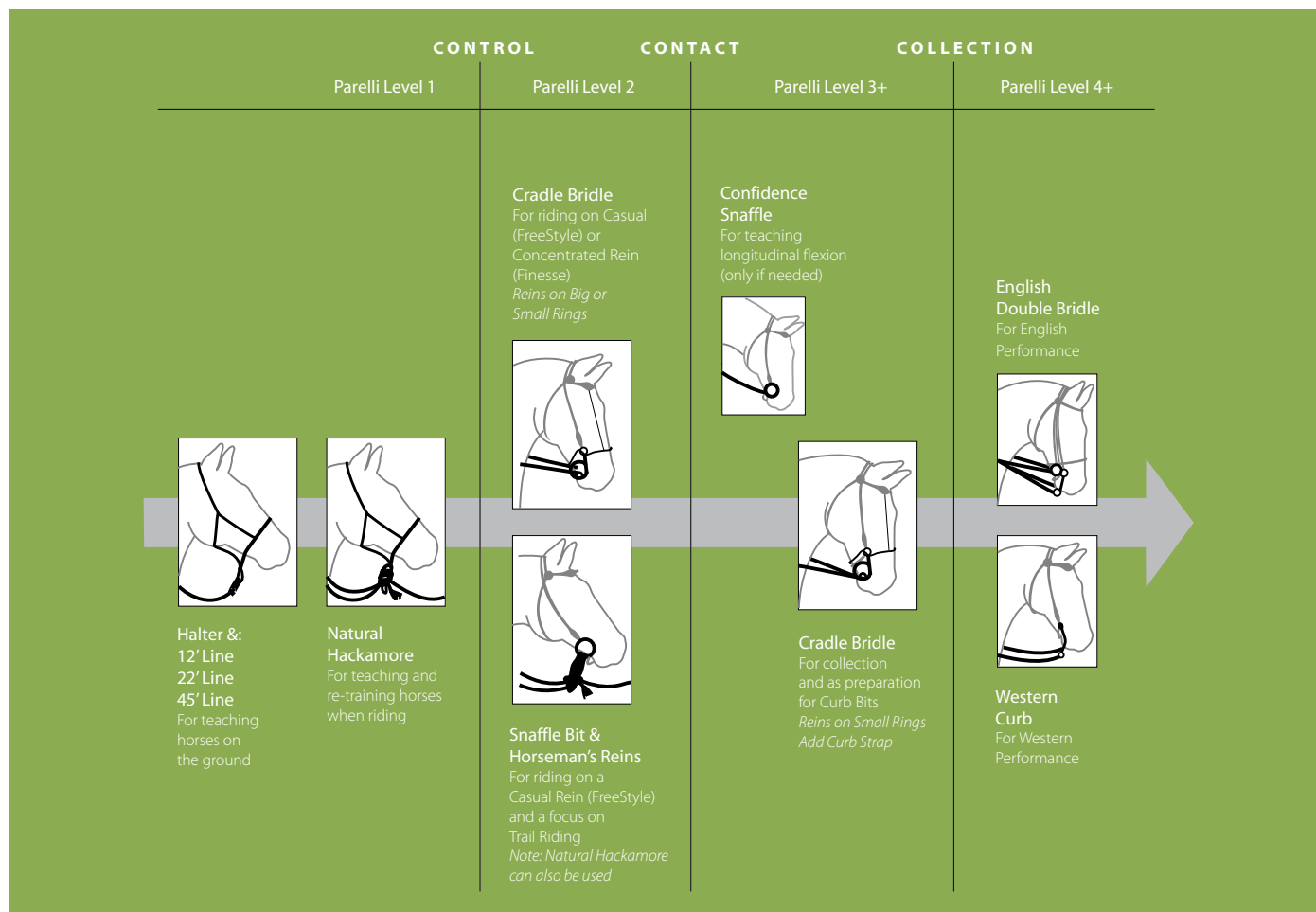
*Q: I understand a goal of horsemanship is to have the reins 'connected' to the hind legs, so that the hind legs are the powerhouse and motor of the horse. Does the cradle work to effectively influence the 'powerhouse' or is it guiding Zone 1 first? If so, how? I am having a very difficult time seeing how the cradle could effectively influence the hind end while creating a frame or headset on the front end.*

A: The powerhouse is something that is established through collecting exercises, not the bit. It's a pretty advanced notion and really comes into play after Level 3. That's what we are studying in earnest now with Walter Zettl. So many people use the bit and head set of the horse to try to get collection but it does not work. It produces an artificial result.

***What the Cradle does is offer a safe feel so they are more willing to connect when it comes to collecting. In the meantime, remember, precision riding of any kind would be enhanced by the Cradle, compared to the snaffle or hackamore.***

## Parelli Bridle Wisdom Chart

Please refer to Savvy Times, Issue 17 for the complete Bridle Wisdom article



Just note, there is a difference between precision and collection! Precision does not need collection, but collection needs precision; this is a good one to chew over. As you can see, I don't know how to make it really simple yet.

Q: I am confused by your statement in SC DVD #30, in which you said of Yvonne "she is not using tight reins or really short reins." It seems like you are recommending the use of B. S. reins. I would appreciate it very much if you would clarify this statement.

"There is only a casual rein or concentrated reins. The rein length between that is called a B. S. rein." Linda Parelli in L2 DVD 7-4

A: How astute of you! It's almost a BS Rein :) I really could have explained it a lot better on the DVD. Pat calls it a 'soft touch' where you have connection but you don't have collection and it's used for precision. A lot of people use the BS Rein instead of a casual rein when they are doing Freestyle riding (no precision) and then their reins are too long to be effective for precision or collection. 🐾



**Hackamore - June 2004**



**Cradle - August 2007**

For more FAQs on the Cradle Bridle, please visit [www.parelli.com](http://www.parelli.com) and click on "Cradle System."

# Pat's Challenge by Katie Drake

## Learning the Seven Keys to Success!

*If you've spent any time at all listening to Pat Parelli, whether it is live at an event, or on your TV at home, you have probably noticed he has little sayings that he repeats often.*

Some of the things he says and repeats, we hear so often it is easy to gloss over because it's something we've heard before and think we already know. However, what I've learned is that anything he's repeated over and over again, you can bet is pretty important and worth noting. That's why we've decided to come up with Pat's Challenge. We're going to challenge you to take some of those important sayings of Pat's and put them to heart. Pat says "anything boiled down to its simplest form is worth memorizing."

*So your first challenge is to memorize Pat Parelli's Seven Keys to Success. For those of you who are about to correct me and say there are only Six Keys... surprise! Pat's come up with one more.*

### The Seven Keys are:

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. ATTITUDE   | 5. TIME        |
| 2. KNOWLEDGE  | 6. IMAGINATION |
| 3. TOOLS      | 7. SUPPORT     |
| 4. TECHNIQUES |                |

So much is distilled into these seven words, that memorizing them is only the first part of this challenge. As Pat says, "Each one of these keys unlocks the door to a room full of thoughts. The more thoughtful you get, the more thoughts you will have on each one of these keys." To give you an idea on how many thoughts you could have, Pat said he could give a whole seminar on each Key! Once you begin to ask yourself what is so important about them, and how they apply to you, that's when they can start meaning something important to you personally. To help get your brain thinking, I sat down with Pat and asked him to tell us a little about why they are important to achieving success with horses.

Everything starts with having the right attitude. "An attitude is a multitude of actions and or interactions at any given time." That pretty much means that everything can be boiled down to an attitude.

Your attitude in horsemanship needs to be POSITIVE, PROGRESSIVE and NATURAL. It must be all three of those things and not a combination of one or two. For example, you could be positive and natural, but if you're not progressive, you stay stuck where you are and your horse pays the price for your limited knowledge.

Pat says that having the right attitude was his first step into pursuing what he needed, to get where he is now. It is the primary Key that leads to everything else:

"Having the right attitude leads you to knowledge. Knowledge from that attitude, leads you to the type of tools you would or wouldn't use, which leads to the techniques that you would or wouldn't use. If you have a positive, progressive and natural attitude you will take the time it takes for yourself and your horse. Einstein said that 'imagination is even more valuable than knowledge.' Imagination is the key to being able to do the things I do, each individual's way."

Pat recently discovered there was a seventh Key to success when he thought of all the support he'd had from all the mentors in his life.

"If I hadn't had support from people like Troy Henry, Tom Dorrance, Bill Dorrance, Freddy Ferrara, Freddy Knie and Ronny Willis I might still have gotten here, but it would have taken me at least two or three



decades longer and by the time I knew what to do, I couldn't do what I knew, because I'd be too worn out."

Pat and Linda's mission is to save people unnecessary decades to reach their dream, that's why we have the support network called the Savvy Club.

So take Pat's challenge and memorize the Seven Keys to Success, and begin the journey of thinking about each key and how it applies to you. Then, if someone ever asks you what Pat means by the Seven Keys to Success, you'll have an answer that means something to you! 🐎

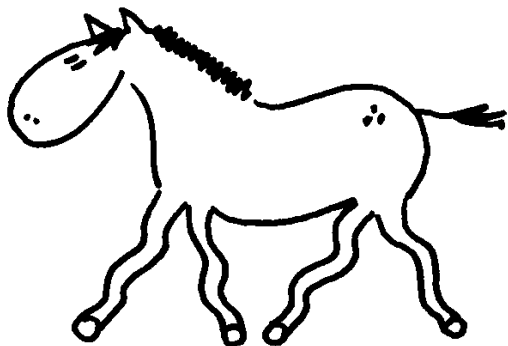


# Junior Savvy

## Have you Heard About the Herd?

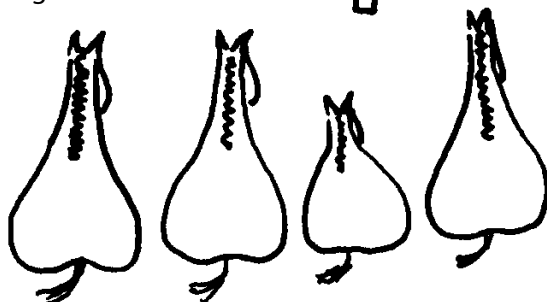
Learn more about what's going on in your horse's head and be sure to color in all the pictures!

Wild horses are born on the open range. Baby horses are called foals. At first they have very wobbly legs. It can be hard for them to stand up.



Very soon after birth foals have to be able to walk and run. There is always danger from other animals like mountain lions, wolves and coyotes.

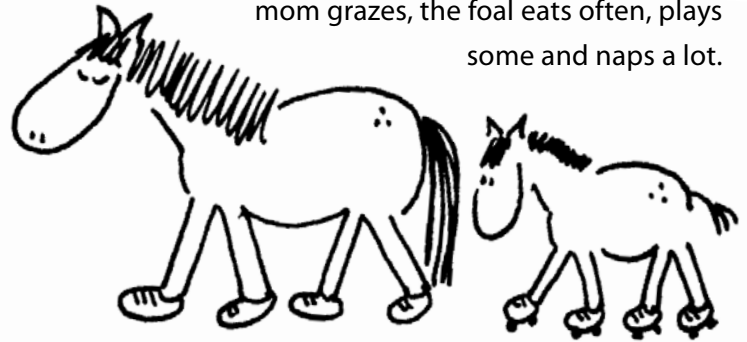
A foal's mom is called a mare. The mare teaches the horse language to the foal as soon as it is born. She knickers, whinnies and nuzzles, but most of the language you can't hear. The mare uses what we call body language.



With this language the foal will know when to eat, sleep, play, move or stay.

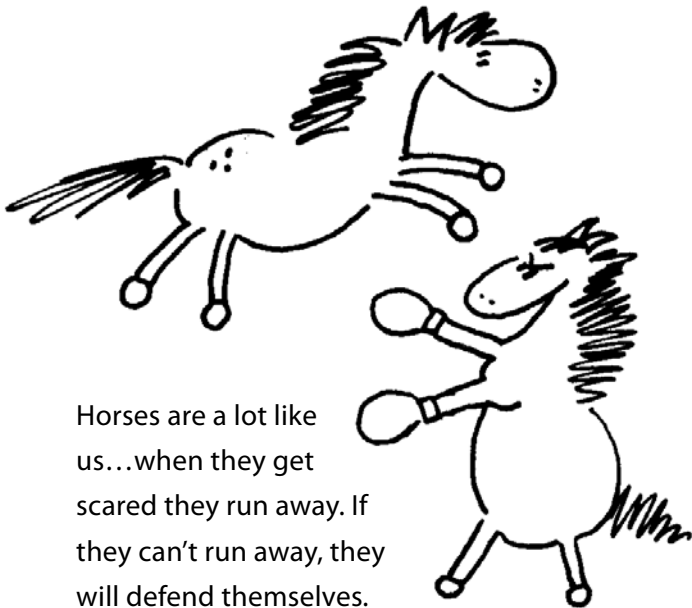


There is plenty of exercise for a wild horse. The herd travels 20-30 miles EVERY DAY! They graze and look for water. While mom grazes, the foal eats often, plays some and naps a lot.



