

Wildwood Farm CLIPS & CLOPS Oak Harbor

February 2023

YOUR NEIGH-BORHOOD HULLABALOO

CREATED & EDITED BY HEATHER CARDER

Having Heart

A short essay by Heather Carder

It is interesting to me that when we talk about a human's character we don't usually refer to their "heart" in the same way we do when we talk about a horse's character. A horse that has heart is one that is clean and honest, one that has unlimited amount of try and a desire to accomplish the task at hand no matter how difficult the circumstance. Race horses especially are known to have heart, known to excel above others when there is no justifiable reason for it other than they do not know how to give up. They seem to want to give until they cannot give any more, hate failure (whatever that is to them), fight until the very last. Not every horse has heart, either. In fact, many do not and I can fault human interaction for that somewhat. But when you are in the presence of one with heart you are humbled, this I can tell you.

Humans, on the other hand, can have characteristics that show determination, doggedness, tenacity; but the pureness is not the same, is it? When a horse throws his whole self into a task either to win a race, or to find his way home, or to

suffer some unbearable affliction, that is not a decision they dwell on, give any time thinking about. It is their raw nature that drives them. When a human shows dedication and determination, there is usually a whole lot of thought going into that decision. Checks and balances, possible outcomes; it is a filtered response. How I define heart is unfiltered, and I have yet to meet a human who has this type of drive most likely because we have evolved past needing this as a species, have a complex set of synapsis that regulate and calculate and although human determination can be breathtaking, for some reason a horse that has heart is so much more of a mystery to me.

We usually fall back on things like nature and nurture, and how both of those things contribute to how a person's character develops. Some traits can be attributed to an individual's unique nature (which is quite a mystery itself), but we put more emphasis on nurture – how we are raised and what we are exposed to and what we observe as appropriate behaviors. But a horse? I am not convinced that the same applies to the equine mind, and have witnessed this first hand throughout my lifetime with horses.

Left to their own with no human intervention horses will create their own hierarchy, which is essential for their survival. There are not many lead mares, there is just one. There are not many stallions, there is just one. To add more would complicate the understanding of everyone's roles, open up decisions to interpretation, and then their survival would be in jeopardy. When there is danger you don't want the herd to look to more than one individual, it would be chaos if they did. The mystery is how the leaders are chosen; after all, you don't want a horse that is afraid of their shadow to lead the herd away from danger, nor do you want a stallion that does not have a strong drive to protect not only his herd from dangers, but from other unworthy suitors. These roles take heart, and some horses are just born with it and seem to have the purity of mind to not allow that drive to get clouded. And the other horses just seem to know when this shows up in their leader because there is rarely a fight for leadership – perhaps for breeding rights, but rarely for leadership (this is really the

Continued on page 12

WHAT'S TRENDING NOW

GOLEYGO 2.0 BY CAVALLIERO

Winner of the 2020 BETA innovation award, the GoleyGo 2.0 by Cavallerio is a simple yet clever magnetic system for a secure attachment between headcollar (halter) and lead rope, which allows easy fast attachment and release using a single hand.

The fiberglass-reinforced fastener made from polyamide with high quality ferrite magnet connects with an adaptor pin which can easily be screwed onto existing halters. This system is also perfect for cross tie areas for easy and safe connect and disconnect.

The horse halters are lavishly stitched with color coordinated design fitting components; outer lining with coat-protecting synthetic rubber; excellent adjustability with pin buckles on the neck and nose straps; beautiful color options to match the lead ropes; equipped with the GoleyGo 2.0 adapter pin. Available in 6 sizes from foal to XL.



The color-matching lead rope has excellent grip properties made from woven tear-resistant polypropylene and comes in 3 color combinations.

The adapter pin is easy to screw into the metal ring and makes any halter ready for the magnetic fastener. Additional rings are also available for rope halters, if needed.

