



September 2010

Volume 6, Issue 9

## HIGH DESERT RIDERS, EDGEWOOD, NEW MEXICO

### Debunking 7 common horse-behavior myths with Linda Tellington-Jones

An extraordinarily accomplished horsewoman in her own right, Linda Tellington-Jones is perhaps best known for creating the Tellington TTouch Training Method over 30 years ago.

She continues to teach, write and work with horses around the world, including a number of Olympic horses and riders, still spending a great deal of time on the road presenting clinics and demonstrations.

Here, Tellington-Jones addresses seven common equine-behavior myths about equine behavior. (Information excerpted from *The Ultimate Horse Behavior and Training Book*, Trafalgar Square Publishing).

**Myth #1:** Once you get into a fight with your horse, such as trying to get him to cross a stream or a bridge, you can't give in or your horse will think he's "won."

**Tellington-Jones:** "Horses aren't keeping score or holding grudges. If you're too tired, impatient, angry, or concerned about your safety to work with your horse, walk away."

**Myth #2:** Never get off your horse or you've "lost."

**Tellington-Jones:** "Often times, all it takes to get a horse over his fear is for the rider to dismount and show him how to walk across the water (or bridge)."

**Myth #3:** Horses learn only through repetition.

**Tellington-Jones:** "If a horse can learn a bad habit in one session, why can he not learn a good one? While some repetition is useful to lay down the neural pathways (in the brain) for learning, I don't believe that hundreds of repetitions are necessary. Actually, I believe mindless repetition creates boredom and resistance and can stress a horse."

**Myth #4:** Horses will take advantage of you if you let them.

**Tellington-Jones:** "Horses are simply responding to your requests, cues, and visual pictures. Your horse's response perfectly mirrors what you put out there for him. We get back exactly what we ask for."

**Myth #5:** Never give your horse treats, because this will spoil him and can make him nip.

**Tellington-Jones:** "Using small crunchies or treats during training can encourage your horse to breathe, promote relaxation, and encourage him to lower his head. Besides, it's a nice reward."

**Myth #6:** Personality defects are usually permanent character flaws in horses.

**Tellington-Jones:** "In my experience, attitude problems in horses are often misunderstood and misinterpreted, and the horse is labeled with the negative assessment forever. Upon closer examination, most behavioral issues can be

traced to one or more factors, including pain, fear, conformation, breed, and management."

**Myth #7:** If your horse is aggressive, kicks, or bites, you need to really "get after him."

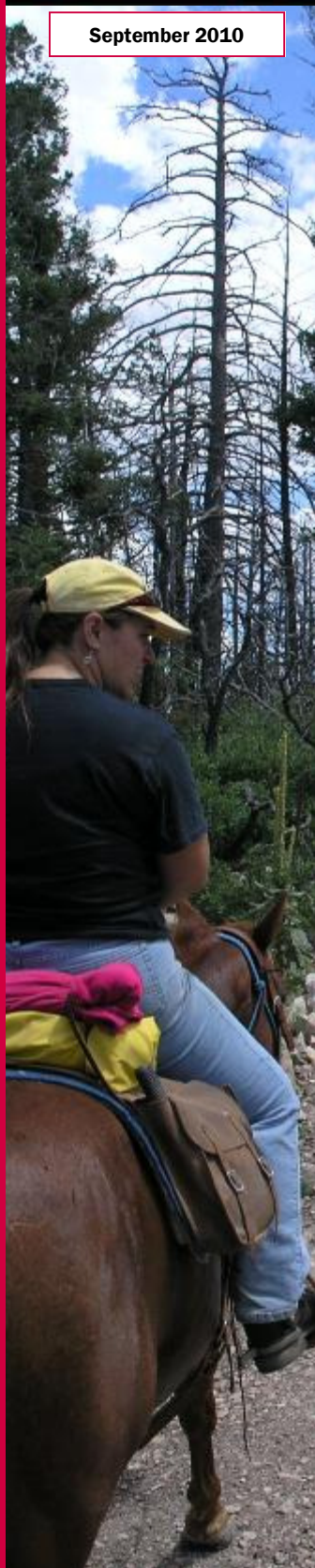
**Tellington-Jones:** "Horses who kick or bite are doing so because we haven't heeded their 'whispers.' They've raised the volume to get our attention. Learn to tune in to the whispers and your horse will never need to 'shout.' "