After foaling, a mare rejoins the herd. Horses live in herds for safety. Each member of the herd has a job to do to keep the herd safe. Adult horses take turns sleeping. Some horses are always standing guard. They only sleep 3 to 4 hours a day and most often standing up.

Horses like to play, especially young horses. Horseplay is rough! They bite, kick, strike, buck, rear, push and run. All this play is really practice for staying alive.



Horses are a lot like us...when they get scared they run away. If they can't run away, they will defend themselves.



*In the box above draw a picture of your own pony!*

Here is an easy thing to remember about all horses:  
Wild or tame,  
They think the same,  
From tail to mane,  
Staying safe is the game!



# The Carwash

by Katie Drake

## Confidence, Safety, Simulation

*Since Pat prides himself in being a share-a-holic, we decided it would be great to share a couple of ideas with you on how to build a carwash simulator of your own!*



Pat will tell you one of the most important things to keep in mind is that "horses are born skeptics, cowards, claustrophobics and panic-a-holics by nature and varying degrees." Even though most of us understand this principle, it is really helpful to have tasks that help us to apply it to our horsemanship. If you've ever had the opportunity to visit a Parelli Center, you may have noticed that there are objects and obstacles in the playgrounds that make it virtually impossible for anyone to have a boring play session with their horse. Everything set up in the playground is specifically designed for you and your horse to build confidence and safety through simulation. The carwash simulator is a great example. Because horses are naturally scared of being squeezed through

tight spaces, it is easy to see how, at first glance, a horse might be unconfident about moving through the hanging pieces of plastic. There are very few things that Pat has claimed to invent himself, and the idea for the carwash came from seeing similar ideas in western trail classes. He developed his model over many years, trying several different materials, but each one he tried didn't hold up very well to the weather. His final design came one day when he was going in and out of a freezer at a butcher shop. He noticed the heavy strips of plastic were used to keep flies out and the cool in and realized they'd make the perfect material for his carwash. The thick plastic is very durable and holds up incredibly well to weather and time. 🐾



### How To:

A very simple and inexpensive way to build your own carwash is to cut a tarp in two or hang two tarps up side by side. Make sure the two pieces hang close enough together so that it looks like one tarp. Also, hang them high enough that you'd easily be able to go through them while riding. Remember, this design probably won't hold up very well over time if you leave it hanging outside; however, it is a great way to make something on a small budget.

If you'd like to build a longer lasting carwash like the ones we use here at the Parelli Centers, here's what you'll need to get started.



### Supplies List:

1. Two 8ft 2-foot x 6-foot boards
2. Two 10ft 4-foot x 6-foot boards
3. 8ft plastic strips\* (recommend ordering from Grainger.com item # 3TB21)
4. Two 6-inch long carriage bolts 3/8 inch diameter with nuts and washers
5. Ten 16 penny nails
6. Size 10 wood screw 1/2-inch long (will need two screws per plastic sheet)
7. Two bags of concrete (post mix)
8. Drill with at least a 6-inch bit that is 3/8-inch diameter
9. Hammer
10. Saw (hand saw or power saw)
11. Post hole digger or a shovel or a strong neighbor who owes you a favor

\* The plastic strips come in various widths, so the number of strips will vary depending on their width. You will want to evenly space them along the board leaving about 2-inches between each plastic strip.



### Step-by-Step Guide to Building the Carwash:

1. Place one 2x6 board on the ground and evenly space the plastic strips so there is a 2-inch gap between each strip. Leave a 7-inch space on both ends.
2. Using two wood screws per strip, secure the plastic strips to the board. It is very important the strips are perfectly vertical and flush along the top of the board. If they are not, the strips will hang crooked and run into each other.
3. Saw off 5 ½ -inches on both ends of the other 2x6 board.
4. Lay the shorter 2x6 board centered on top of the other one which should be laying plastic strip side up.
5. Nail the two boards together sandwiching the plastic strips between them.
6. Cut a 1 ½ -inch x 3 ½ -inch notch at the end of each 4x6. The longer 2x6 will rest on this shelf, flush with the end of the 4x6 post.
7. Bolt the 2x6 to the 4x6 posts.
8. Dig post holes 2-feet deep and approximately 8-feet apart measuring from the center of each hole.
9. With the help of a friend, place the carwash in the holes.
10. Depending on the type of soil you have, we recommend you reinforce the posts with cement.
11. Let cement set and dry.
12. You are ready to go out and play with your horse. Have fun!



# Problem Solving

by Linda Parelli

## Horses that are Cinchy

*Having trouble with girthing or cinching up horses is very common. Horses are claustrophobic, whereas, people are direct line and in a rush... it's a recipe for things to go wrong. Happily, the solution is simple but you need to know why your horse is having trouble... is he resentful or afraid?*

*The architecture Pat has developed for starting horses under saddle ensures the horse's first experience with the saddle and cinch, is nothing but POSITIVE*





Saddle pad Friendly Game

### Is He Resentful?

This is usually the Left Brain horse and he's quick to give you his unhappy opinion when you go about it too quickly or without enough preparation, or if the saddle hurts\* him! Remember, horses do not react unless something you are doing is bothering them.

### Typical Left Brain Cinchy Signs:

- won't stand still
- turning as if to bite
- tossing head
- biting
- pinning ears
- kicking

#### Solutions:

- Slow down... way down, rub and pet him a lot throughout the process. The Parelli approach to saddling teaches you to girth up

in stages rather than tighten it all the way up (see Safe Ride DVD from the Success Series, or Level 1 program). Think of it from your horse's point of view. How can you make it more pleasant?

- Make sure he's in the mood to be saddled. That's what ground skills are for (playful use of the Seven Games), and to establish leadership. Some Left Brain horses don't want you to groom them let alone saddle them. In fact, anything 'done' to them is unwelcome unless they see you as their trusted and esteemed alpha.
- Do the opposite: instead of smacking him for trying to bite you, offer him a carrot or a cookie. It will blow his mind! Talk about the unexpected. Some people are worried that this will teach him to bite, but just you try to yell at someone after they give you a chocolate. The goal is to change his whole attitude toward cinching and you. It will become a pleasant activity rather than a dreaded one.
- Do the unexpected: instead of putting the saddle pad on his back, put it on his neck or head or rump. This will send his mind into a spin of curiosity, effectively breaking the negative pattern. This horse knows what happens before, what happens, happens, and because people are creatures of habit the horse knows exactly what we are going to do and get annoyed right as we start the steps! Doing the first step or two completely differently than normal will change the pattern making it more interesting for him and less aggravating.

*\*Many saddles are too narrow for the horse's back or are placed too far forward so they pinch the shoulders. Some horses react to this feeling as soon as the saddle is placed on their back, while others will object as the girth or cinch is tightened because it increases the pressure and discomfort. For more information on this, go to [parellisaddles.com](http://parellisaddles.com)*

## Is He Afraid?

This is usually the Right Brain horse, and particularly the Right Brain Introvert. They are intensely claustrophobic, have a tendency to freeze when worried, pull back, or flip over. They also have a tendency to buck when you begin moving them after tightening the cinch.

### Typical Right Brain Cinchy Signs:

- Stands quietly to be saddled, but is tense. Head is up and eyes are glazed over/staring.
- Holds breath in fear.
- Freezes then explodes... pulls back, flips over or bucks uncontrollably. The bucking tends to be more vertical/in place and stiff-legged. Again, the eyes are glazed over with fear.

### Solutions:

These horses are usually rushed into their first saddling as young horses. Their quiet obedience is totally misread as acceptance, but it's only a matter of time before the bottled up fear erupts. This is literally a time bomb and the answer lies in patiently waiting for acceptance.

- Preparation – preparation – preparation. Get your horse in the mood and make sure you can tell when he is calm and trusting of you. Then you need to be able to send him to the saddle and have him smell it, paw at it, push it around. Sorry, but you'll need a saddle you're willing to allow this with or he will not be able to totally get over the fear.
- Simulation – simulation – simulation! Rather than putting the saddle on and cinching it up, simulate the girthing by joining a couple of Savvy Strings together and tying this around his girth, just loosely at first. Play with him on the ground allowing him to wear it and get accustomed to the fear. Each time, make it a little more snug, and you can use another one around his neck and connect the two to stop it from sliding back into the flank area. Another technique is to take the 22' Line with the ring on it and thread the end through the ring like you would a girth/cinch. Now you can ease it up and drop it loose, increasing your horse's tolerance and threshold. Pretty soon you'll be able to snug it nice and firm without it bothering your horse.
- Repetition – repetition – repetition! Not only do you need to calmly and slowly repeat everything you do for as long as it takes to gain your horse's confidence, you also have to give it a number of days of repetition until it no longer bothers your horse. It can



take 21 days to change a negative perception, so be thrilled when it takes anything less than that. We also recommend that you don't ride until your horse is no longer reactive to the girthing process. That time bomb can go off with you in the saddle, so it's worth taking the time it takes.

- This is not about the cinch or girth. It's all about trust and confidence. That should give you patience! Better still, it will affect everything else because your horse will see you in a whole different light.
- Once your horse is confident, be careful not to slip into any impatient or rough habits because it won't take much to remind your horse of the emotional scars you've worked so hard to overcome. 🐾

# Keep Your Savvy When Dealing With Emergency Situations

By Pat Parelli with Cynthia McFarland



## It's not if, but when.

As anyone who has owned horses for any length of time can attest, there will come a time when you're faced with an equine emergency. While it's not possible to fully prepare for everything that might happen, your level of knowledge and horsemanship skill – your savvy, if you will – can make a huge difference in how you handle that emergency.

There are two things we can count on: inevitability and probability. Every one of us horse lovers is going to have a nightmare situation presented to us at some point. It's inevitable if you're around horses long enough. But the probability is that if you can remain objective in that situation, you'll put the odds on your side. Those who have been playing the Seven Games put probability on their side.

## When Bad Things Happen

When injured or frightened, the horse's instinct is to revert to survival mode. Because of his sheer size and power, he can present a danger to you and to himself when he is in pain. Stay aware of this at all times and don't put yourself in a potentially dangerous position where the horse could strike, kick, bite or fall on you.

If the situation presents a serious danger to your horse (wound that continues to bleed, colic that is not resolving, etc.), contact your veterinarian right away. Then attend to your horse until help arrives.

Step one is to be objective, not emotional. This is the hardest thing to be with someone or something you love, but that's the key. Also remember that nature takes care of its own and provides an endorphin release for the injured to create a morphine-like response to the injury so it's not hurting as bad as it looks yet. You need to have faith in this.

When a horse is in a situation where he feels his survival is challenged, he is apt to do whatever it takes. His actions may seem illogical to us as humans, but they fall into the probability clause, so don't be surprised at how overreactive he can be when he's in trouble.

There is no patent answer about how to approach every situation, but in the thousands of situations I've been in, I've had about a 96% success rate in using these principles: first, assess the situation, and second, adjust to the situation.

In doing this, you have to consider both the horse's Horsenality, since this dictates the best way to work with him effectively, and also the level of development he's reached in becoming

more left-brained or centered. You need to be able to do this within a nanosecond, those fleeting moments within a second. You want to act with authority and knowledge, not just react to the emergency.

Let's say someone you love is running past you with their shirt on fire and there are two beakers of liquid next to you – one filled with water and the other with fuel. If you don't think clearly and just react, you grab a beaker of liquid and throw it on the person. If you happen to grab the water, you're a hero. If you grab the fuel, you just added to the fire.

In much the same way, your immediate actions when dealing with a horse in an emergency can have lasting consequences. If you can stay calm, cool and collected, your horse will follow that absolute leadership. Your actions may even save his life.

This is the penultimate equation. You have to be the leader and at a time like this, the love and language you've built up are the only things you have to build on. Leadership is an attitude. The emotionally fit human becomes a great leader through attitude and actions. For this reason alone, I encourage everyone to at least complete Level 2 of the Parelli Program.

***Leadership doesn't happen by accident.  
You have to do what is necessary and you must  
practice perfection in every aspect of your life.  
Those who are participating in the Savvy Club  
are absolutely on this track.***

## Take Charge, Stay Calm

If you stay calm in an emergency, you will help your horse stay calm. You will also be able to think clearly as to the steps you need to take. Your horse needs you to be calm and take control. If you get

### Evaluating Your Horse's Condition

Learn how to assess your horse's vital signs before an emergency arises. Next time you see your veterinarian, ask him or her to show you how to check these signs. Practice these techniques regularly so you will become familiar with what is normal for your horse.