This product is distributed and sold by Kerbl and designed and manufactured in Germany.

www.kerbl.com

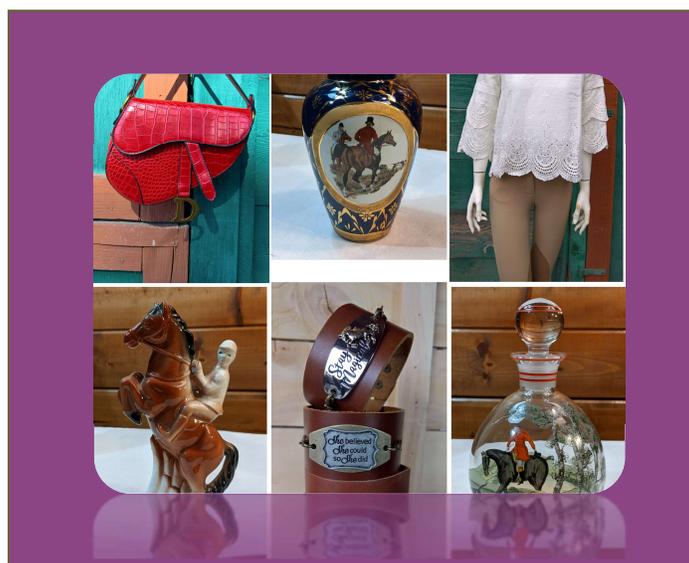


Our store is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday by appointment



Shop Online!
www.thenoblehorsevintage.com

New Items for February



Me when I'm finally finished doing everything at the barn by myself instead of simply asking for help:



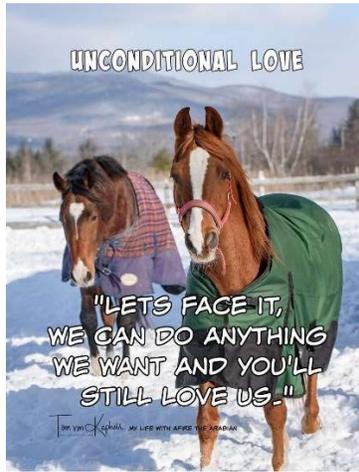
When You're In The Middle Of An Intense Battle But You And Your Horse Take Time To Post For A Pic Because You Both know You Look Fabulous:



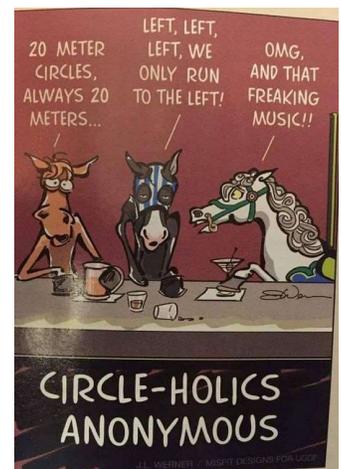
SON IF YOU EVER FIND A LADY THAT IS GORGEOUS, CAN COOK, IRON, ROPE BOTH ENDS, WORK CATTLE AND IS SINGLE...



cats who share one braincell @CATBRAINCCELL



When your horse is just as happy about his accomplishments as you are.



WILDWOOD FARM B&B



This is your moment.

Today at Wildwood Farm B&B

**A Business Analyst learned
The days that break you, are the days
that make you.**

Immerse yourself in the equestrian world at Wildwood Farm B&B located on beautiful Whidbey Island.

Our ranch has a long history of igniting the spark between horses and humans, whether you want a small introduction or total immersion.

Come experience the power of possibility with these magnificent creatures and explore the abundance of silent repose.

www.wildwoodfarmbandb.com

WILDWOOD FARM HAS IT ALL!

PACIFIC NORTHWEST
PNWA
Riding Academy



“We will never have to tell our horse that we are sad, happy, confident, angry or relaxed. He already knows—long before we do.”

-Marijke de Jong



“It is the horse’s gift to connect us with heaven and our own footsteps.”

