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[CAROLYN Resnick]: Well, the thing that's wrong about teaching leadership in a round pen is that it is a leadership that is forced. And when we learn leadership, what we're learning to be is magnetic, attractive, desirable, and a reason to follow. How are you going to develop that in a round pen? When you're pursuing the horse, every minute that the horse is running around in the pen, what's going through his head? He's saying "I wish there was a door. I'd leave."

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pursuing the horse, every minute that the horse is running around in the pen, what's going through his head? He's saying "I wish there was a door. I'd leave." So every moment that the horse is running in the round pen, he's exercising his desire not to be with you. Then we take the horse and erase his instinct and belief in himself that he can run away from you. So he runs and he runs and he runs and pretty soon he comes to the realization that "I can't believe in my instincts. They're not working." So what does he do? He turns, stops, faces his person, and says "I give up. This isn't working for me. What do you want?" And there is the surrender. And that's very much like Patty Hearst and the people that kidnapped her. It's not a bond. You can call it anything you want, but it's not a bond.

Riders may not appreciate it, but it's the truth. It's the absolute truth. And I don't have anything against the round pen. I think you can use a round pen, but not to create a bond and not to show a horse that he can't believe in himself. That's what I don't like about the round pen. If you're going to do that, to take the horse's belief in himself and take his instinct away from him, how are you going to take that information and teach somebody in the company how to lead? How are you going to teach somebody how to raise a child [with that kind of information]? Is there anything about that that if we turn the table and the horse has you in the round pen that you'd say "this is what I want to be doing?" I don't think so. Anything you do with the horse you want to turn it around and ask "is this something that will resonate with myself?"

[HFL]: But there does seem to be a lot of confusion with round penning and people believing that there is a bond created.

[CAROLYN Resnick]: There is not a bond created. There is a bond that's created like Patty Hearst with her people. It's the same kind of bond. Is that bond moral, just, fair, and effective? No. If the gate is open, the horse is gone. The horse still prefers being with other horses. The horse had no choice. It's like a servant, right? It's the same thing, like slavery. The "oh yes, master. Oh yes, master. I love you, master", that's not a bond. It looks like a bond, but it's not a bond. A bond is the horse chooses to be with you without ever having to be forced to be with you. You teach him right from the very beginning that "if you don't want me to interact with you, I'm outta here."

[HFL]: I think this is such an important point. It's like you were asking me earlier about the bond. With the last set of horses it has totally been based upon "ok, there is no halter and no lead rope on you, the door to the corral is open. You have a choice to stay here with me or go back to the pasture." And they've been given that choice all along. And of course they choose to be with you because you're more interesting than [the pasture].

[CAROLYN Resnick]: Oh, much more interesting. Life isn't as boring. If your focus is always on being magnetic, then you learn more and more how to be charming. The thing is, I go out and work with horses in the wild and people are so surprised that I can go out and work with a group of horses and get them all trained. They ask, "how do you keep them from running away?" I say, "simple. I just put down a pound of Equine Senior." It's that simple. If you want some Equine Senior, then you're going to play by my rule. And [the way I go about it is that] I just put some Equine Senior and oat hay over here and say "that's yours. I brought that. I'm the leader and you can eat all the oat hay you want." But over on the other side, I have some alfalfa and Equine Senior. And this is mine. [And if you want this], then we need to think about being polite. And I will let you have some of this if you follow certain rules. And in the beginning, the rules are very simple to follow, maybe only keeping an eye on me. If you keep an eye on me, you can eat all the food you want. But when you don't keep an eye on me, then I'm going to ask you to leave. I need to have a little better respect because I'm the leader. [The horse is going to say] "sure, I can do that. That's easy. I'm going to keep an eye on you while I'm eating anyway because I'm a wild horse and I've got to know where you are." So you start from there and you build a relationship. The first thing that a baby learns is when to nurse and when not to nurse. So if we come in with "You can eat now. And now you can't eat," you're controlling his resources like his mother and not like a mean person.



[HFL]: You're establishing boundary and rules.

[CAROLYN Resnick]: Right. But the way you're offering it to the horse is important. You're offering it where the horse thinks it's entertaining and that he sees his mind is smart and that he figures you out. If you can come and offer it to him like that, then he just comes and blooms from there.

[HFL]: One of the things you just said which I find absolutely fascinating is how much your horsemanship is built upon - although few people realize that simple concept - is the one that you mentioned: basic attention. It's the one who has the attention that the horse is going to follow.

[CAROLYN Resnick]: The horses notice. I studied different kinds of herds of horses in different topographies and different challenges and different predators and things like that. And the ones that you're going to learn the most from are in areas where there is a problem with predators, because those horses really need to stay alert to the areas and to each other and how to work together as a team for survival. When you see these horses working together then you really are able to process how to communicate with them.

[HFL]: For our readers who haven't read all your books yet, could you characterize the different personalities [categories] that you have?

[CAROLYN Resnick]: They're leader, dominant, and submissive.

[HFL]: And you have the leaders and the dominants separated which I think will surprise a lot of people.