**Pulse:** Place the bell of a stethoscope into your horse's left "armpit" and count the beats per minute.

Normal adult pulse rate is 32 to 44 beats per minute. A horse's pulse and respiration increase noticeably when he is in pain. *(Your veterinarian can tell you where to purchase a stethoscope.)*



**Respiratory Rate:** Count the number of breaths per minute by watching the nostrils flare or the chest move. Or, listen to the throat using a stethoscope. Normal adult rate is 8 to 15 breaths per minute.

**Temperature:** Lubricate the tip of a standard veterinary thermometer, or digital thermometer, with lubricant jelly and insert one inch into horse's rectum. Normal adult temperature is 99 to 100.5 degrees F.



**Capillary Refill Time (CRT) & Gum Color:** Lift upper lip and check color of gums directly above teeth. Normal is light to medium pink. To check CRT, press a spot on the gum in this area with your finger. Release pressure and count how many seconds it takes to turn pink again. (Count "one thousand one, one thousand two, one thousand three....") Normal is 1 to 3 seconds.

**Skin Pinch Test for Dehydration:** Gently but firmly pinch a "tent" of skin on your horse's neck just above where the neck joins the shoulder. Skin should quickly spring back into place and "tent" will disappear if horse is normal and well hydrated. If horse is dehydrated, the "tent" lingers for a second or more. (The horse will already be at least 8% dehydrated before the skin stays "tenting" at all.)

**Gut Sounds:** Press your ear or a stethoscope against the horse's abdomen in several areas on both sides and listen. Gurgles, grumbling sounds, roars, and pings may all be heard. Notice how noisy or quiet the gut is. Long, drawn out sounds are better than staccato, abrupt ones.

**Extremities:** In a normal horse, the extremities - ears and lower legs - are cool or slightly warm, even in frigid weather. If the horse is in advanced endotoxic shock, they will feel ice cold.

Signs of Shock:

- Dramatically pale gums
- Acting weak, wobbly or "spacey"
- Whites of the eye are ghostly white and totally opaque, without thin blood vessels visible by colored part of eye
- Capillary refill time (CRT) longer than 3 seconds
- Skin pinch test to neck remains "tenting" longer than 1/2 second

**Check for Founder:** Feel for excess heat in the hoof walls, especially in front feet. Normally, hooves will feel cool, even in hot weather. If horse is starting to founder, hooves will feel warm. Check for a digital pulse with your fingertips over the back and side of the pastern bone beneath the fetlock. Digital pulse is hard to find in a normal horse, but obvious in the foundering horse.



upset, you will upset your horse. He's looking to you for leadership and if you are calm, this will help him be calm.

It's common for people to gasp and worry when they see a gash on their horse, and they go straight to the wound. This can feel threatening to the horse because it feels predatory. Instead, focus on him and casually look over the wound like it's no big deal. That can be hard to do, but it's really helpful for the horse.

You may find yourself in a situation where you need to load a distressed horse into a trailer, either to get to the veterinarian, or to evacuate an unsafe location. If your horse doesn't willingly load, this is not the time to school him and work on tasks! You need to do what it takes to safely get the horse on the trailer.

Blindfolding the horse is one of the least used emergency strategies, but one of the most effective. In the world's worst situation, you can put a blindfold on your horse and you'll be surprised how he will follow you and load into a trailer. The blind must follow the visioned and the one with vision is the leader. (Of course this is not ideal. You really want to be prepared for anything so teaching your horse to be confident with trailers is essential. This example is only for emergencies when you have no choice.)

In an emergency situation you may find it necessary to give your horse medication by injection. Ideally, you will have worked with your horse PRIOR to this moment to prepare him to quietly accept injections by using the laws of desensitization. (Refer to Level 2 for details.) Even if you have done this, you will still have trouble if the horse's muscles are hypertonic or tense. It can be impossible and dangerous to attempt to properly inject a horse when his muscles – and his attitude – are hard and tight.

If this is the case and you must give an injection, blindfold the horse and pet him gently until he calms down a little. Bend his head and neck towards you, which will soften the muscles, making them hypotonic (less tense), and give the injection in a safe area on that side.

The secret is to create a hypotonic moment. This is why great nurses can ask "Are you ready?" and they've already given you the shot without you feeling it.

### Be Prepared

"Prior and proper preparation prevents p-poor performance." If you make the effort to prepare yourself ahead of time, you will be in the best position to handle an emergency with your horse.

Practice patience and be proactive. Go through the lists of things to do in each Level of the Program. If you can do all those things, you'll "get it." It's a lateral thinking puzzle. My job is to help people become puzzle solvers and help them help their horses solve puzzles. If you become good at it, everything's easier. You will rarely get stumped because you've learned how to think around horses. 🐾

### Dealing with Wounds

Clean any wound as soon as possible; it takes between three to six hours for bacteria to move deeper into the tissue and start infection. Always call your veterinarian for a wound over a joint, into a tendon, near the heels or on the coronary band. In any injury where bacteria can enter a joint, prompt treatment can mean the difference between quick recovery and long-term problems.

Any time there is blood spurting from a wound or bleeding that won't stop, you must take steps to prevent severe blood loss. The rate at which blood is lost can actually be more important than how much blood is lost. A horse can literally lose gallons of blood at a slow trickle and survive, while faster bleeding can be life threatening, even if just one-tenth of his total blood volume is lost. Don't delay if you think your horse may have lost a significant amount of blood. Secure a pressure bandage, keep the horse calm, and get a veterinarian on the scene as quickly as possible.

When an artery is cut, blood will spurt with each heartbeat. When a large vein is cut, the wound will ooze continuously. If the injury is still bleeding, apply direct pressure for several minutes. Use non-stick gauze squares if available, but in an emergency you may have to use a T-shirt or any absorbent material. Use tape or gauze roll to secure the padding. If blood soaks through, apply another layer of bandage material. Don't remove the bandage until the damaged blood vessels have a chance to build a clot.

When the vet arrives, he or she can then clean the wound and suture it, if necessary. He or she may also recommend a tetanus booster for your horse's protection.



### Photonic Therapy – The Red Light

We have been using this amazing tool now for over five years. It is acupuncture without needles administered by shining the red light of the Photonic Torch on specific points.

Not only is it a valuable part of maintaining a horse's health, it is incredible when it comes to easing pain, stopping bleeding and easing colic pain. In fact, if we can't "cure" a horse of colic within 30 minutes, then we know it's probably an impaction or twist that needs veterinary attention.

The Photonic Therapy Kit includes instructional DVD, simple and diagram manuals for horse, human, dog and cat, plus the torch or red light itself. The developer, Australian vet, Dr. Brian McLaren, introduced it to

us and after curing a bunch of headaches and various other symptoms in our tour crew, we were convinced. We never go anywhere without it. It's the first thing we use when a horse is hurt or sick. Dr. McLaren told us that as a vet his two main tools became the red light and sutures!



**Equine Photonic  
Therapy Torch**  
Available from  
[www.parelli.com](http://www.parelli.com)



# Parelli Essentials

*Parelli Essentials helps the horse treat itself from within through the most natural evolutionary process of all, good digestion.*

*Available in the US only*



*Casper and Remmer checking out their new surroundings after arriving in the UK in 2007*



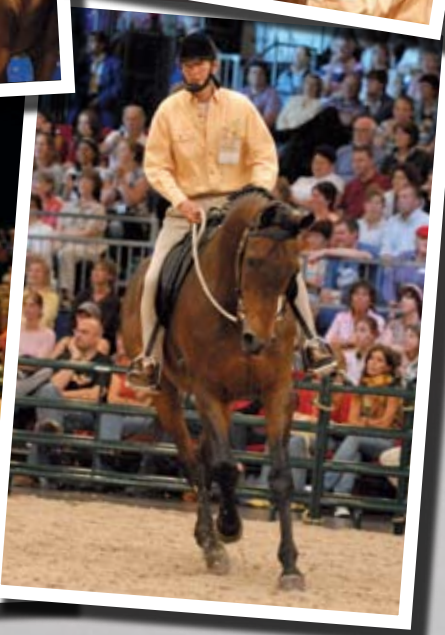
# No Matter Where We Go There We Are

UK Conference *Savvy Team 2007*

by Parelli Photographer, Coco

*As they played,  
the house rejoiced.  
August 2008  
Can't wait!*  
-Coco





# Pat Parelli's

by Terra N. K. Pugh

## "Ronald Reagan, Gene Autry, and Casey Tibbs Story"

*Casey Tibbs was one of the most famous rodeo cowboys of all time. He was a nine-time world champion and cowboy celebrity who graced the cover of LIFE magazine in 1951.*

*Tibbs was a legend and a hero. He was Pat Parelli's hero.*

When Pat was 17, he was learning to ride bucking horses from John Hawkins, the 1963 World Champion Bareback Bronc Rider. One day, John asked Pat if he'd like to go to the local rodeo to watch Casey Tibbs' first exhibition ride since retirement. Pat's reply, "You bet!" It was the first time that Pat had met Tibbs and he jumped at the chance to get his picture taken with his two heroes at the event. Pat wouldn't get another chance to reconnect with his hero until years later.

Pat calls this his "Ronald Reagan, Gene Autry, and Casey Tibbs Story." And it is true; Ronald Reagan and Gene Autry are in it. But, this is a Casey Tibbs story.

Every year, during the first weekend in May, the Rancho Vistadobres ride was held next to Ronald Reagan's ranch in Santa Barbara. The ride drew celebrities and folks who've been riding the event all their lives. It was prestigious. It was quite an event.

*And as a finale, Pat rode the mare out into the open of the 10,000 acre ranch.*

In 1989, for the 3rd year in a row, Pat was asked to provide a horsemanship demonstration as a special guest. This year in particular, the coordinators decided to give Pat a bit of a challenge, a five year old wild mare. For Pat, this demonstration wasn't all that different from his regular demonstrations, with the exception that Ronald Reagan, Gene Autry, and Casey Tibbs were sitting in the front row. It took 45 minutes for Pat to get the mare where he could stand on her back. Eventually, Pat got the mare where she had accepted both the saddle and human. And as a finale, Pat rode the mare out into the open of the 10,000 acre ranch. The audience was thrilled by the demonstration and afterwards, Pat got his picture taken shaking Ronald Reagan's hand in between Gene Autry and Casey Tibbs. After the picture, Casey came over, shook Pat's hand and asked him if he would join him for lunch. Pat said that he would love to.

As Pat and Casey made their way to the eating hall, Casey stopped, looked at Pat and said, "First of all, I want to tell you that that was the best horsemanship demonstration." Pat grinned as they continued to make their way to the eating hall. They had only made it another 20 yards when Casey had to stop again, this time in pain. "I don't want to die like this," Casey said. "I'd rather die saving someone from getting hit by a bus or from some sort of heroic thing. I don't want

to die like this." Casey was dying of bone cancer. As Pat looked at his lifelong hero, the only thing he could say was: "Casey, the only thing I can tell you is that I would rather have been Casey Tibbs and lived to 61 and done the things you've done, rode all the famous horses and lived your life than live to be 90 years old and have only gotten to the heights of mediocrity." Casey said, "Yeah, but I want to be Casey Tibbs AND live to be 90." Pat would never see Casey alive again. He passed away that January.

Casey lived a life people dream of, and he made sure to share the gifts of his success. Casey was one of the founders of the Rodeo Cowboys Association, an organization dedicated to improving the image of cowboys and professional rodeo. He always made time to visit children in hospitals and did charity work with different youth groups such as 4-H. Casey was a man of many talents, but not of many colors. His one unchanging trademark was the purple scarf he wore. After Casey's passing, his purple scarves were given to those who had been important to him, his closest friends. Pat was given a scarf.