-Ronnie Sweet



WWW.PNWRiding.com

PACIFIC NORTHWEST
RIDING ACADEMY

BARDING

Barding (also spelled *bard* or *barb*) is body armor for war horses. The practice of armoring horses was first extensively developed in antiquity in the eastern kingdoms of Parthia and Pahlava. After the conquests of Alexander the Great it likely made its way into European military practices via the Seleucid Empire and later Byzantine Empire. Though its historical roots lie in antiquity in the regions of what was once the Persian Empire, barded horses have become a symbol of the late European Middle Ages chivalry and the era of knights.

During the Late Middle Ages as armour protection for knights became more effective, their mounts became targets. This vulnerability was exploited by the Scots at the Battle of Bannockburn in the 14th century, when horses were killed by the infantry, and by the English at the Battle of Crécy in the same century where long-bowmen shot horses and the then dismounted French knights were killed by heavy infantry. Barding developed as a response to such events.

ELEMENTS OF A EUROPEAN BARD



Chanfron. The **chanfron** was designed to protect the horse's face. Sometimes this included hinged cheek plates. A decorative feature common to many chanfrons is a rondel with a small spike. A chanfron extended from the horse's ears to its muzzle. Flanges often covered the eyes. In an *open chanfron*, the eyes received no protection. Hinged extensions to cover the jowls were commonly used for jousting tournaments.

Criniere. The **criniere** was a set of segmented plates that protected the horse's neck. In full barding this consisted of two combinations of articulated lames that pivoted on loose rivets. One set of lames covered the mane and the other covered the neck. These connected to the peytral and the chanfron. Light barding used only the upper lames. Three straps held the crinet in place around the neck. It is thought that thin metal was used for these plates, perhaps 0.8 mm. Mail armor was often affixed to the crinet and wrapped about the horse's neck for additional protection.

Croupiere. The **croupiere** (also *crupper*) protected the horse's hind quarters. It could be made from any combination of leather, mail, or plate armor.

Flanchard. The flanchards, used to protect the flank, attached to the side of the saddle, then around the front or rear of the horse and back to the saddle again. These appear to have been metal plates riveted to leather or in some cases *cuir bouilli* armour (which is boiled or treated leather sealed with beeswax or the like). They sometimes had openings designed to allow the rider to use spurs.

Peytral. The peytral was designed to protect the chest of the horse, while the croupiere protected the rear. It sometimes stretched as far back as the saddle.

Caparisons. Barding was often used in conjunction with cloth covers known as caparisons. These coverings sometimes covered the entire horse from nose to tail and extended to the ground. It is unclear from period illustrations how much metal defensive covering was used in conjunction. Textile covers may also be called barding.

Other features. Another commonly included feature of barding was protection for the reins, so they could not be cut. This could be metal plates riveted to them or chainmail linked around them.

Nutrition Corner

Can Horses eat Corn?

Horses are able to digest corn, and it can be a nutritious part of their diet. However, it is important to monitor how much corn your horse eats, as too much can lead to health problems. Corn is relatively high in sugar and starch, so it should only be fed to horses in moderation. When feeding corn to horses, it is best to do so as part of a balanced diet that also includes hay and other healthy grains and forage.

The nutritional benefits of corn for horses

Corn is a good source of energy and nutrients for horses, and it can be fed as either whole kernels or processed into cornmeal or corn Flakes. Whole kernels are more likely to cause digestive problems, so they should be soaked in water for several hours before feeding. Cornmeal and Flakes are easier to digest and can be fed dry or soaked in water. Soaked corn can also be mixed with other feeds such as hay to make a complete ration.

The main benefit of feeding corn to horses is that it is an excellent source of energy. Corn is high in carbohydrates, which are broken down into sugars that provide the horse with quick energy. It is also a good source of crude protein and

essential vitamins and minerals, making it a valuable addition to the horse's diet.

The dangers of feeding horses too much corn

While horses can technically eat corn, it is not recommended as a regular part of their diet. Corn is high in sugar and can lead to weight gain and health problems in horses if they eat too much of it. If you are going to feed your horse corn, do so in moderation and make sure they get plenty of other healthy foods as well.

Here are some tips for feeding corn to your horse:

- Soak the corn in water for at least 24 hours before feeding it to your horse. This will help to reduce the sugar content of the corn.
- Feed the corn in small amounts, gradually increasing the amount you feed as your horse gets used to it.
- If you are feeding dried corn, make sure that it is finely ground before feeding it to your horse.

