



Frank Bell Horse Whisperer

Teaching a Horse Who is the Boss

Frank,

Please help in giving me some tips as to how to get my horse to accept that I'm the boss and to get him to quit being a little brat...he acts like a three year old but he's nine. His previous owner says he's a perfect little girl horse for a beginner but a 12 year old girl can't ride him and she is the most experienced out of the family. What are we to do? Please help us.

Thank you,
Justin Trentin

Justin:

A couple of suggestions.

First, be absolutely certain your horse has no legitimate reason to be unhappy, like a bad saddle fit or sore mouth. That is always the very first place to look.

There is a "white zone" that is very comfortable and loving. Lots of kind, soft words and stroking. However, when he's a jerk, it is exactly the opposite. The very moment he's bad, life immediately becomes quite uncomfortable with noise. Use a shhhhhhhhhhhhhhh noise that gets louder and louder using your legs, seat and hands to create agitation. Now, be careful not to be mean – you just want to be obvious about what is "right and wrong."

Timing is the most important aspect of this approach. When he's good, life is good and it's obvious. The very second he's bad, it's just the opposite. After that it's his decision.

Let me know how it goes and work on your timing.

Safe Riding,