Read more about Linda Tellington-Jones at: [www.ttouch.com](http://www.ttouch.com)

The next High Desert Riders General Meeting is Tuesday, Sept 28, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the Edgewood Community Center

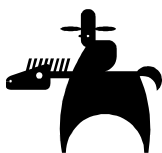
The next Trail Committee Meeting is Wednesday Sept. 15, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. at Chili Hills Restaurant in Edgewood. Everyone is welcome to attend.

[www.HighDesertRiders.com](http://www.HighDesertRiders.com)



Thanks to our HDR Officers, Directors and Committee Leaders and Members who give their time to make HDR a success for all of us:

- Ta-Willow Romero, President & Director
- Jim Stundon, Vice President & Director
- Susan Hill, Secretary & Director
- Diane Lindsey, Treasurer & Director
- Martha Eden, Director
- Hallie McFadden, Director
- Ray Seagers, Sergeant at Arms, Director, Government Liaison
- Trail Ride Committee Leader: Sheryl LaRue
- Membership Committee Leader: John Lindsey
- Public Relations, Newsletter and website: Martha Eden, Dana Scott



## MEMBERS REPORT ON TRAIL RIDES & EVENTS

### Betty Ansley Memorial Ride, Valle Vidal, August 18-22, 2010

We may have lost Betty in June, but her spirit rides on with those who knew and loved her. Ten friends and family gathered with 12 good horses up in the Cimarron Camp of the Valle Vidal in her honor.

We decided the day before to go in one day early since there was a need for some of the group to leave early to come home for a mounted shooting event. Mark & I arrived first to make sure the best sites & corrals were secured for our rigs & horses. We had brought a 3rd horse in preparation for the arrival of our fairly fearless 11 year old grandson Charlie from Midland, Texas coming with a childhood friend of both Betty & I. John & Hallie arrived about an hour later, followed by Ralph & Susan and Betty's best friend, Barb, who had also brought Betty's horse Cisco. Nanci & Steve with Charlie in tow arrived late that evening. We all enjoyed a steak dinner at the same time our 3-legged dutch-oven peach cobbler was finishing baking in the coals. We then took pleasure in visiting around the fire about memories of my sister before finally turning in.

Mark got the honor of riding Cisco on Friday, joined on the hunt for the illusive, hidden Yoke's Hole Trail by Charlie, Ralph, Susan, John, Hallie & myself. For the first time in the 8 trips over the years with this group to the Valle Vidal (Betty made 4 trips), we rode in some pretty stiff winds for the morning. Didn't deter this group though as the scenery and camaraderie made up for the minor inconvenience of fashioning stamped strings or losing hats.

We rode past Shuree Ponds headed toward Windy Gap, and after about an hour of fruitless trail-treasure hunting, John saved the day by finding the right one. After a little trail clearing & reaching the knee deep Timothy grass meadows, we hobbled the horses and enjoyed lunch. Mark & I hadn't been on this trail for 9 years & agreed after riding it that it had lost all its toughness due to someone taking a chainsaw to the large amount of big downed timber that use to block the trail as well as much more tree growth had developed on the downhill side making it less menacing...in fact the trail is not menacing at all now. We rode back by Shuree Creek to Shuree Ponds to water the horses & then back towards camp by the old Lodge. Upon returning to

camp, we found Nanci, Steve and Barb saddling to go out on an afternoon ride, to which Charlie & I happily joined them for more time in the saddle. We took them back over to Shuree Lodge & Ponds, and then on to the old Shuree Cabin site where they found workers rebuilding it after a hunter's fire destroyed it a couple years ago. The builders said the Boy Scouts would be using the new cabins next year, but no fireplaces were to be built in the cabins this time. Betty had ridden with HDR to see the newly burnt historical Shuree Cabin just last year...