WILDWOOD FARM AND TRIPLE CROWN FEEDS.

Our partnership with Triple Crown began in 2014 through a promotion with the USEF encouraging farm members to compare their current feeding programs with Triple Crown products. We have found the TC products to be superior over other products primarily because of the EquiMix technology and the research support of a leading edge team including independent representatives of Equine Universities, Medical clinics and top level riders and trainers



Meet Lightning N's Moonbeam (Hank)

In early January of this year Wildwood Farm adopted Hank from a home in Bonney Lake. The owner had rescued him in July of 2022 from his 2nd owner who was sadly suffering from the onset of dementia, and Hank had essentially been abandoned in a field for 3 years with just a hoof trim done when they were looking a bit long.

Hank is a 23 yr old, 15 hand registered Tennessee Walking Horse who was bred and raised in the Prairie Ridge area of Washington, very close to where we found him. His early education was focused on trail riding and mountain hunting trips, where he quickly learned to not react to gunfire or animals they would encounter. He was a very dependable mount and his gaited walk travelled the miles effortlessly.

When he was 10 he was sold to his 2nd owner who wanted to travel to various horseback riding vacations in the west; from Colorado and Montana to Utah and Arizona, Hank was taken to a lot of places and was known to be level headed and chill, would line tie and had no problems forging rivers, climbing steep hills and living outdoors by the campfires. 6

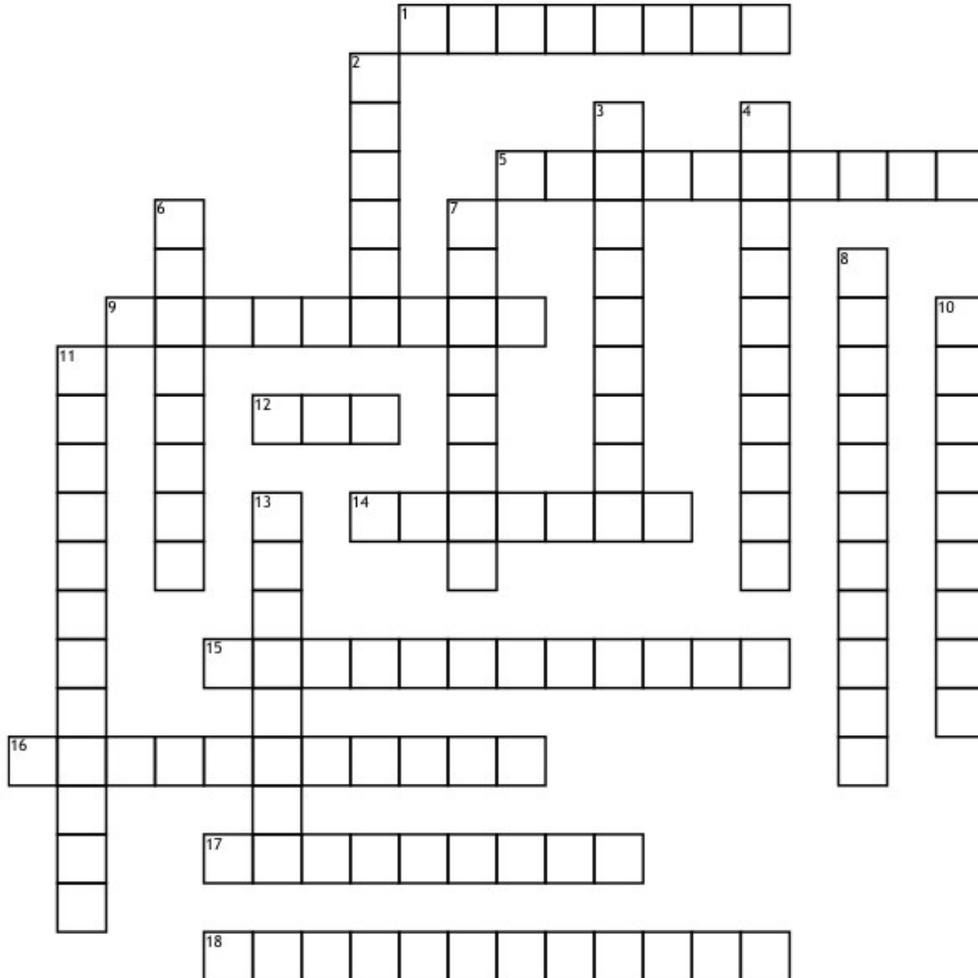
Throughout the years with his 2nd owner Hank would be used as a pack horse as well, hauling the deer or elk down the mountains if the hunt was successful. He was also a favorite of the grandchildren and allowed them to crawl all over him without concern.