As Pat continued teaching and doing the same types of demonstrations that had impressed Casey, his hero's scarf disappeared. Pat searched for it, but it never showed up. A few years passed and Pat figured he'd never see it again. Word of the loss got to the keeper of Casey's estate, and Pat got a surprise at a Las Vegas Tour Stop. They had brought him another scarf because Casey had wanted him to have it. Casey would have wanted him to have it... twice. 🐾

*For more information on Casey Tibbs and his life, please visit the Casey Tibbs Foundation at [www.caseytibbs.com](http://www.caseytibbs.com).*



*Casey Tibbs,  
Ronald Reagan,  
and Pat Parelli*



*Becoming a Parelli student was a difficult, and much-procrastinated decision several years ago, only because I thought I knew "enough" about training horses! Becoming a Parelli student has helped me become aware that I didn't - and still don't - know "enough" about anything! Especially about horses! Now that I have opened my heart to all that the Equine has to offer, I felt compelled to make use of the Parelli Awards Presentation as a Tribute to my best Teachers - Equine and Human.*

*It will serve as a constant reminder of how far I have come in my relationship with horses and humans, and how far I can still go!!*

*How appropriate that the first three colors of the strings coincide with the red, white and blue in our farm Logo, which incorporates the American flag! The LLL, signifying Love, Language and Leadership, stand for so much more than words can say. Thank you, Carol Coppinger, and Thank You Pat and Linda Parelli!!*

*— Jeanie*

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# Savvy Club Update

## Big News for Savvy Club DVDs Starting January 2008!

Get ready for an exciting new schedule of DVD content starting with your January Members' DVD. We've been listening to your requests for exclusive sessions with Pat and Linda and are busy taping new segments to cover Level 1-2 problem solving and Level 3-4 advanced teaching subjects in every DVD!



## New Look at the 2008 Tour Event

Your Savvy Club membership will bring you great benefits in 2008.

When you attend a tour event in 2008, Day 2 is SAVVY CLUB MEMBERS ONLY DAY!

That's right, only club members and their buddies will be able to attend Day 2 of the US

tour. Pat and Linda will spend the day giving instruction and information specific to Savvy Club Members only. So get your tickets for you and your buddies soon. Please note you can only request as many member tickets as the number of people on your membership. In addition to your member tickets, you can request up to five buddy passes for friends.

## Don't Forget Your Passport OR Journal & Membership Card

Requesting tickets will get you in free to all the Parelli USA Tour stops, but don't forget your Parelli Passport/Journal and membership card. Your passport/journal can



be stamped at the Savvy Club booth with a unique stamp at every Tour stop or major Parelli event to document your journey! Your card will be swiped to add your 25% discount to your purchases at the show. Lost your card? Be sure to have a record of your member number.

## We Want to Hear From You

This is your Club and we want you to contribute! We want to know how Parelli has changed your horse-human-relationship. Do you have stories or photos you would like to share? Send them in!

Mail can be sent to: Parelli Natural Horsemanship, Attn: Savvy Times, PO Box 3729, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, or you can e-mail [savvyclub@parelli.com](mailto:savvyclub@parelli.com).

## Stay in Touch with Parelli e-News

Parelli e-News is our official weekly newsletter. Find out about special offers; get Tour updates, TV programming news, new releases, tips and more.

Call 1-800-642-3335 (US) or 1800 460 988 (AU) or 0800 023 4813 (UK) to update your e-mail information with us or you can do it yourself on the Savvy Club site at [www.parellisavvy-club.com](http://www.parellisavvy-club.com) to have e-News conveniently delivered to your Inbox. Some e-mail programs do have spam blockers that prevent delivery. Don't worry! You can view e-News each week from the link on the [www.parelli.com](http://www.parelli.com) home page.



## Members Receive 25% Off!

Members receive 25% off all Parelli education and equipment! This offer applies whether you order on the web, call us by

phone or make a purchase at an event. (Note: Parelli Center Course Discount is 35% Off!). When completing an order in the Parelli web shop, make sure that the system has recognized you as a Savvy Club Member. When you are properly recognized, the upper right hand corner will say, "Welcome (your user name). You are a Savvy Club Member."

The login page explains the steps you need to take to make sure you are recognized. If you have followed all of the steps and still have problems, please e-mail [savvy-club@parelli.com](mailto:savvy-club@parelli.com) or call 1-800-642-3335 (US) or 1800 460 988 (AU) or 0800 023 4813 (UK).

## Parelli at Expos '08

Parelli will be attending seven horse expos in 2008 across the United States. There will be an information booth set up at each expo and at a few of the expos, Parelli Instructors will be doing demonstrations.

## 2008 Expo Schedule

**Jan 11-13**, Augusta, ME (*Booth & Lecture*)  
NE Horseman's Conference

**Feb 13-17**, Jackson, MS (*Booth & Demo*)  
Dixie Nationals-Equine Expo

**Feb 21-24**, Harrisburg, PA (*Booth & Demo*)  
Horse World Expo

**Feb 29-Mar 2**, Wichita, KS (*Booth Only*)  
Equifest of Kansas

**Mar 14-16**, Denver, CO (*Booth Only*)  
Rocky Mountain Horse

**Mar 28-30**, Albany, OR (*Booth Only*)  
NW Horse Fair & Expo

**Apr 18-20**, Madison, WI (*Booth & Demo*)  
Midwest Horse Fair & Expo

**Sep 13-14**, FT Worth, TX (*Booth & Demo*)  
Equine Expo of TX

# Meet the Faculty

***We're looking forward to a wonderful 2008 Season of savvy at the Colorado and Florida Parelli Centers this year! We've asked the 2008 Faculty instructors a few questions to get to know them better, find out where they're from, and what drives them to want to be a part of this very special team.***

## Where are you from originally?

**John:** Estes Park, Colorado

**Kathy:** Originally from Columbus, Ohio

**Trevor:** I'm originally from south Texas.

**Avery:** Tiverton, Rhode Island

**Tara:** Clovis, NM

**Berin:** I was born in Canberra. Which is the Capital City of Australia.

**Julia:** I am originally from nowhere other than the great United States!!!! I was born in California but I'll claim Idaho as home any day!

**Carmen:** I have lived in Cairns, North Queensland, Australia, for 21 years, but was born in Sydney.

**Kristi:** I am from Iowa originally and still live there with my wonderful husband Shane and the rest of my family.

**Megan:** I was born in Lima, Ohio and grew up all over the central time zone from Wisconsin to, most recently, Alabama.

## What originally drew you to Parelli?

**John:** That Pat and Linda had a step-by-step system that people could follow. That it was not all about what they could do with their horses, but that they could teach it to people. As soon as I knew there was a Parelli certification for Instructors, I wanted to be one!

**Kathy:** The simplicity of the system. I love the idea that after you learn the Seven Games you have the keys to solve all your problems with horses. Everything we do with horses is, the Seven Games, in Four Savvys, or a combination thereof.

**Trevor:** A family friend sent us tapes of Pat riding a horse bareback and bridle-less, working a cow, and doing some maneuvers I had never seen, either on the ground or on horseback. At the time, I was having problems with a horse that wouldn't stop bucking. I could get along with the horse; I just knew there was something I was missing. Once I applied what I had learned, I noticed results. I couldn't help but find out more.

**Avery:** It showed up when I needed it and I never looked back! I was stuck with my horses and my students and did not know where to take them. Parelli helped me realize what I didn't know and where I needed to go in my journey through life.

**Tara:** I had a two-year-old quarter horse I wanted to develop to compete in cow-horse events. I desired to study with a horseman who could help me get to that level without compromising the dignity of my horse. Of all the horsemen, Pat Parelli struck me as one of the greats, and I knew I wanted to spend time learning with him. My Mom, Dad, and I got the home study programs and made our way to the Parelli Centers as quickly and as often as we could.

**Berin:** When I left High School, it was then that I first had anything to do with horses. I gained employment on a fairly large cattle station in NSW where I rode nearly every day for a year. I then went up to northern Queensland and worked on a few large cattle stations and it was during that time I was given the opportunity to attend some horsemanship clinics. I was blown away that I actually knew nothing about horses at all. So from then on I was hooked and wanted to learn as much as I could. But the clinics were few and far between and I found I would do great while they were there, but couldn't progress much or get stuck when on my own. This was frustrating to say the least. It wasn't until I moved to a little town Outside of Hay in NSW where I met a Parelli instructor. He introduced me to the Levels program and helped me to become who I am today and I thank him for that.

**Julia:** The potential bond between two completely different creatures on opposite extremes of the food scale was what intrigued me about the Parelli Program. Why would this horse want to be with me? The idea that we gave him a choice in the matter was even a more riveting concept that I wanted to learn more about.

**Carmen:** I remember attending Pony Club as a teenager with my first horse 'King'. Things were going well, but I often thought, if I got a new horse, I wouldn't know how to start or what to do. I had some of the usual problems, but we managed them and I just thought this was normal. Five years later, I got a 'free' ex-race horse—a gorgeous, bay 17hh TB. I knew I wanted to do things differently, but I wasn't sure how. I attended a clinic that was advertised as natural, but the things I witnessed weren't particularly natural - like twisted wire snaffles!! Then I heard about Pat's book, so off to the bookstore I went, and, of course, I couldn't put the book down! I knew I had found something special, and was keen to attend a clinic, but there weren't any locally. So I organized one with a Parelli instructor, and it changed my life... literally! I liked the fact that Parelli had a step-by-step path that I could follow at home.

John Baar,  
Faculty Team Leader





Megan Stark



Tara Harris



Carmen Smith



Avery Gauthier

## *every issue* ▶▶

**Kristi:** I was involved in a two-year horse science program in Cedar Rapids, IA, at Kirkwood Community College. Pat's original Level 1 program was presented to us as a section in a training class that I took. We used it as a skeleton for what we thought was colt starting.

**Megan:** I was trying to compete in Eventing and Dressage when I first got my horse. Storm basically exploded into a bucking, rearing, plunging frenzy during a dressage lesson and I knew that day that there had to be a better way to reach my competitive goals. I went to a Parelli Tour Event in Andalusia, Alabama about five years ago and saw Pat and Linda and some of their top students riding and jumping. The horses were all so happy and I knew that I had found my better way. I got my Level 1 and equipment that day and haven't looked back since.

### **When you wake up in the morning what makes you want to be a Faculty member?**

**John:** The effect that the centers and the faculty have on the students that come here. Not only does it help them reveal their horse, but it also helps them as a person... it can be life changing.

**Kathy:** The chance to spend the day with students passionate about horses and learning, and a team of faculty dedicated to helping those students.

**Trevor:** I wake up to be part of a team that is dedicated to helping people achieve things they never thought were possible with their horse.

**Avery:** I get to make people's dreams come true! To see the students grow within themselves and watch them reveal their horses. Getting to be a part of their journey and being an impact on it!

**Tara:** Parelli has, and continues, to help me Reveal My Horse, Discover My Potential, and Live My Dream. The thought that I can get up each day to LIVE my dream, and even better yet, help someone else to do the same, I don't know how it gets any better than that.

**Berin:** Knowing I am helping people to attain their dreams with horses. Also, that I am helping in a small part in raising the level of Horsemanship worldwide.

**Julia:** It is this new perspective on our horsey friends that I believe everyone should have the opportunity to discover. We don't want what we have with our horses to be a secret, rather we as faculty, we want to unlock the doors to the future you could have with your horses!

**Carmen:** When I was at college I had inspirational pictures of Parelli horses and Instructors playing at the Centers all over my walls... now I'm living my dream! A little over 10 years ago, when I started this horsemanship journey, I had a love for the horse; I also loved to help people become the best leader they could be for their horses. I enjoy watching the "light bulb" come on when they have been able to accomplish a task on their own. We often say that Faculty are not here to feed you fish, but rather to teach you 'how' to fish... my passion is watching a student cast their line out and reel in their very own fish! I also enjoy furthering my own horsemanship, and the time I spend with Pat and Linda. The more I learn, the smarter my horse gets – funny that.

**Kristi:** I have to pinch myself every morning. I am living a dream here. I wake up each day excited about all of the opportunities we have for growth in our horsemanship, peopleness, and teachermanship. I have developed a fascination with humans and how they work. I had one of my instructors once say that you have to get the message down to the feet without causing the emotions to get in the way. I think that the same could be said for people. You really have to get to know yourself and be able to read people to get good at this. I often get asked how it is possible to take advantage of this opportunity and stay married. My reply is always the same. I do my best to walk my talk. I want to be the best me that I can be and also empower others to do the same. I try really hard to apply my horsemanship to every relationship in my life. This program has, and continues to make me a better person. This opportunity on the faculty has empowered me to learn to be more accepting and to trust that if I put the needs of others ahead of my own, my needs will be met. I don't need to protect my needs. There is plenty for everyone.

**Megan:** The thing that makes me want to be a faculty member the most is the energy that surrounds this job—it's all about constant development and transformations. I never have to worry about living the same day twice because I'm always developing myself and the students are always changing as well. Like I said, it's just a transforming environment!

### What do you find of particular interest in the course material?

**John:** I think that the amount of information that is given in the course is profound. From Course 1, with the psychology backing Parelli, reading horses, and advancing on-line and liberty, to going way beyond the round pen. To Course 3; riding with finesse, intimacy, being able to dance with your horse, and everything in between. It all fits together amazingly!

