



Frank Bell Horse Whisperer

Start with the Right Horse

Hello,

I have been reading things off your web site and have to admit that there is a lot of information that I was not aware of. Recently my husband bought me a 4yr old appaloosa/mustang mare, that had been put in the pasture for 2yrs and very seldom rode although she is broke. She has a mind of her own she loves attention however on her terms and when she wants it.

She reacts to my husband very well but with myself it is very up and down and she cornered me in her stall one day and I honestly cannot tell you how I finally got out. However we have been trying to get to know her and so riding her has not happened as of yet. Everyone tells me that we need to get the ground rules down but fails to tell me the ground rules so we are walking her in the arena with a lead rope as we are afraid she will run off and she tries to push us into the fence, she has not had a bath but does accept being curried and brushed but not anything to do with the hooves which need cleaned and cut very badly.

We need help and by no means can we afford a trainer's fee to help us. We are not poor but we are not even close to middle range income either. I would appreciate it if you could give us some basic steps to begin working with Star so at least we could enjoy her more than the daily stall cleaning and maintenance of having her. We would like to be able to ride her.

Its funny how a life long dream can be so upsetting when it comes true and you have no idea what to next.

Thank you,
Michele McClish

Dear Michele –

You've just made the most typical mistake of first-time horse owners. You all want to grow with a young horse and it's exactly the wrong approach. Start with a nice quiet 12 yr. old, learn the ropes which would of course include Frank Bell's 7-Step Safety System, and then really get your feet wet. If smitten, move on to the next challenge. Remember it's very easy to buy horses and sometimes not so easy to sell what didn't work, then start over. Make an honest assessment of yourself and the horse, learn my 7-Step Safety System which will almost instantly give you a much deeper bond, and enjoy the journey.

Happy Trails and Safe Riding,