

RAISING WINNERS...

Royal Challenger



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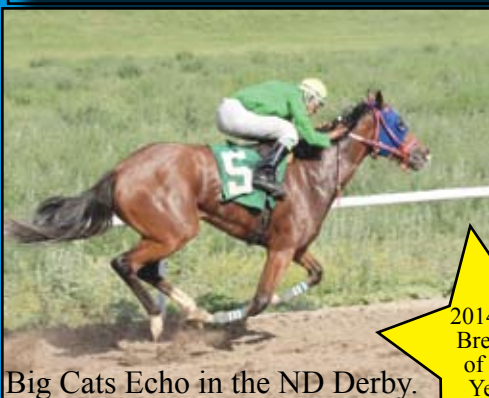
Horses For Sale:

Yearling through racing age fillies, geldings, colts. Many reasonably priced off-track horses available.

Royal Challenger
Touch Gold x Valid Leader
28 starts (7-4-4), earned \$714,564
Graded Stakes placed
Ranked 93rd by earnings in 2006
1st Breeders' Stakes (Can-G1)
Dam was multiple stakes winner and Canterbury Park Hall of Fame Inductee



Krews Pass in the ND Futurity.



Big Cats Echo in the ND Derby.

Featured Bloodlines:
King Cha Cha
King Mambo x Echoes of Eternity by Cougar (CHI).
Half-sibling to Group 2 winner, dam is full sister to KY Derby Winner, Gato Del Sol

★ Winner: Krews Pass
ND Futurity
(2nd-Valiant Quiz, top 3 horses bred by Backhaus & Sons)

★ Winner: Big Cats Echo
ND Derby
(2nd-Spy Guy, top 4 horses by King Cha Cha)

★ Winner: Nicks Star
ND Maturity

Leading Horse:
Krews Pass
(2nd-Nicks Star)

Leading Trainer:
Lexon Backhaus

Leading Owner:
Leigh Backhaus

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Equine Evolution

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climates. Horses who live in areas with mild winters and hot summers, need to be more refined. When the tarpan pony migrated south into the arid regions of Central Asia, a new type of horse may have evolved. It was a taller, lighter, and more refined horse. It was probably influenced both by environmental adaptation and selective breeding by humans. This breed had been established by 2000 B.C. and was known as the Turkemania or Turkoman horse.

Their evolutionary history demonstrates they are willing to travel in search of better pastures and more safety from predators.

When humans domesticated them, two new factors entered into their lives. They could be subjected to selected breeding and forced to migrate with their owners. Breeding for human goals probably did not begin until relatively late in the domestication process. Evolution encourages the survival of the fittest, but

have its validity questioned by other scientists.

On the grasslands of the Ukraine, southwest Russia, and west Kazakhstan, extensive research has established horses were probably domesticated there sometime between 6000 and 4000 B.C. Some experts argue domestication spread all through Eurasia from this one site; but if it had, we'd all be drinking kumiss, or fermented mare's milk. Also, modern DNA research does not support this hypothesis. It has established an



The konik horse.



The Heck horse.

human desires may work against this process. For example, breeding for lighter bone may increase beauty, but make the horse more prone to lameness.

Considerable controversy exists over when and where horses were first domesticated. Unlike other animals, horses showed no obvious physiological changes from domestication. For example, when wolves turned into dogs, they lost their long noses. An archeologist cannot look at an equine skeleton and determine if it was a wild or domestic horse. He must use other archaeological evidence and prepare to

incredible diversity in the mare lines of most of our modern breeds. A special analysis of ancient Chinese horses found all seven of the haplogroups identified in modern horse breeds. [Haplogroups, in genetic genealogy, are like ancestral clans or large families, such as Vikings or Celts in human groups—for further information, see: <http://dnaexplained.com/2013/01/24/what-is-a-haplogroup/>.]

In my opinion, if domestication had come from one center, then tack used by these early horsemen

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Domestication

Feral horses have ranges and will defend their core territory against intruders, but they have shown true territorial behavior only when they are trapped within relatively small areas.

Acknowledging the Try: Your Evolution of Horsemanship, Part 2 of Anna Twinney's 6-Part Webinar Series

BY KARI HAGSTROM

Imagine this: You are a worker or a student, and you never get the recognition for your effort that you feel you deserve. You don't get recognized for trying. Maybe you have ADHD, or some other sensory challenge, and it's hard to focus, so even an apparently small try is huge for you. But no one notices. You just get labeled as difficult, or a problem, or obstinate, or not smart. No one recognizes or acknowledges that you are trying, that you are doing your best to respond and "meet expectations." So you get disheartened and give up. Then what? You're on to an endless round of not being acknowledged, not recognized, not seen for you who really are. You live in endless frustration.