Hank's 3rd owner told us that he was lacking the confidence she was told he once had, and that she did not have the time to work with him to get him back into shape. He was quite underweight when she got him in July of 2022, and by the time we found him he was rebounding but still needed another 150 or so pounds.

Today we are still evaluating Hank for a position in our riding academy, and will give him the time he needs. We find him to be sensitive, intelligent and starting to trust people again more every day.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Hard Horse Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1. a fungal infection of the skin
- 5. a saddle patch and legs are not removed
- 9. another name for baby teeth
- 12. another name for a crop
- 14. another name for tetanus
- 15. vitamins B & C
- 16. taking a long vacation from work

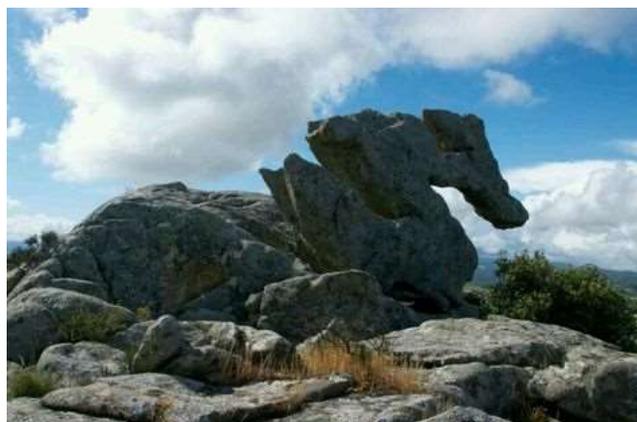
- 17. a long muscular tube that carries food down to the stomach
- 18. the process of getting a pony fit

Down

- 2. a trace mineral that helps regulate thyroid activity
- 3. a yearly vaccination
- 4. a change from one gait to another

- 6. something you do with your reins to maintain control
- 7. used to remove bot flies
- 8. a toxic plant
- 10. the name of a cross country jump and breed of horse
- 11. a spread with front and back elements the same height
- 13. large worms that live in the small intestines (most often in foals)

BEST HORSE ROCK FORMATIONS



Kiplingcotes Derby

Kiplingcotes, England

You don't have to be a professional jockey to ride in Britain's oldest horse race.



FOR CENTURIES, HORSES HAVE THUNDERED across this four-mile course. These aren't your typical racehorses, and it isn't your typical racetrack. All horses—Thoroughbred or not—are qualified to run in what's considered England's oldest horse race.

Said to have first been run in 1519, and written in records dating from the early 17th century, the Kiplingcotes Derby welcomes horses and riders of all ages and backgrounds. The oldest recorded rider was 74 years old.

The derby takes place on the third Thursday in March. The participants turn up on the day, pay the entry fee, and then they're good to go. There is only one bookmaker, who doesn't get advance notice of runners and must fix his odds on the day of the race.

You'll see sleek, well-muscled sport horses galloping alongside draft horses and other stocky breeds. Some riders sport colorful silks, while others wear their everyday riding attire. Locals line the course, cheering on the contestants as they whiz past.

Strangely, it's actually more lucrative to finish second best than to win. The winner gets £50 (and to keep the trophy until the next race), and the second place rider gets the remainder of the entry fees. Because of the number of horses that enter the race, this runner up prize often comes to much more than the first place reward. But still, there are many who are eager to win. It's said that retired racehorses are sometimes entered under false names.

