

Alberta Donkey and Mule Club News March, 2018

Our Annual General Meeting is happening this month on Sunday March 25 at 1:30 at the Ponoka Drop In Center, 5015-46 Ave., Ponoka, AB. We will have more events and information about our club activities at that time.

Tindell's Horse and Mule School of California is coming back to Alberta this summer. Check out our website at www.albertadonkeyandmule.com for our list of clinics which are open to ALL breeds and start on June 26 with a Colt Starting Clinic at Eagle Hill Equine west of Olds, AB. More information and registration for the clinics is also at www.jerrytindell.com. Auditing any and all clinics is once again FREE to everyone compliments of this master clinician!

Having loved and raised mules for many years and yet sometimes struggled with how to best handle these amazing hybrids I have found Jerry Tindell's training program to be very safe and most effective in working with any equines. Here are just a few bits of "Tindell" wisdom.

You need good movement to train and you train through movement - you can't train using restraint! You need to be able to move their feet in order to get to their mind. Good movement involves using your body language to communicate with them. That is the way to their mind. In a round pen, an equine that is not listening will first show connection by a slight cup of the ear towards you, followed by their eye that acknowledges your presence, eventually followed by a slight tilt of the head in your direction and so on through their body to their feet, which then really connects to their mind. You then have their full attention and the ability to move them as you need or desire. It's very fascinating to watch this happen. And guess what? Without being able to make them move, you can't stop them either.

Once you have mastered movement in the round pen, you can transfer that to your work on the halter and a long lead. There are six basic steps to work on that can be accomplished on the lead line and even without. Missing these steps will allow for holes showing up later.

Training cannot happen if there is fear involved! Where fear is allowed to stay, flight will follow and after that fight can kick in. Sourness can turn into fear. Again train through movement, not restraint! Build on the positive, don't dwell on the negative. Kicking out or turning their butt to you does not mean that they are being disrespectful; it signifies that they are fearful. You can't really fix the 'evident' problem or bad habit, but by working on good movement you can build new habits! Work on being soft, effective and

consistent. Use your body at all times, inhale to move them up, exhale to release/soften. Wait for the change and recognize it. Once they are moving more freely, they have more courage. You need movement for change.

Keep safe and do your ground safety check every time before riding or driving. It's important!

Marlene Quiring