



Frank Bell Horse Whisperer

Gentle Solutions . . . Discover the Horse You Never Knew

Pony Stops & Won't Go

Dear Frank,

I have just read your web site and I love how you deal with horses. It is an approach that I have had since a child, but alas with two children chattering have forgotten slightly. I have a pony on loan with a view to buy who would not hack out alone in her riding school. I have managed to get her to hack but she often stops, especially when turning for home. She is lovely in all other ways, quiet with the children. I always say hello to horses before I ride them but this one was a riding school pony and looked really bored when I first met her and would barely say hello. She at first would not let me touch her head or feet and now willingly lifts them for me. When I ride her she is like part of me, but then she stops and won't move. I have moved her now (it needed some work) to a field next to other horses. How can I help her? I have only one week left to decide if I buy her, please help.

Louise

Louise:

It's very simple. You have to disengage her hind quarters thereby getting her to step underneath herself with her hind legs which forces her onto the forehand which is a forward movement. Once she moves just a bit, then circle her and keep her momentum going and off you go. This is well explained in my "Communication in the Saddle" video. It is best to begin on the ground by simply asking her to step underneath herself by bumping her with either the stirrup or your thumb. When she gets this really well on the ground, it will be a snap in the saddle. This works not only for balking, which is what I call the present situation, but also for rearing or unwanted backing as well. Remember, the engine is in the rear. When you have control of those hind quarters, you have control of the horse. I'd strongly suggest you read about my 7-Step Safety System as written in the Western Horseman on my site. If this evolved approach makes sense, consider one of our packages which will get you up and running, heighten your confidence, and promote you and your horse's safety. Safety is everything.

Happy Trails and Safe Riding,