

## The Last Resort The Starting Point Towards Enlightenment.

Based on the article written for Natural Horsemanship Magazine



Maybe you are already actively seeking inspirational sparks to ignite your journey towards excellence and that is why you have discovered this website. Or maybe you and your horse are struggling and reaching the end of the road and looking for help as a last resort? Has your equine dream has turned into a nightmare? Or do you see other people struggling? Would a friendly nudge in the right direction help? However you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink. People arrive at trying a natural approach when they are ready and for some it is the last resort.

I am contacted by people struggling with problems. Many have already tried a range of different approaches including: local instructor, lessons from a non professional (the yard expert), all sorts of tack, gadgets, the latest fashionable approach etc. If they tried a natural method, they dabbled, with no expert guidance, limited understanding and no guiding principles to support them. Money spent, time and effort with limited success or to no avail. As a last resort they decide to call me. This is the first step along the road to horsemanship enlightenment.

Why is a more natural approach seen by many to be the last resort? Partly it is because of established equestrian culture and people's first experiences. Many people learn at a traditional riding school. I considered the equine media. It mostly this covers mainstream interests and when natural horsemanship is featured it focuses on fixing horse problems. What percentage focus on a trainer only fixing the horse? All natural horsemanship converts know it goes way beyond this. Looking at the language and marketing for main stream and horsemanship it is clear there are huge differences. The people who learnt the traditional way may find it hard to relate and understand the full and wide benefits of natural horsemanship.

So no wonder I get 'last resort calls'. The range and types of problems are too many to list here. I know any number of factors can be the root of the problem. With horsemanship you see the full picture in three dimensional colourful details. Once you know the issues you can put in place a supportive structured plan that focuses on horse and human. People can be unaware they fuel and fan the flames of the problem with a lack of knowledge and understanding, established attitudes or beliefs, peer pressure, tradition, a closed mind, perfection paralysis, the quick fix throw away culture, time pressures, etc...

Sadly I see extremes, really difficult and complex cases requiring intensive work supported by a range of complimentary professionals. For these horse owners it can be an expensive and an emotional rollercoaster. I am very mindful they need support. There will be highs and lows; it will be challenging, rewarding, an opportunity to grow and develop, and to become a better horseman.

The joy of discovering natural techniques in resolving their 'last resort problem' is for many an eye opener to a whole new world of exciting opportunities to be explored. Clients express to me how they wished they had discovered it sooner. Not all clients arrive as a last resort. Many know the key to realizing their and their horse's potential is by using kinder methods. They are

looking to transform their horsemanship and want to train their horses to work happily, softly and correctly using the lightest of touch. Working with clients who seek refinement is a delight. The first time they feel how the language of the herd, intent, subtle core breathing and energy flow enables harmony they are amazed. My clients learn how to take their horsemanship and riding to another level by becoming effective in equine dialogue. I know, and my clients can testify: It takes a teaspoon of talent ignited by a spark of inspiration, tutoring, plus planned, purposeful consistent practice to realize potential.

From novice riders to those who compete, they seek connected harmony with their horse. Each person is looking to achieve their personal equine dream. Sad so many are not considering a kinder, more sensitive approach. There is some way to go before more take our path to success. We know the people who open their mind, take that first step and believe that it works are the people who get breakthroughs.

For me a horsemanship journey is about pushing boundaries and discovering new levels of refinement. The guiding principles of horsemanship blend into how I live my life and interact with horses and people. Being a maverick, a pioneer and daring to be different I have discovered new, innovative and ground breaking applications. It is a journey not a destination that is fulfilling and fun for all concerned.