But wait. What if your tries were acknowledged? What if someone did see you trying your best? What if someone saw you and recognized you for who you are and helped you to become your best? How would that feel? Uplifting? Heartening? Would you feel valued and want to engage even more? Would life become fun, exciting even? Would you feel more satisfied in your life if you were seen and recognized for who you are?

Recognizing and acknowledging the try in horsemanship is important for your horse and your relationship with your horse. Anna Twinney, internationally recognized holistic and natural horsemanship clinician, equine behaviorist, animal communicator, Karuna Reiki master, and founder of Reach Out to Horses® (ROTH), www.reachoutto-horses.com, emphasizes this on her webinar series, "Your Evolution of Horsemanship,

Part 2: Acknowledging the Try."

Acknowledging the try is "so important, it can be the difference between trust or dominance, partnership or hierarchy, and success or failure," says Twinney on the webinar. "Knowing how and when to acknowledge your horse's effort, and exactly what that means, is crucial to successful horsemanship."

The first place to start is with your horse's personality and learning styles. Each horse is an individual and has a different learning style. "Recognizing each horse as an individual is HUGE for the horse. They all have different personalities," says Twinney. "We need to understand our horse's personalities." For example, there can be the personality types of the Business Woman (or Man), the Nurturer, the Jester, the Gypsy, etc.

"The more we understand the personality, the more it will help us to acknowledge the try," says Twinney. In a horse with ADHD, for example, the horse is "constantly looking elsewhere. When that horse gives you a try, it could be really challenging to him. It could mean the world to him, and you've got to be able to see that try for a horse that cannot pay attention. You've got to look for the try, and see it, and realize the challenges he's facing."

"There's no copy cat program that fits the horses. If we thought that one single program for individuals would work, we could throw children into cubicles and expect it to work. But we already do that." Horses, like people, like to be

treated like an individual; they, and we, perform better that way.

Twinney notes that it is important to ask: "Who is your horse? How do I adapt to their needs in order to support them most effectively?"

How does your horse learn? Is it through touching? With a muzzle or a hoof? Does she move around an object or situation to get a full view, or does she go around the edge of the paddock where she feels it's safe? Does she put her head down and trust? "It's all about the learning. Feeling, touching, following, showing it to them (where you get off your horse and show them)," says Twinney.

Environment, age, breed, fitness level, mentality all affect learning styles. "There are many factors to create a successful session and to recognizing the try. What is a try with one horse will look completely different with another horse," says Twinney.

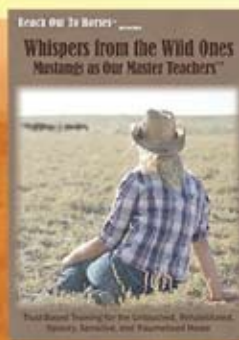
Pressure is also an important factor to consider in how your horse learns and tries; and the release of pressure is one of the main tools utilized and advocated by Twinney as a teaching tool. "Horses learn from the release of pressure, not from the pressure applied."

There is almost always pressure when we are around horses; even just our presence creates pressure. "When we enter a paddock—there's pressure. When we advance toward

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a horse—pressure. When we're driving at liberty in a round pen—pressure. When the horse is asked to stand still and feels uncomfortable, or he's tied to the trailer—pressure. When we put the leg on the side of the horse—pressure. Asking for a left or right turn—there's pressure on the mouth. Asking for a slow—pressure on the mouth. Asking to lead—pressure on the halter. When we ask to stop—pressure. Pressure can be direct or indirect," says Twinney. An example of a release from pressure is when you put pressure on the side of a horse and the horse moves forward, and then you remove your leg from the pressure—that's a release. The release is the "yes, this is right" of the equation; not the continuous application of pressure, which only serves to frighten, confuse, frustrate

or flood the horse's senses. With flooding, the adrenaline rises and then falls, as the horse is pushed into flight or fight, or freeze, and he goes into overwhelm—this isn't learning, nor is it teaching or training. With flooding, there is no release, no acknowledgement, no praise. "If all you ever do is flooding, you'll get compliance, because you'll take the spirit out of the horse."

Put yourself in your horse's shoes. Remember those times when you had to do something uncomfortable or unpleasant, like stand up in front of a group of co-workers or in front of a class to give a presentation. You felt pressure, stressed, and because of that stress and pressure, you blanked out on part of your presentation, you felt embarrassed and frustrated, only to remember it clearly later,

when there was no stress or pressure.

The release of pressure in Twinney's lexicon of the language of Equus is as subtle as dropping our eyes at the sign of a try—this releases pressure applied by our eyes. Dropping our hand or arm that is outstretched to the horse—this is a release of pressure. Backing away or even leaving the horse's presence/pen to supply an ample release—this all helps the horse learn in a comfortable and understanding environment. Ask yourself: Do I learn better in a pressure-filled environment, or a safe, comfortable, respectful environment? Then think about your horse's situation, and how you can best support and acknowledge them.

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