**Kathy:** Pat and Linda have laid out a curriculum that is not only fun to teach but also causes students to go through profound life changing discoveries about themselves, their horses and their relationships. Ultimately discovering their true potential.

**Trevor:** The information that I take interest in regards to courses is that they share information from saddle fitting, to what motivates your horse, to strategies that can apply to any level or skill set of an individual.

**Avery:** That it is positive, progressive and natural! It all peaks my interest!

**Tara:** Hard to say because I believe one is just as important as the other. I want to be able to compete and do demonstrations with the horses I develop, so each is equally important. The more I know about the start, the better I will be at the finish, and vice versa. I want to be excellent in every part of a horses' development.

**Berin:** In Course 1, we teach students how to read their horse and discover their Horsenality and what strategies to do for the different types. This is a valuable tool that you take with you



Berin Macfarlane



Kristi Smith



Kathy Baar



Julia Ryman



Trevor Carter

*every issue* ▶▶

and use every moment you are with and around any horse. It doesn't matter what you are doing.

**Julia:** The liberty and horse behavior is the most intriguing portion of the course material that I look forward to teaching.

**Carmen:** I really enjoy the concept of empowerment during these Courses, with information from Level 1 through Level 4, offered to everyone. Often people think that reading a horse's body language is a very complex task, but with the level of detail offered in our Courses this becomes very clear for students in all Four Savvys.

**Kristi:** My love is for the philosophies behind all that is Parelli. I want to be great with horses and with people. I learn so much every course cycle. I want to see myself and others learn to dance with their horses like Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers.

**Megan:** That has to be the hardest question I've been asked in a long time! I LOVE the decoding that goes on in Course 1 and all the secrets around the Hor-enalities. Without this foundation the other courses probably wouldn't mean as much to me. Course 2, I love for the fun of it—"freestyle'n" with my horse bareback and bridle-less has always been something I've loved to do. Course 3, is where I'm just now starting to understand where all the pieces fall into place for REAL finesse and excellence with your horse. It's all of these combined that interest me in the Course material and there's always something new to be learned every time we teach them!

*To see courses for 2008, see page 7 or visit [www.parelli.com](http://www.parelli.com)*

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Pat Parelli, Parelli Center,  
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# DEAR

by Linda Parelli

# *friends...*

Christmas and New Years went by so fast it's now a blur. Moving into 2008 makes us think of what it is we are doing and how to do it better.



by Linda Parelli

Many years ago, Pat asked me what I wanted to do... have a clinic business, or change the world for horse lovers? Well, it's obvious what my choice was and it was exactly what Pat was hoping I would say! So good, better, best continues to be our motto and with our incredible (and growing) team we have so much more in place now and so much help to make sure we are a strong and solid company, that can be here for the years and generations to come.



### **2007 Savvy Conference**

Since I last wrote to you, the biggest event for us was our annual Savvy Conference at our home base, the Parelli Center in Pagosa Springs, Colorado. A few years ago we decided to reduce the attendance from 2500 quite significantly, so approximately 1600 avid students from all around the world made their way to the event, which traditionally reveals what we've been working on for the past 12 months. They are the first to see our new discoveries and as you can imagine, if you've not been there, the atmosphere is electric with anticipation. After an overwhelming welcome as we entered the arena, I said that until that moment I had thought the UK event was filled with the most excited students I'd ever seen. Well, the Pagosa audience changed that!

Here are some of the most memorable elements of the Conference where the main themes were Horsenalities, The Seven Games Architecture, and Fluidity, as it applies to collection. Of course, there are always our mainstays of starting a horse, playing with youngsters and Pat's explanations of how the Parelli Program applies to every endeavor with a horse, competitive or not.

Katie Drake sang the National Anthem, unplugged, and... the 2007 Parelli Savvy Conference was off and running!

*Pat and Magic*



### **Revealing Your Horse, Revealing Horsenalities**

This is the biggest breakthrough in understanding horses as individuals, and it's a bit old news for some of you now, especially if you have the DVD on Horsenality from the Success Series. To launch it, Pat and I decided to use our horses as demonstration models. Almost everyone knows them so it seemed really appropriate and we knew that the contrasts would be spectacular. I was to show the Left Brain horses and Pat the Right Brain horses... perfect!

It began with Remmer and me, and I set it up so everyone would see his true character, the Left Brain Introvert. Usually I have him ready to play with me, or I warm him up exactly right so no one sees that sluggish, unresponsive, lazy side of him. It was hysterical. The look he gets on his face cracks me up and I know it's up to me to find his interest and play drive. I also was able to demonstrate how he lights up when you produce some incentive, like a Winnie's Cookie!

Then it was time to show the contrast, so I had Allure sent in. Allure is a showstopper in true Left Brain Extrovert form; he captivated us as

he floated around the arena, full of mischief, charisma and extreme lift off! I then showed what it took to get him to pay attention to me and how it was the opposite of what Remmer needs... Allure needs movement and for me to be a focused, playful, and a strong leader. The idea is to get his attention and then direct it, and most of all, to never squash his enthusiasm.

Next, it was Pat and Magic, his little Right Brain Introvert. Pat showed how much he helps her to be more calm, brave and confident. As I sat in the music sound booth, I marveled at how much she looks like the little cartoon for the RBI Horsenality! Magic can go from being really stuck and have difficulty going forward, to a full blown runaway, so what Pat has been able to help her become is incredible. She's a super-horse, so talented, yet so fragile. And he's got her doing some of the most advanced and high pressured things, the things that blow these horses up every day in the normal world simply because they don't understand how to help this Horsenality excel under pressure. Leave them alone, keep it quiet, and you'll probably be okay. But how much can you do with that?

To show the contrast, Pat then brought in Vanna, his beautiful sorrel/chestnut mare that he started at the Savvy Conference three years ago. Again, just like the cartoon, Vanna got wide-eyed and accelerated around the arena. Pat even asked everyone if they could see her 'wheels', referring to her legs that were spinning! He then caught her attention and pretty soon she was attached to him and Magic, sticking close and finding comfort with the structure and leadership.

Finally, you might have guessed it (or you remember this from the Savvy Club DVD in October 2007) Casper arrived to demonstrate the most complicated and challenging horse that Pat has ever owned, because he's multi – polar! He is "all over the chart" showing extreme characteristics in every quadrant. Of course, he stole the spotlight. He is so spectacular and together with the two mares, Pat gave us a wonderful show.

Bridle Wisdom is something you've heard about, in different ways, from Pat over the years, but now it finally has a name! This is all about understanding the value and need for bits, and how and when to choose them according to what you want to do with your horse and what level you are heading for. The last Savvy Times had a detailed account of this, so I won't go into it here. But thank you so much for your expressions of gratitude regarding the article; I think it's been our most popular ever.

However, I do want to share these...This was the day we revealed the new Cradle Bridle and introduced the world renown Myler brothers, Ron, Dale and Bob, all of whom were sitting front row and center throughout the whole event. We have learned so much from them and their research into the best way to bit horses for confidence and communication, and we are privileged to have their involvement in developing bits for more advanced levels of training that are totally



Ron, Dale, and Bob Myler





**Kalley graduates Level 4**



in line with the principles of our program. This is all about psychology, understanding and communication, vs. mechanics, fear and intimidation... and we use the Six (now Seven!) Keys of Success as our template (Attitude, Knowledge, Tools, Techniques, Time, Imagination, & Support).

At the end of the whole demonstration of different horses, different levels and different hackamores and bits, Pat went back to the basics of how our Halter and Line (on the ground) and Natural Hackamore, set the horse and rider up for success. He demonstrated this with his new young horse, a horse that Tom Atwood so generously gave to Pat after the recent and sudden death of Revolution, the three-year-old Atwood colt that was Pat's dream horse. As Pat finished the demo he thanked Tom with all his heart and choked up. I was sobbing with the raw feelings of what Pat had been through. There was hardly a dry eye in the house.

Day one ended with a Colt Start. Pat talked about the principles and approach while one of his most dedicated students, Kalley Krickeberg accomplished it with one of the beautiful young Atwood Ranch horses. It was lovely, just like you hope a young horse's first riding experience should feel. It was also punctuated by some fun moments, one of them being my choice of song when Kalley put her foot in the stirrup... Big Girls Don't Cry! I loved that part :)

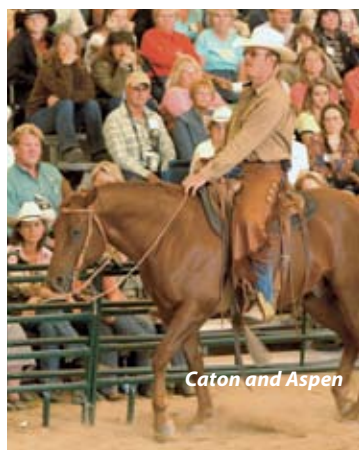
Day two dawned and this year the weather was one of the stars of the weekend. It was gorgeous. First into the arena was the Savvy Team. I don't know about you, but I never tire of seeing others play with their horses and I almost always cry! Dang it. It's so beautiful, such communion and love between horse and human. Then Pat started the day's education with an explanation of the Seven Games Architecture.

As a student, you pretty much know that the Seven Games is to horsemanship what the musical scale is to... well, music. The first three Games are like the alphabet, the next four are like words, and the combinations you make become phrases, sentences and stories. Pat Parelli is an extraordinary thinker so he thinks about the whole thing as architecture. It has a structural design from which you can build anything you want. So he led us through it, gave us insights into his thinking and showed not only how Level 1 Seven Games can turn into the highest level maneuvers, but also how the Four Savvys are a major part of the understanding. And he did it in a very creative way... he asked students to call out endeavors people do with horses that fall into the Four Savvy's. 76 ideas were collated (see *Endeavours* article in this magazine on page 24).

"Ride In" was the title I gave my session that came up next. In our Success Series we have a DVD called Ride Out, which is all about how to ride with confidence outside of arenas, in open areas and on trails. So this session was all about the opposite, as in how to ride inside of arenas and not go brain dead! Right or wrong, I chose to demonstrate this with Allure. He did not disappoint. Allure is extremely



**Horses for Courses Session**



**Caton and Aspen**

challenging for me, and just to be able to ride him in a demonstration and talk, was a feat! I'm actually safer when I ride him outside of arenas because, as a LB Extrovert he's interested in variety and changing scenery. He gets really bored inside an arena and then makes up his own fun, which is often not fun for me. Using a strategy, I have of course learned from Pat, I found a way to explain it in a simple form... instead of having an empty arena, put something in it, anything, and then use it in various ways. It gives you a focus, something to help you become a more interesting leader. Mostly, it went great until the music started a little loud (a wonderful new song by Mary Ann Kennedy called Mirror, Mirror!) and Allure CATAPULTED into the air with surprise. My mother was sitting in the audience right next to where it happened and I can only imagine the look of horror on her face as we soared through the air! Later that evening she said to me... "Does he always do that?" to which I was really happy to respond, "not anymore, just occasionally, like at this Savvy Conference!" The great part was that my focus on keeping him busy with things to do in the arena won through.

Now that I'd shown a beginner demonstration of this, it was time to showcase some more advanced examples. I began with one of our Professionals, Anja Weiler, and her lovely Danish Warmblood mare, Eliice. What poetry in motion! Before going in, she said to me "I'm not very imaginative," which was perfect I told her. This is exactly what we unimaginative people need to make arena riding interesting, for both us, and the horse (of course since then, you've seen the Ride In lesson I gave my sister Yvonne on her horse). So Anja came in and did a session of Level 3 – 4, quality. She did it bridle-less and it was divine. So flowing, beautiful, harmonious. My father said that this was the highlight of the Conference for him! (see December 2007 Savvy Club DVD).

Next, it was time to see the Master. And in true form, Pat and Magic brought the house down with an energy packed, awe-inspiring demonstration of 'fast and right'. I don't think I can describe exactly what he did, it was so electric, but every single one of us was on the edge of our seats...you just had to be there!

Developing the Young Horse was the finale for that day. And I tell you without a doubt, we could have ended the Conference right after that... what a hard act to follow! Kalley Krickeberg did the most amazing session with four yearling Atwood horses that she's been nurturing in their Parelli preschool program. Starting with one horse that she drove in front of her while riding the mare we gave her, JJ, an extremely challenging horse she bonded with during her apprenticeship with Pat. One by one, she brought in another, then another, and yet another beautiful yearling, so at the end there were two horses on either side of her that she squired around the arena, with obstacles, with seemingly effortless ease, stood all together on a big plank and then finished by loading them all into a trailer while still sitting on her beloved JJ. Not only did it bring us all to our feet, Pat





Pat and Magic



Allure!