[CAROLYN Resnick]: What's really interesting when I see people getting horses together is that many times they mistakenly call a lead horse "submissive". They'd say, "oh, he's shy". But I'd say "no, he's not shy. He just can't find any order." When he can't find any order, he's going to stay away from the herd as much as he can because he's not going to get himself into a situation where he's going to get embarrassed or loses his strength or power. What I was going to say about horses that have to watch out for predators is that the horses pay attention to which horse is more aware of what's happening in the environment and that's the horse that will become the leader. There are different ways that leadership is established and this is one way right here. This would happen not so much in the band where a stallion

has his collection of mares versus horses that have wound up together for whatever reason. They're not a band or family. They just wind up together because that's the way it is. The leader [in this case] is the one that's the most focused on the environment, who is not interested in personal arguments. He's just more aware and he gets appointed the leader whether he wants to be one or not because the [other] horses know that's the way to go on that. I have a feeling that they probably have a more interesting government than other communities of animals.

[HFL]: Can you expand on that?

[CAROLYN Resnick]: Well, they work together. I don't know if large herds of antelope or any other kinds of range animal would have that kind of community where they're working together in a government way, where they're working in a system that has a functional element to it. Like antelopes, they basically stay together because it's how they stay safe. But I don't think they organize a system like horses do. Horses can have a real system [in which it might go something like this:] "I'm a leader and this is what my job is. My job is to tell you guys where to go in an emergency." And the others say "I'll help get the horses there and I'll lead the way." "And I'll follow up behind and you'll take them up over the cliff at such and such and I'll meet you up later. I'm running down the back side." That's not something antelope would do. But horses will. They really understand and obviously they wind up being the animal we choose to work with. Why is that so? [It's] because they have such brain power and the ability to work together. I have a student who has a two-year old stallion who he's working at liberty. And they moved some cattle through the arena that he was in. So he was moving the cows down to the end so he can get on with his training and his two-year old stallion helped him move the cows. And [the stallion] has never seen a cow before and never did anything like that. He's just two years old. But he got the idea and he's very bonded to the man who owns him and they moved those cows together. And someone told me once that they were riding this horse and going into the cattle picking out the hot cows, the ones that needed to be bred. He would watch, and when he saw a cow that needed to be cut out, he'd ride to the cow and cut it out. The next day, he didn't need to watch. The horse took him to where the hot cow was. So they're very, very smart. Horses are extremely smart. They appear stupid because when we interact with them, we're pursuing them, so the horse closes down. And humans can look pretty stupid too if we look at it. But if you allow the horse to be part of the team, it's amazing how smart he gets.

[HFL]: I think that is the key there. To allow them to express themselves. Going back to the book for a second, could you describe to people what is the difference between a dominant horse and a leader? I think a lot of people don't understand the difference. Any why you would separate them.

[CAROLYN Resnick]: Well, a dominant horse doesn't have any desire to lead. He only has the desire to be stronger than someone else. Being tougher and meaner in an "I can beat you up" [kind of way.] He's not interested in leading. He's interested in rank. A lead horse has no interest in rank at all.

[HFL]: I think a lot of people have a problem understanding how a dominant horse would not be the leader.

[CAROLYN Resnick]: Well, the reason for it is that a dominant horse can't keep a group. The group will leave him. There is no reason why someone has to hang around if he's going to be mean. There are no fences. That only happens in a round pen. In real life, that horse is deserted. They run away from him. So a lead horse has to be very cautious that he doesn't intimidate a horse [into saying] "I'm going to leave you" because he'll be out there with no herd. A dominant horse is not looking for friendship, therefore he doesn't have any magnetism that draws a horse back to him.

[HFL]: So from a survival aspect, what is the benefit of being a dominant horse?

[CAROLYN Resnick]: Well, the benefit is that once the horse establishes his rank, there is an organization. And as soon as the dominant establishes his rank, what do you think he does? He looks for a horse to follow. If you look at marriages, you'll see men that are the heads of big companies. They're tough and they run everybody. And they come home and their wives tell them what to do - and she's this little five foot two thing that if you blew air at her she'd fall over. But [the men say] "yes, dear. I'll do what you say, dear" because the men are looking for leadership. It's the same thing with horses. Once the dominant horse has been accepted for who he is, he's saying "now what do we do?" So the lead horse can fit in and say "we need to come over here" and [the dominant horse] says "ok, I'll follow you." [From there], the rest of the horses figure out where they need to be. So it's a system so that they can work together as a team. So what the dominant horses do is to set the entire herd into an organized unit.

[HFL]: I found it fascinating that you separated the two. And through the interview I'm hoping we can help people to understand a little bit why there is a differentiation.

[CAROLYN Resnick]: I think I was the first person who noticed that. Now we have everybody look at

horses and everybody has found out that it is the truth. If you just think about it logically, it has to be true. If you are strong and dominant, how would a herd stay with you? It wouldn't. There is no way. Otherwise, we wouldn't need a round pen to do a horse. We could put them in a great huge thing and dominate them and train them. You know if he can run away, you're not going to get them trained or get him bonded to you. It takes the cornering and trapping for dominant behavior to get control. And in the plain, that simply doesn't exist.

Join us next time to continue the conversation and learn more about the community of horses and how horses learn to live together.

To find out more about Carolyn visit:

<http://www.carolynresnickblog.com/>