We returned to a delicious potluck dinner starting with Susan & Ralph's awesome fajitas and then visited around the campfire while waiting for tonight's dutch oven blueberry cobbler to finish baking while each person took turns turning the crank on John & Hallie's vintage ice-cream freezer. Think this time the ice cream was the best they ever made. Betty had enjoyed their homemade ice cream with our hot peach cobbler as well in this same camp a few years ago where she also enjoyed a visiting young bear one evening. Those who were there with us then might remember the bear scurrying up the nearby tree.... not too

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## MEMBERS REPORT ON TRAIL RIDES & EVENTS

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long after he had eaten 4 lobsters, a gallon of milk and a batch of shrimp at someone else's camp earlier in the day & wrecked their birthday celebration feast. Mark chunked rocks at the maybe two year old bear until he came out of the tree though in hopes he'd learn a lesson about trying to raid our camp.

Instead of "breakfast on our own" as planned for Friday, we enjoyed a potluck breakfast burrito & the trimmings. Barb, Steve, Mark & John decided to stay in camp that day to get some things done while Hallie, Ralph, Susan, Charlie, Nanci & I rode out for the Clayton Cow Camp & the old LaBelle Lodge. We enjoyed young Charlie opening the gates for us, but everyone winced a little though when he got back on his horse. Being quite a bit shorter than his 15.2 mount, Charlie starts by putting his foot in the stirrup upside down and with double jointed efficiency, he grabs for leather while twisting & turning both his knee & ankle (equal to a circus contortionist) to clamor back up in the saddle. Charlie said there is no pain involved, but we could almost feel the pain ourselves each time he did it. Susan & Ralph had brought a handheld radio for Charlie to use the next couple days, to which they trained him to use... and possibly created a radio fiend! Susan was such a good sport though as he checked in with her on numerous occasions along the trails each day. Charlie was always near the front so Susan received many warnings of stay to the left or right of the bog, log or wire, etc... Had some wind again this morning, so the stampede strings were still in use by the ladies.

We rode by the Clayton Corrals and down through the Big Vi. At one point I stopped to look for something metal I thought I heard "tink" on the ground when digging in my hornbag for something but even with Ralph's help...never found what I thought had heard hit the ground. Sounded like maybe something smaller than a dime. As we rode on, I remembered back to when Betty had rode "Moose" about half way to Clayton Cow Camp with us, and I could feel her with us now too.

Nanci worked with her green 4 year old Texas Flatlander mare (a rare breed of well-fed barrel racing horse that occasionally comes to the high country with us for wild water-crossing adventures) on creeks along the way. We broke for lunch upon arrival at the Clayton Cabin, hobbled the horses & enjoyed the gorgeous scenery while eating. We'd just finished when someone yelled my green 4 year old gelding was down. I walked over & found him hung in a bog, still hobbled & facing downhill. Between his struggling and resting, I kept trying to figure out how to safely get into the bogged-down tangled-up legs to try to unhook the hobbles. The gelding finally righted himself though and all was well again. Hallie commented on how well the young horse did in his efforts to free himself... really used his mind instead of just all-out panicking. Susan & Hallie then said they had decided to head back to camp after lunch. Eleven year old Charlie remembered someone wanted to see that he could stand up on a saddle horse, so he quickly went and climbed up and stood tall on my young gelding to show them he could actually do it before they left. I for one really enjoyed all their

smiles again before we parted. Ralph, Nanci, Charlie & I rode on towards the LaBelle... going by the old gold mine cabin we could see way over the valley towards Red River. Wow, what great weather the afternoon had for us...and the wind was gone. At the LaBelle, we waded our mounts off a little ways into the pond there to water while encouraging Nanci's mare to join us. Since this was the first time for Charlie to ride our spotted horse, (who had a very bad reputation with his previous owner just a year before), I encouraged Charlie to stand up on "Paint", which with some trepidation he did... & lived... and those two are now pretty joined up.