Fluidity - The Next Level



Pat and son Caton



Happy Team!

presented a totally humble and stunned Kalley with a Black String, the Parelli symbol of a black belt for a student who has achieved Level 4 mastery. In this case, Kalley earned it for her expertise with young horses. The victory lap she and JJ took to a standing ovation said it all (see *December 2007 Savvy Club DVD*).

Sheesh. How in the heck do you top that the next day????!! Thank goodness for the dance that night with Tim Sullivan and Narrow Gauge...not to mention, Dancin' Pete's expert education of reluctant dancers, with his session on the Seven Games of Dancing!

Day three dawned with yet another spectacular sunrise and stunning display of perfect weather like only Mother Nature can do. Many of our students have to miss church when they come to the Savvy Conference, so thanks to Tony Shoulders (son of the late rodeo legend Jim Shoulders) they not only didn't miss out, they were treated to a service by a man who is also a dedicated student of the horse. Cowboy Church was in session. After some breakfast, mingling with the dedicated early birds, we were off again and with a blast... because it's that super Savvy Team again!

First session today was mine. I called it Fluidity – The Next Level. Naturally, this is me sharing what I'm working on at my Level (4 – 5) concerning Collection and how Fluidity has to evolve. Thanks to Remmer, I've learned so much about how to do what it takes in my body to be in harmony with his and it's helped me to decode what it takes so I can teach you. My main focus was to take what I've already described and show you how to refine it into a series of micro movements throughout your whole body and how to keep the focus on getting the horse's weight on his hindquarters. This all possible thanks to what I've learned from Pat and what we are refining under the tutelage of the modern dressage Master, Walter Zettl.

I know that sometimes it is hard to take what you see me do and then translate it into your own experience, so I asked Kathy Baar of our Faculty to bare her soul and allow me to demonstrate what it takes to get a horse more on the hindquarters for developing collection. Her horse Chloe is an exceptionally good model because when her weight is on the forehead she blows out her nostrils with every stride of the trot or canter. So we were able to demonstrate how to help the horse change her weight and everyone could at least hear the change by the absence of rhythmic snorts and the beauty of her movement. But at first, we had to deal with the Right Brain horse that showed up under the pressure of being in front of the crowd!

The third day finished in great style with Pat's session on Horses for Courses, in which he portrayed the strengths of different Horsesalities and the 'jobs' they are most suited for. From the minis pulling a little cart, to Lauren riding Brook in English Pleasure, to Ranch Versatility with Trevor Carter, to jumping with Faculty member Megan and her unmarked Appaloosa who regularly jumps out and back in, over the 4.5 foot buck fence that surrounds his pasture, to cutting with

Pat & Linda with  
Heide & Walter Zettl



Magic and Pat, then Magic and Caton (OHHH MY GOSHI!), to Pat on Sailing Smart, sliding and spinning with incredible gusto...it was a finish that left us all breathless. The whole team who made every little detail happen, so seamlessly, paraded around the arena and we celebrated the end of yet another momentous occasion, the Savvy Conference of 2007 that kept us all on edge and on our toes as we presented things we've never done before. PHEW! We slept better than babies that night.

All I've done is described the essence of what occurred in the arena... Coco's incredible photos have really captured the essential spectacle and feeling of the event, but what goes on around the event itself is as much what people make the trek for... catching up with fellow students, shopping, mini course experiences that had the tents packed by the Faculty... just being there in the energy. And with the 2008 Savvy Conference already sold out, what's left to say except... you better book now for 2009!

P.S. Something that made it more special than ever was that both my parents (Jim & Ruth) and Pat's parents (Jack & Doris) were there, up front and center. They never missed one thing. 🐾

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*The view from above the 2007 Savvy Conference  
in Pagosa Springs, Colorado*



# New 'Success' Courses at Stoneleigh Park, UK

by Sue Shoemark

In an exciting new venture, Parelli Natural Horsemanship is launching a range of new courses at their UK base at Stoneleigh. The courses are for anyone wanting to learn more about natural horsemanship and develop new ways to communicate and better understand their horse or pony. These NEW Courses are designed for new and existing students of natural horsemanship. A team of International instructors, who make up the Faculty Team, will be 'on hand' to give advice and answer questions, as well as, educate you on the Parelli methods and concepts.

***These courses, each held over five days, will be between May and August 2008, with a mix of classroom sessions, presentations, demonstrations, simulations, practical applications, tasking and Q & A's! The curriculum will add scope, depth and further bring to light the concepts shared by Pat and Linda in the Success Series.***

They will combine horsemanship experience with a purposeful holiday for you and your horse. It is also a great opportunity for you to meet up with like minded people who are mad about horses and give you a chance to bond with your horse and develop a relationship beyond your dreams.

These courses are perfect for horse owners who are keen to accelerate and fast track their natural horsemanship journey. 🐾

***Visit [www.parelli.com](http://www.parelli.com) and click on "Take A Course" to learn more, download application and logistics forms; or telephone the UK office on 0800 0234 813 and talk with one of our team.***









*Pat, Magic & Casper*



*Linda & Remmer*

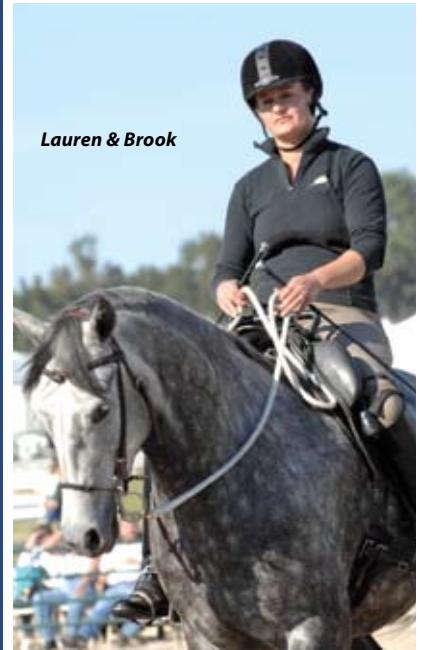


*Caton & Liberty*

# Ocala Expo

Due to Equitana in Australia being postponed, Pat and Linda were able to squeeze in one more public appearance for the year.

In the Parelli Central Arena they wowed crowds at the Florida Equine Capital Expo in Ocala on Nov. 16-18. Both Pat and Linda shared a few exciting things they are working on for the 2008 tour season.



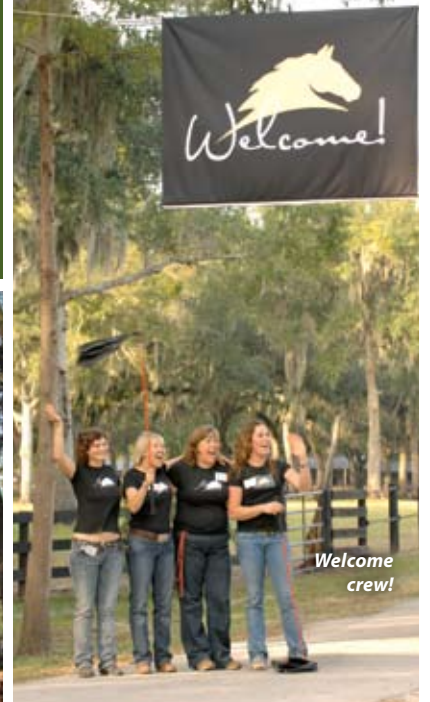
*Lauren & Brook*



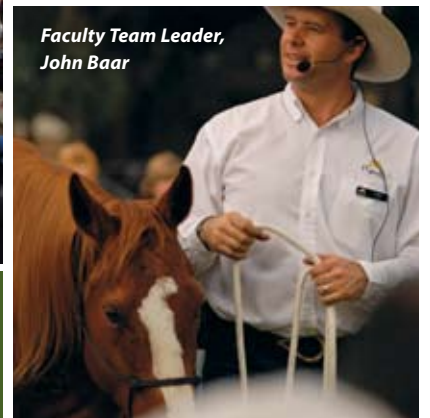
*Savvy Team*



*Horsenality Demo's*



*Welcome crew!*



*Faculty Team Leader, John Baar*



# Open House

The weekend following the Expo, the Parelli faculty team hosted an Open House at the Florida Parelli Center. Over 700 attendees had the opportunity to participate in a Mini Course experience, see classrooms, demonstrations, and arena and playground areas, and eat a catered lunch with Parelli students and faculty.



*Meet the Faculty*

# The DVD that explains it!

WHY and HOW Parelli Saddles are so DIFFERENT...and how to use them

HOW HORSES' BACKS MOVE: Helpful video illustrating what happens underneath saddles, and why it is so important to accommodate this

HOW to use the THERAFLEX Saddlepad and SHIMS to provide maximum opportunity for horse and rider flexibility, movement and comfort

HOW TO KNOW you have the BEST FIT for YOUR PARTICULAR HORSE

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Revolutionary tools for horses and riders

WHAT IS YOUR HORSE TELLING YOU about HOW IT FEELS when YOU RIDE?

## A DAMAGING Saddle:

Too Narrow.  
Bars block horse's shoulder.  
Saddle is shaped to fit a stationary horse.  
Doesn't distribute weight properly.  
Puts weight on forehead.

**POOR POSTURE**  
**POOR MUSCLING**  
**DISCOMFORT**  
**RESTRICTED MOVEMENT**

Looking at a horse's posture and the way a horse is muscled tells you what he can and cannot use in his body when ridden

Wasted muscle, flat croup, poor topline

This horse is destined to break down and/or have problems when ridden

Hind legs strung out, not enough angle in joints, hocks/stifle

Overall shape looks concave



An unhealthy physique is damaging for horse, front legs and back

Overall look of horse is "downhill"

Front legs look short  
Stride is short/choppy

Your horse is the ONLY ONE who can tell you if your saddle is RIGHT

## A GOOD Saddle:

Wide Gullet.  
Bars don't block shoulder.  
Shaped to fit a moving horse.  
Distributes weight over large surface area.  
Puts weight on hindquarters.

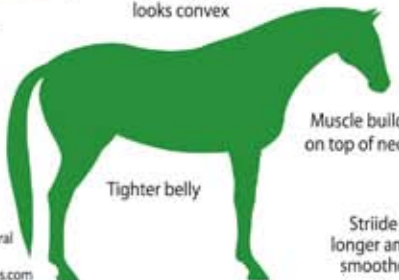
**IMPROVED POSTURE and MUSCLING**  
**FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT**

Topline more developed

Hind legs under hindquarters

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Overall shape looks convex



Withers are level or "uphill"

Muscle builds on top of neck

Stride is longer and smoother

You can order your copy of this helpful DVD online at [www.parellisaddles.com](http://www.parellisaddles.com) for only \$5 (to cover shipping/handling within Continental USA, \$10 elsewhere).

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*The Road* to the  
**SAVVY CONFERENCE**

by Kalley Krickeberg

Brilliance in Breeding Joins  
Prior and Proper Preparation...

by Kalley Krickeberg

*We fast forward for the continuation of the Atwood Ranch Naturally journey. During the months of April through September, Atwood Ranch Naturally, consisting of myself, Mike, and Catherine Sapienza, has been working on implementing a special program within the Atwood Ranch Naturally Young Horse Division called the Parelli Preschool Program™. We wish to share the milestones of this journey as we go.*

### **The Trailer Loading... it's not about the trailer**

Our journey begins at the beginning... April 7th; the first task we were challenged with, following the branding process, was to move the yearlings from their home in Orland, California, to the Atwood Naturally headquarters in Elk Grove, California, a 2 ½ hour trip south. This meant we had to prepare the 15 yearlings to load onto the trailer, bearing in mind none of these yearlings had much, if any understanding of the human or of the thing we humans call a halter. I decided, from a practicality standpoint, that we would load them as groups in each trailer. This would be my first opportunity to start building a language and to make a good impression on the yearlings. I was looking forward to this occasion and challenge.

Over the course of two weekends (four days), the yearlings gained their confidence moving from pen, to pen, to pen in groups. As their confidence grew, we gave them increasingly challenging puzzles to figure out. By day 3 ½ the yearlings were loading themselves in the trailer with confidence. All we needed to do was open the trailer door and they all would load and stand quietly as though they had been doing it their whole life. They were given a brief ride and then returned to their pasture. We would pick them up in a week's time to head to their new home in Elk Grove. In my opinion there is not much that is sweeter than teaching someone to fish, and then watching them own their newly acquired skill, a skill that will feed them for the rest of their life. These sessions were definitely not about the trailer.