Tradition has it that if the race is canceled one year, it will never run again. In the few recorded instances when the race has been canceled in its long history, steps are taken to ensure the tradition is maintained. In 2018, the course was deemed too dangerous to run due to waterlogging, so two horses were ridden slowly, and at times lead by hand, across the track so future races could still occur.

Know Before You Go

Since 2013, parking restrictions have been imposed close to the finishing post on race days, so be prepared for a long walk from the nearest legal parking lot or take the shuttle bus from nearby Market Weighton.

The Top 3 Rarest Horse Breeds



1. GALICEÑO Current Estimated Numbers: Less than 100

The Galiceño is a critically endangered horse that has a long history in the Americas. It is estimated that there are fewer than 100 pure Galiceños left, making this the rarest horse breed in the world. According to The Livestock Conservancy, most of the remaining Galiceños are not in breeding condition, which leaves the future of the breed uncertain. Galiceños are small horses, only measuring between 12 – 13.2 high hands (48 – 54 in), and are believed to be descended from the Garrano horses of Portugal, a primitive horse breed from the Iberian Peninsula. These Iberian horses were brought over the New World by Christopher Columbus as well as Spanish conquistador Hernan Cortes. Through natural selection when these Iberian horses bred in their new environment, the Galiceño breed was born.



2. NEWFOUNDLAND PONY Current Estimated Numbers: Less than 400

The Newfoundland Pony is also one of the most critically endangered horse breeds on this list. There are currently about 400 Newfoundland Ponies left in the world with only about 250 able to breed. In the past, Newfoundland Ponies were used as work horses for plowing, hauling, and transporting goods. The ponies were replaced by mechanization and many Newfoundlands were slaughtered or abandoned. The Newfoundland Pony comes from Newfoundland, Canada and traces its origins to the moorland and mountain ponies that European settlers brought with them. The primary ancestors of the Newfoundland Pony are British horses such as the Exmoor, Dartmoor, and New Forest ponies. Newfoundland Ponies also have Welsh Mountain, Galloway (extinct), Highland and Connemara pony blood in their lineage.



3. AMERICAN CREAM DRAFT Current Estimated Numbers: Less than 400

The American Cream Draft is the only draft horse breed originating in the United States. The breed traces its roots to Iowa in the 1900s and was started by one horse named Old Granny. This mare was a cream colored draft horse of unknown origin, who consistently produced cream colored offspring. After the birth of a stallion named Silver Lace in 1932, breeders became more interested in Old Granny's cream colored bloodline. Silver Lace was the great-great-grandson of Old Granny. Due to such a limited origin, the American Cream Draft horse has always been a rare breed. There are currently fewer than 400 American Cream Drafts registered.

(Cont'd from page 1)

3 SECRETS TO IMPROVE YOUR RIDING

By Alexi Mast

As riders, we are always looking for that magical secret to develop our riding. There are a few simple keys that I've discovered that advanced my riding overnight. The most important lesson is the one that too many new riders and owners fail to learn: *every rider is a trainer*. I cannot stress this enough. The moment you set foot in the barn you become a trainer. Every interaction we have with a horse is a learning experience, whether it be positive or negative. So here are 3 secrets to improve your riding and become the trainer your horse needs you to be.

1. PLAN WHAT YOU WANT TO IMPROVE

An effective rider looks at every ride as training. Every ride needs a plan, whether it be a relaxing trail ride or schooling for a show. It might just be something as simple as walking in the middle of the group and not insisting on being in front, or not spooking at that leaf that always ambushes you at the end of the driveway (hey, don't laugh, that leaf is scary, it has teeth). Expecting less will result in less because horses seldom exceed our expectations. I know, it sounds harsh, but it's true. They are lazy critters at heart. Too many people say; "But I'm not a trainer. I just want to trail ride and enjoy my horse." This brings us to our next point:

2. CONSISTENCY

Horses don't understand "just a trail ride." Either you are training or untraining. There is no middle ground. That being said, if you are consistent enough, enforcing the training will become a habit. Whether you're riding down the trail or on the rail, there will come a point where you can unconsciously make little corrections that your horse needs without even really thinking about it so it feels like you're doing nothing and it looks like you're doing nothing, but you're still doing little things to remind your horse that "hey, yeah, I'm still here and you still have to listen so stop making eyes at every rock that looks at you funny." Whoever coined the saying "give an inch and they'll take a mile" didn't just pull it out of thin air. They must have been a horse trainer. This brings us to our last, but most important, point:

3. CORRECT THE LITTLE PROBLEMS BEFORE THEY BECOME BIG PROBLEMS

If every rider took the time each ride to take note of the little mistakes their horses were making and corrected them, a lot of professional trainers would be out of a job. It is important to notice and interrupt the little things before they become big problems. For example, if your horse drops his shoulder, it should be corrected with a counter arc in the opposite direction. Anything a horse is allowed to do is what the horse is being trained to do. This is how all of those bad habits and vices are born. It may seem like a pain keeping track of all the little things now, but it will pay off in the long run when you have the best-behaved horse on the trail ride or in the show pen.

Wildwood Farm CLIPS & CLOPS Oak Harbor

2326 Happy Valley Rd
Oak Harbor WA 98277

Responsibility of the mare, of course.) That is a hard job and, frankly, the rest of the herd has it pretty good, with their sole responsibilities to eat and reproduce.

I do think that the heart of a horse comes into clearer focus when humans are brought into the relationship. After all, it was Charles De Kunffy who wrote that a horse does not know anything about potential, that potential is something that humans can see but they cannot; it is something we bring to the table. They do not aspire to be anything but what they are, it is the humans that aspire for them and see the potential in what they can be. He said it was like creating a work of art, the horse being a blank canvas and we are creating the masterpiece. Perhaps we find heart when we start developing the horse into what we think they can become, and this makes sense because not every horse will be a masterpiece. Some horses have a limited amount of try, cannot be pushed past a certain point, have their own internal limitations that really have nothing to do with us – every horse is truly an individual. The honesty of horses should humble you. We go about our lives with our own agendas, asking the horse to understand and help us and step up when we need them to; to adapt to a world where their leader is often flawed and unworthy of the role; to either be forced into a herd of many that they have nothing in common with, or to be left isolated, or with minimal friends or other species to fill their need for companionship. Their willingness to do all of these things shows you their pure character, their ability to adapt, their often-unquestioning trust in the hierarchy we have created for them. And then you come across the horse who has heart on top of it, who somehow buys into the vision you see for them and says to you – I'm in! Let's do it! I want it as much as you do. As rare as that is, when you find it your life will never be the same. You are indeed the leader, but you are also the creator and this is a very powerful role.

And here is how this power can be a disservice: in an article written by Alexi Mast on her Equine Write blog, she states that poor training and management stamps the heart out of a lot of good horses, destroying their willingness to work. They often build walls around their "try" and these walls are very hard to break down. Horses don't do well with neglect, or boredom. They get soured on humans when the two-way communication is not there, when their concerns or trepidations are not heard. They also get tired of giving without receiving – as any sentient being would – and this happens more often than not and they can shut down mentally, lock you out – experience has shown them that there is no right answer and they give up. Once these horses shut down it is very difficult to get them back, and they will always have their scars. Conversely, it is usually the horses with the most heart that lock themselves up, studies confirm this.

Bottom line: Having a horse with heart in your life creates heart in you – though you still may overthink things, it instills a quiet power within you, a dignity, another level of thought. It is hard to explain....but it does something to your growth as a human. The horse is coming from such a pure place it is like they are showing you a way to become a better version of you, to keep developing your try for what you really want and to see your own potential every day; and to believe in it. Really, they are only asking that you see in yourself what they see in you, or at least in the vision you have created for them. And this responsibility to not slip up, to keep working from an honest place and see the horse for the intelligent individual they are will make you a better person. I guarantee it.