After leaving the LaBelle, traveling to the side of the LaBelle Creek, I realized what I probably heard hit the ground earlier that day... as I am now missing my right earring... from a favorite silver pair my son had given me years ago. They each had a cross resting on a horseshoe. Dang that stampede string was my thought, but Nanci said she was positive she had seen I had on both earrings while eating lunch at the Clayton Cabin. Maybe I lost it near the LaBelle then?

Well, it was too many miles to backtrack to look for it back to look for it, so we rode on to Comanche Creek and then took a right to travel through Grassy Creek where Nanci's mare decided maybe running water wasn't so bad to drink from after-all. Took photos of a long, tan grass/water snake in the creek there just poking his head out watching us. Rode back by the Clayton Corrals and then chose to finish the ride home with the Rocky Way Shortcut to a great potluck

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## MEMBERS REPORT ON TRAIL RIDES & EVENTS

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dinner and more visiting by the campfire about Betty and the events of the day. (Note to self: Forget going that stinking rough Rocky Way Shortcut from now on.....) Barb & Cisco and John & Hallie had already headed back to Edgewood earlier that afternoon. The rest of us enjoyed a delicious potluck dinner and reminiscing about the day plus fond memories of Betty around the campfire, while apple-walnut cobbler finished baking at the edge of the fire. After another potluck breakfast hit the spot Saturday morning, we found Mark all cleaned up, preparing to drive off the mountain to Raton to attend his 40th class reunion picnic and then shop for all the things we forgot to bring ...including the fixings for Smores. While packing lunches for Charlie & I and cleaning out the horn bags from the day before... guess what I found? .....The very missed earring! Must have fell in there somehow during the ride while I was getting something out of the horn-bag, right? Nope... the remarkable thing was that the earring still had the back on it, like it had never been put on in the first place...and I've never stored any earrings in my horn-bag. We all decided right away that Betty in Heaven must have had something to do with the return of that earring. Just more proof for some that Betty is always with us in spirit... and I can just see her now poking God in the side occasionally asking him to do little things for us. Thank you Lord.....and Betty.

While Charlie, Steve, Nanci, Susan & Ralph were saddling up to head out to Elk Meadows, Mark & I found my roan gelding had broke a reset bar-shoe evidently the day before

on the Rocky Way & it had pressed into his frog some. I decided to leave the roan in camp & saddle our back-up horse "Alpo", who had not been saddled since he was injured in February... and known to buck if he hadn't been rode in a while. Well, the sorrel gelding did sport a big hump under the saddle for quite a while, but Charlie ponied him around camp while I was getting everything finished or closed ups... and all ended up well with Alpo. Today was Steve's turn to enjoy the wonders of crossing water and bogs on his 17 year old Texas Flatlander, Ben. Besides enjoying the beautiful scenery today, Ralph was in photographer mode snapping lots of photos of wild flowers to take back as subjects for his & Susan's new painting classes... After some water challenges & heart pounding experiences for Ben, we all made it to the gorgeous Elk Meadows & rode over the Ash Mountain Overlook that Betty enjoyed with us last year & snapped a line-up photo like we did with her.