### **Revealing in Reno and then Up to Utah**

Fast forward 2 ½ months to June. The Atwood yearlings have completed their 30 hour study in Parelli Preschool. It was time for the unveiling. I visited with Pat about some of our fine prospects, and he and Linda invited us to participate in the Reno, Nevada Parelli Tour event. This would be the first event Atwood Ranch Naturally would participate in. It was what we had been preparing for and things could not have gone more perfectly.

We brought six Atwood horses and what a success it was. After introducing owner Tom Atwood, along with the Atwood Naturally crew, Pat invited me, and an Atwood yearling into the arena on Saturday at the end of his Demo Horse session. While we played, he visited with the crowd about the vision of the future. Pat talked about the advantages of playing with our horses at a young age to help set them up for success for the rest of their lives. He talked of how Atwood Ranch is positioning itself to be the industry leader by implementing and showing value for this kind of program. Pat communicated how Atwood Ranch will be an influential model for other large farms and ranches to follow. I am not sure how many people realized what they were watching as Pat spoke. I was playing with a yearling, which had 30 hours of Parelli Preschool education, in front of a crowd of 2500 people. She did everything as well as, and sometimes even more confidently, than the Demo horse Pat had been playing with that was seven times her age... this was the parallel Pat was intent on drawing. The yearling's ownership of her skills was impressive.





*Colt Start with Pat, Kalley  
and AR Colonels Safari*



*"Sunshine"  
lit up the arena*



Mike, Catherine, and I visited with hundreds of people that weekend and the reception was everything we had hoped it would be. People were very excited about the idea of purchasing a young horse with decades of strategic and thoughtful breeding that the Atwood Ranch is renowned for, and now combined with the invaluable and empowering Parelli education inside. It was a successful start on our road to Colorado for the 2007 Savvy Conference.

We returned home for the month of July to prepare for our next event, which would be in August at the Parelli Tour event in Utah. We achieved similar success with the reception from the crowds there. People came in droves following our demo in which Pat spotlighted the yearlings, highlighted the program, and spoke of the future of the horse industry. Once again, people expressed their enthusiasm over the combination of the brilliance of the Atwood breeding program, and the preparation of the Parelli Preschool Program. There were many good questions asked and a wave of appreciation surrounded the concept of not only purchasing a horse that was free of “baggage,” but also, and most importantly, a horse that had a large step up in life... a chance to have a future instead of a past, as Pat says.

### **Crossing to Colorado**

The finale of the Utah seminar marked the prelude of our third trip and final destination; the Parelli Savvy Conference 2007. We arrived two weeks preceding the Conference to allow the young horses to settle in to their new environment and be as comfortable as possible for the big days ahead. There were seven Atwood horses accompanying me on the trip to Pagosa Springs, Colorado. Two were two-year-olds, and five were yearlings. One of the two-year-olds was to be started during the Conference, and the yearlings would be on display and then highlighted during the event. The success of the sessions involving the Atwood horses was, to say the least, amazing.

The colt start was a special time for me. As I played with the Atwood colt and got him ready for his first ride, Pat shared with people the philosophies and concepts that were shared with him by his teachers and mentors, about starting a relationship and developing a partnership with a young horse. He guided my steps as we went along. He talked the crowd through how a colt would be started under the ideal set of circumstances by following specific skeletons for development for certain stages in a horse’s life. First, would be the imprinting, then early learning, then preschool, then the foundation begins, and so on. Pat said we should gauge how we are doing by asking the questions “would my mom be proud of this?” and “would this young horse’s mom be proud of her son/daughter?” ...with Pat’s guidance I believe there were some proud moms out there.

The highlight of the 2007 Savvy Conference for me was the final session on Saturday. During the preceding two weeks I had been playing with the Atwood young horses as I do at home along with other tasks Pat had assigned me. When it came to the day of the Conference where the Atwood yearlings that had graduated Parelli Preschool would be highlighted, I asked Pat what he would like us to do or show. He simply said “do what you do... and don’t forget to blow their socks off” (the people not the horses, or maybe he meant the horses...hmm?) Well, I thought to myself “that’s no pressure”...yeah, right! So I decided I would keep it simple and give everyone a glimpse of my day at work. I wanted to show some of the simple to complex puzzles these wonderful creatures we call horses can figure out when they are confident learners, and the relationship we can maintain while doing so. Judging by the response of the people, the standing ovation, the hugs and the tears I shared with many, I believe we, as a community and team, achieved our goal, thus far. It was a day I will always cherish.

Not long after the Conference had reached its finale, Mike, Catherine, and I packed up and headed back to California. Little did we know where this incredible success was about to take us... and so the journey continues. 🐾



# DEX GAMES SIMULATIONS

## DEC 9 2007

*"The Friendly Game is important so the horse knows that you're not there to hurt him, that you're there as a friend."*



*"When Dexter feels the different levels of pressure in the Porcupine Game he knows when it's time to move. I had to get him to move around the hose when I gave him a bath so I pressed his hip. It was really easy to get him to move."*

Sophie (Learning Level 1) and Dexter (Level 3 Graduate) have been together for a few months now... Beginning a relationship that is extraordinary to watch.

Dexter knows SO much, and Sophie is so fresh, it's incredible to watch him fill in for her. In fact, he fills in SO MUCH, Sophie has not really been challenged to learn so much! He does everything Sophie asks, even if she's not quite sure what she asked for!

With this in mind, we took Dexter out for the afternoon and let him graze and mosey around, while Sophie and Mom played the Seven Games with an apple (!) in an effort to have the principles and purpose of Games 1, 2, 3, 4 and 7 (that was plenty for one session!) memorable in a 10-year-old's mind.

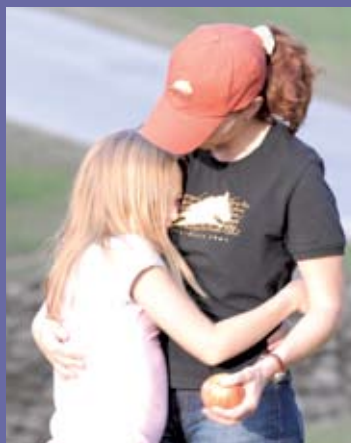
Here are Sophie's words on what she remembers from her play session with her apple, "Dex 2."

*"Squeezing is to show the horse if he goes through a small space that it doesn't have to be scary and that it's safe. He can realize he's not scared. Then the Friendly Game at the end let's him think about what he just did."*





"The Porcupine and Driving Games are different because one is touching and one isn't. If you're asking without touching it involves more Friendly Game it seems. When I'm not able to touch Dex to move him I can do it with the Driving Game."



"Dex is a spunky spirit! He's a horse everyone would love to see being himself. I love it when he's happy with his new shoes. He's a big teddy bear I just want to go up and hug. He's like having a baby because it's responsibility but he's tons of fun and I love having him around."

"The Yo-Yo Game can go back and forth or up and down. It helps with safety a lot of times 'cause if you're ever in a bind you and your horse need to know how to use it. It was lots of fun to do the Yo-Yo with an apple because I couldn't make a mistake!"





# Dreams in Spain: Carme Cama

"If I couldn't ride, I would still have a horse."

by Terra N. K. Pugh

***"Never stop believing in dreaming, and never stop dreaming of believing. That is what gives us hope, and what keeps us alive." (Unknown)***

Dreams. They are why we get into horses in the first place. Some are simple; some are complex. Nonetheless, all dreams are extraordinary. Furthermore, the stories of dreams that come true give us hope that maybe ours will too. This is the success story of Carme

Cama of Spain. The beginning of her story is not that different from the rest of us.

Nature had always been part of Carme Cama's life. Carme was raised in a big family in Barcelona, Spain, where she spent much of her childhood at her family's vineyard in the country. All her life, Carme had dreamed of horses. All her life, she had dreamed of a relationship with them. All her life, she had been waiting for an answer to realize them.



*Carme during her 10-week course at the Parelli Center*



In 2001, Carme got her first horse, an Arabian mare. Armed only with what she had read in books, the two started their journey. It took half a year for Carme to find Parelli. But when she did, she found her answer. Looking back, Carme felt that "Parelli gave me the inspiration to fully live my dream. From then on, it was only horses." Subsequently, Carme engrossed herself in the Parelli program. She attended clinics, watched the Levels packs, and attended a 10-week course at the Florida Parelli Center. Carme's dream had finally begun to materialize.

In November of 2006, another door opened. Carme began working with Luis Lucio, where her role was to play with horses on the ground to prepare them for their work in the dressage ring. Luis Lucio is a dressage rider/trainer who has represented Spain in both the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta and the 2000 Olympics in Sydney. "Luis is a

natural problem solver," Carme says. "After 40 years, he is still interested in learning to adapt natural horsemanship to his job." Carme found her role challenging in that "You must use all the savvy you know to adapt to fit the situation for the horse. Their physical condition must be considered as they are also athletes." The overall goal is to build a "happy athlete."

Today, Carme is living her dream, or at least part of it. Though her life is filled with horses, she still desires to be a good horsewoman by understanding both people and horses. Her plan is to continue with Luis and to continue to help his horses and those that ride them. In her own words, Carme hopes "to do a good job in expressing the horse and expressing what I have learned from Parelli. I want to use psychology and the Horsenality™ chart to empower all professionals." 🐾

By: Linda Parelli

# Linda's Journey

*What's going on in her Level 4/5 days with her horses... and how is Allure reminding her of the Parelli Principles... every single day?*

I just came in from a very interesting session with Allure. I asked myself... how many times do I have to hear myself teach the concepts of "address the horse that shows up" and advise students to "fill out a Horsenality Profile on their horse in specific situations," before I have the presence of mind to do it myself... with the most challenging horse I've ever owned? It's amazing how sometimes, I don't even realize, I'm not doing what I know how to do.

This time, I took my own advice and decided to play with Allure at Liberty, which is the most difficult of the Four Savvy's for us. I realized that I tend to not do much Liberty and when I do, it involved him moving his feet a lot because he always wanted to take off. I would then just shape what I wanted from there, and to a large extent it worked. But, as I thought about it in depth I realized that I was now not making much progress, and his connection to me was not really getting stronger... which it should. Liberty builds a horse's loyalty if you do it right.

So, this time I decided my entire focus in the round corral would be on creating confidence.

## A Challenging Horsenality

Innately speaking, Allure is an extreme LB Extrovert. He's mischievous, self-confident, extremely playful, animated, distracted, pushy, mouthy, and then there's the bi-polar part:

Whenever I try to teach him something new Allure's behavior flips completely over to the other side of the chart and he becomes an extreme RB Introvert. It's not just hard that he flips his behavior, it's that on both ends he's extreme!

As a LB Extrovert, Allure argues with me when he feels confident, but when I try to teach him something new he falls apart, gets totally introverted and becomes virtually paralyzed with fear over the simplest things.

I sometimes feel like crying when I see him like this because it makes me realize how traumatic his normal upbringing must have been, for him to fear things being done to him as much as he does. Yet I don't think anyone was intentionally mean to him before I got him. They just did what was 'normal' for developing a young dressage horse... longeing, longeing, longeing... side reins, chambons, nosebands, flexion, discipline, repetition. This highly exuberant, young,



playful horse must have felt suppressed to the point of insanity. Now, any time something reminds him of his past he escapes quickly to this 'happy place'. He goes deep, deep inside and pretends you are not even there. When I first got him I could not even lead him forward when in this state. I had never seen anything this extreme and yet, over the past 16 years I've seen Pat called in to deal with some of the most extreme problem horses around the world.

## Focusing on Confidence as a Learner

The LB Extrovert is hard enough to handle when it comes in a package that includes a high degree of athleticism, but actually, the hardest part is being flexible and fast enough to adjust when Allure switches to RB Introvert. In essence, that's my challenge with Allure. He can change so fast and suddenly I'm doing the wrong thing for him. One minute I have to be provocative and challenging and quick, then the next minute I have to be soft and slow and WAIT for what seems like an eternity in order to gain his confidence and prevent him from disappearing way inside of himself to hide from the terrifying pressure of being asked to do something new.

So today, I thought I would play with Allure at Liberty and focus on his confidence as a learner. I've done this before, but today I felt like I was more prepared to take it to the next level.

Liberty is the hardest thing for Allure because he gets so easily lost,



so I have not done very much of it. Also, my round corral has low panels that he can easily jump over. I know if I have him in a round corral with high panels I can push him to respond but the result is not that great because he doesn't come out more confident. The truth comes out when in a corral with low fences, such as the Parelli Play Pen. You cannot push a horse in there. You have to cause him to 'want' to interact... you have to use the principles of horsemanship.

I set up a cavaletti inside the round corral and decided to ask him to go over it using the Squeeze Game. I stood just in front of it and sent him from right next to me. He resisted at first and then flew over it like he was being attacked. As I stood there passively he ran like a looney and zigzagged back and forth on the other side of the pen, bouncing off panels. If I had taken one step towards him I know he would have jumped out. Finally he came to a stop and stood there panting but looking away from me and to the outside of the corral. After what seemed like an eternity, he licked his lips and then looked straight at me. I shouldn't have been shocked, but I was. I really did not expect it to be so extreme after all this time. Clearly there was a big hole that I had not addressed. He is super On Line now, we can do almost anything together because it's like holding his hand. I can help him feel my confidence through my feel on the line.

We repeated this liberty Squeeze Game over a cavaletti at least eight times before he finally walked over the it, trotted halfway

around the corral and stopped, licked his lips for at least 20 seconds and then looked at me. Huge! I quit on that note.

Thinking about it that night, I realized that it was the first time I had really stuck to the principle of repetition when playing with a Right Brain horse, which is Allure at Liberty. Before that I retreated to something he knew rather than sticking with the thing that was difficult and doing it quietly over and over and over again until he was calm.

The next day, it took half the time and then we were ready to practice the "Stick To Me" game that we've done several times before. He is totally Left Brain for that so it's a bit like teaching an alligator to run with you. I need eyes all around my head because he can get really cocky and playful and then want to nip!

### Lessons in teaching the RB Introvert

RB Introverts need us to slow right down, WAY, WAY, WAY, WAY, WAY down. Slower than slow than SLOW! And use LOTS of REPETITION. You need to quietly repeat the exercise in a slow and non-threatening way until the horse relaxes and can do it calmly.

As developing Horsemen, it is our responsibility to learn to read horses well, and to notice the situations in which they change so we can adapt our strategies. Some horses are easier than others. Some challenge us at the limit of our savvy. I finally did this the right way today with Allure at Liberty. Great day. 🐾

# A Level 2 Journey - Part 13

by Yvonne Wilcox

*Over the past two years of Savvy Times, Yvonne has shared her journey through Level 2 skills, bucking issues, Fluidity lessons and the Horse Behavior trailer loading marathon that totally transformed a four-year relationship with her Arabian Mare, Escada. This issue we hear about an opportunity to use all their "Savvy Arrows" to overcome a leadership issue...*

## Help! My Left Brain Introvert Turned Into A Right Brained Extrovert!

Since my last entry into this journal, fresh from the leadership lessons on "Riding In" (see *Savvy Times* Nov. 2007 and December Club DVD 2007), Escada and I are having more significant breakthroughs, more often, than we've ever experienced in our five years together!

Pat's statements about "Love, Language and Leadership—IN EQUAL DOSES," could not be any more perfect. "In EQUAL doses" is such an important thing to note, yet such a complex thing to practice!

- I LOVE Escada unconditionally...
- I'm learning how to speak her LANGUAGE more every day...
- The LEADERSHIP thing has just never been my strong suit...

But as time passes I'm beginning to really see that I didn't need to be born a great leader. I can learn it as a skill. It sure takes time, but as time goes by, it's so unbelievably worth it to not give up!

So all was "well" until a few weeks ago...

### *This was the first time in a long time that I'd had to deal with extreme Right Brain behavior in Escada.*

Each time Escada and I played, whether on the ground or on her back, we were becoming stronger together. Stronger safety, stronger trust, and even more playful.

Then one day, we had a session without any other horses and riders in sight. Instead of my Left Brain Introvert that asks "what's in it for me?" She became a Right Brain Extrovert that acted like the sky was falling!

Our warm up on the ground was fine. No signs of panic or impulsiveness. But when we began to ride, the calm, under-impulsive

Escada I knew was now huffing and puffing, darting this way and that, and shuffling her feet in all directions. I was really uncomfortable (I guess she was too!).

### A Chance To Put ALL Our Savvy Arrows To The Test

This was the first time in a long time that I'd had to deal with extreme Right Brain behavior in Escada. I have to admit that I was a bit rusty! And wasn't it funny that she was fine on the ground (where I'm a good leader) and NOT fine with me on her back (where I'm really still just a beginner when it comes to leadership).

I tried to think of the problem first from Escada's point of view: Even though her feet were scrambling, they were definitely taking her body in the direction of home and her herd. She didn't feel safe.

So if she really saw me as a leader when on her back, she wouldn't have to feel unsafe. Hmmmmmm...

I could have gotten off. There's no doubt that would have helped the situation. But I didn't feel unsafe on her back (thanks to the miracle of the Balance Point and many hours of practice). I wanted to try to figure it out and use the other strategies that Pat and Linda give us—the "savvy arrows in our quivers."

How could I be a good leader for her when on her back? Impulsion programs! In Level 2 we learn about straight lines and circles. How straight lines lengthen and give variety to a "short" horse and how circles shorten and give consistency to a "long" horse. I looked down at the oversized chicken beneath me and deduced that consistency might just be the best plan!

There are many trees in the student playground at the Florida Parelli Center, perfect for circling around. So I set my focus and my



big chicken toward the nearest tree. We wiggled and curved, but we made it to the tree. Just having the tree to focus on was a big help!

We circled the tree, and circled (they looked more like squashed egg shapes than circles). Keeping in mind that Escada is innately Left Brain (needs variety), when I felt her get calm and left brain, I headed out to circle another tree. Sort of consistency with a dash of variety thrown in. I wasn't totally sure if what I was doing was correct, the results would have to be my measure of success or error.

Of course, as in Parelli-Land, it worked! About three more trees and she started to slow down, get her feet in order, and then, finally, stopped of her own accord and stood still.

We both took a deep breath and exhaled. What a FEELING!

But it wasn't over. When I asked her into a walk she remembered the sky was falling and her legs started scrambling again. So off we went toward the trees, circle, circle, circle... off to another tree, circle, circle, circle... then she stopped in her tracks again.

Now she didn't want to go when I asked. Hmmmm!

"Straight lines give variety and lengthen a short horse..." (*What would I do without that little Parelli voice jumping up and down inside my head?*)

Now I needed to make the distances between the trees much longer. We headed off to a tree much further in the distance, circled, then to another, circled... then she found a calm, controlled, listening-to-her-leader-trot. Magical! And all this took only about ten minutes.

That was enough to call it a day. Lots of lip-licking and chewing happened when I stepped out of the stirrups that day.

### The Catching Game Takes A Step Back In Time

Coincidentally, I have to admit that the morning of the day of the Right Brain Introvert attack was not the best.

Escada is living with a herd of 16 horses on about 25 acres of pasture. So I've been VERY particular about how I catch her, how I address a session, and how I "put her back." If she sees me coming with my halter and remembers that our last session was not pleasant and attractive, I've got to have a lot of time and patience and good reasons for her to want to catch me!

This particular morning, as I was walking across the pasture to find her, I heard the buzzing motor of the breakfast truck. Oh no! I can't compete with that!

I caught sight of Escada and called her name (she's usually quite responsive to the call) but the call of grain outweighed my call of "please come to me so we can go out and play." I was thinking about how I'd give her a bucket of grain at the barn, unfortunately I couldn't convey that idea to her.

She took one look at me and RAN away. My heart was broken! And I was going to be late for my date with my study buddy.

The nerves came up in my stomach. I tried to take deep breaths and slow my walk down to make the nerves go away. I was only about 10% effective and didn't acknowledge this at the time.

With an up-tight tummy (and in denial about it) I moseyed (more like marched) over to the feeding area of the pasture. ALL the horses were pushing and sorting themselves to get to their chosen bucket of precious grain. I factored nowhere on Escada's radar.

I thought I'd just put the halter on her and let her keep eating. Of course she couldn't read that idea either. As I approached her she planted an ear on me and calculated at what point of my approach she was going to vacate.

It worked out to be when I was approx. 12 feet away.

I was DEVASTATED! Years and years of playing the natural attraction game with my Left Brain Introvert down the drain! PLUS I WAS LATE!

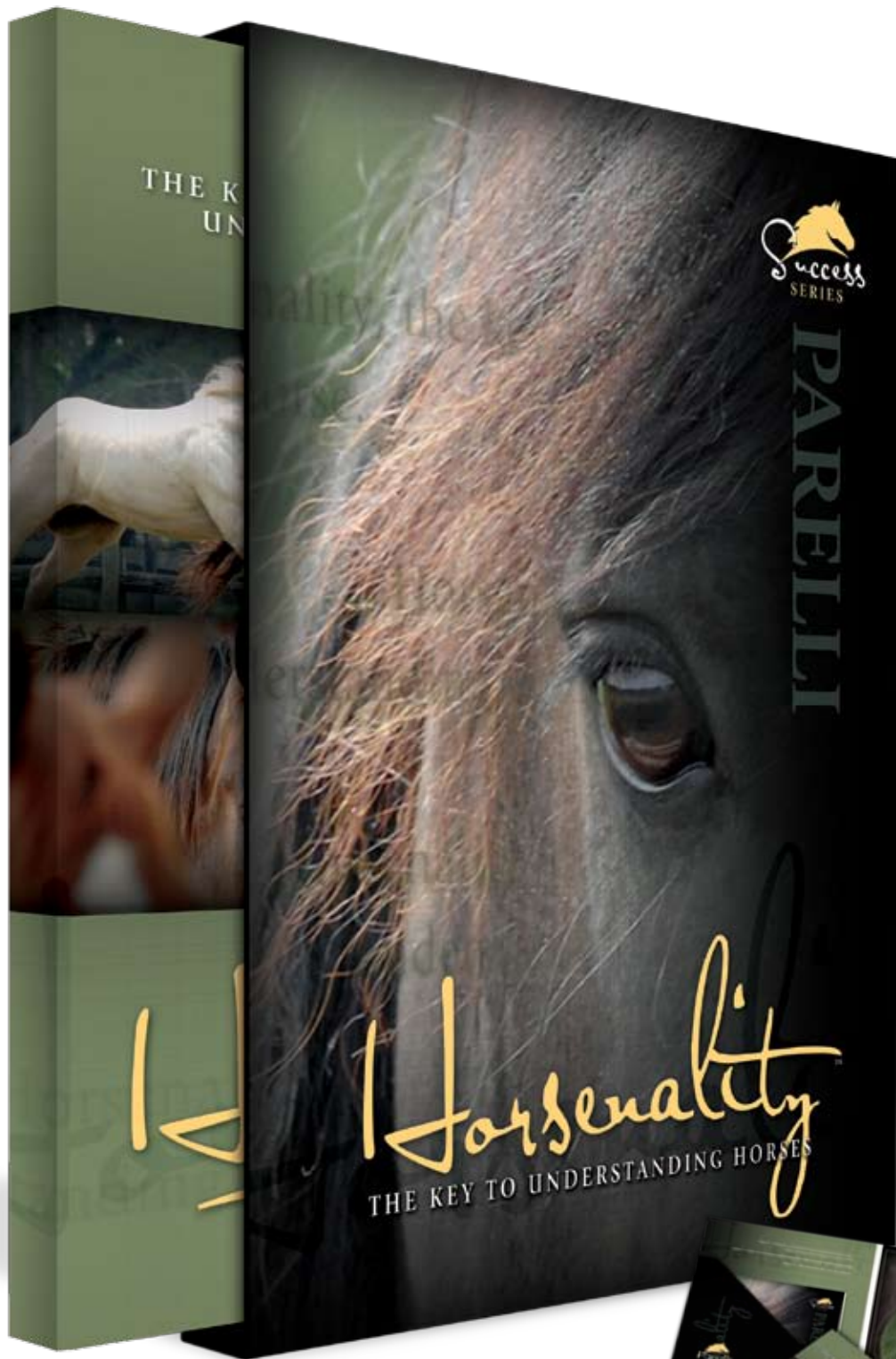
If I could have just stepped back and assessed the situation properly, I could avoided the whole thing. I could have just waited for her to eat. Waited for my nerves to subside. Exercised my patience muscles...

Because Escada had left her usual bucket place within the herd order, she kept getting bumped off other buckets. To my delight I found a full bucket of grain that the herd had not yet seen, picked it up, and started calling "EEEESSSCAAAAADA..."

She looked over, assessed the situation and headed straight toward me. She ate. I haltered. I waited for her to finish eating. We were late. But it didn't matter one bit. :) 🐾







*"The Horsenality Chart is one of the best tools I have seen from Parelli. It is so complete, so sophisticated, yet so easy to use. Now I have a way to really feel like I am starting in the right place. Please convey my thanks to Linda and Pat for once again giving us a key to unlock the gate to communication with our wonderful partners."—Maggie W.*



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