We hobbled in the knee deep Timothy and sat on the same tree as last year for lunch. Steve said Ben hadn't been hobbled for long time but went ahead & gave him a try with his hobbles. Ben did great.....until just before we left that is.... More on that later. As Charlie was getting his horse ready to go, he found his cinch center-ring had rubbed a bad sore. (My fault for changing a 2nd pad at the last minute before we left and not adjusting the cinch properly) I dug out some salve from my first aid pack, adjusted the cinch better, set the saddle back a little...and simply crossed my fingers for the long ride back. Most horses would have complained somehow, but Paint

never did except to give the evil eye & bad ear to the mares Nanci & Susan rode....like his pain was their fault. Charlie took care to later minimize Paint's steps back to camp and I hopefully re-learned a valuable lesson of always double checking my work when in a hurry. Well, when Nanci led her mare away from Ben's location to prepare to mount, Ben took note and lunged a few jumps in his hobbles towards his Texas pasture mate. Only trouble was Ben didn't stop where the mare did... instead he just took off like a rocket in hobbles headed towards and through the thick trees. (Whoaaaaa Ben!!!) Showing good common sense though, Ben stopped one lunge short of great harm to his eyes & head...well his whole body actually, but then found his front legs sorta double-hobbled tightly over a log and was now unable to move any direction but maybe straight up...if, heaven forbid... he was to panic again. Steve & I worked at calming him first before I proceeded to get the left leg picked up so Steve could unbuckle the buckle on his side. Whew... all is well again with this dyed in the wool Texas Flatlander.

We all headed off for the long trail back home... knowing all too well we had the same boggy water crossings ahead for Ben. Steve limped off from one of the encounters just short of needing x-rays, but all is well again as Steve was still able to get back on his horse. Ben started crossing water a little better the closer we got to camp and we were proud of them both. Ralph & Susan were nothing less than saints for being so patient & helpful during the day. They are just the best.

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## MEMBERS REPORT ON TRAIL RIDES & EVENTS

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During the last mile coming to camp, I challenged Charlie to try standing up on Paint while he was walking... and Charlie did for a few steps, but slick cowboy boots on a leather seat are not the best roman riding tools, so Charlie chose to just ride backwards in the saddle sporting a big smile the rest of the way to camp. We then helped Ralph & Susan load up so they could drive back to Edgewood to prepare for a mounted shooting event the next day along with John & Hallie. We had another great potluck dinner & reminiscing around the fire, complete with Smores for dessert just before bedtime.

After a very blessed Cowboy Church led by Nanci under the pine trees, we decided to call Sunday a fishing day. Steve & Charlie were our official fishermen, leaving Nanci, Mark & I as their porters (or is Sherpa a better term?) for the necessary several hundred pounds of tackle boxes, extra poles, folding chairs & lunch coolers required for 2 cowboys to carry 2 poles & 2 hooks around 2 little ponds. (We found Shuree Ponds has a rule of only one barbless hook per person and no bottom bait fishing, so it took a lot of reconfiguration supplies to comply.) We all enjoyed every chilly minute though... Steve taught Charlie the tricks of the trade and they got lots of bites, including seeing one big trout on Steve's line that escaped just before landing him...so it is safe to say that no fish were harmed in the making of this great afternoon.

One thing I noticed everyday on this trip were lots of smiles as evidenced in the close-up photos

of folks on the rides. Thanks friends for coming and sharing your time, caring and memories. Betty, we really enjoyed having your spirit ride with us. In fact, I for one will always feel you are riding double with me like we did when we were kids on Daddy's old hunting horses ..... and thanks again for seeing to it that I got the earring back.

~Lori VanBuskirk



## MEMBERS REPORT ON TRAIL RIDES & EVENTS



## HDR RIDES AND EVENTS and CLASSIFIEDS

Saturday, September 11: HDR ride at Martha's Chinchonte Ranch and Pot Luck. Bring your chairs, drinks, dish to share. Meet behind Walgreen's in Edgewood at 10:00 a.m.

September 18: HDR day ride at Santa Rosa Lake. Meet at Crossley Park (by the gazebo) at 9:00 a.m. Call Sheryl LaRue 505.730.9899 for more info.

September 24-26: Last available weekend to ride at Valle Caldera. Sheryl LaRue looking for interest to go on Friday 24th.

Saturday, October 2: HDR clinic: biting, tacking, training and basic equitation and cues at Pallins' arena in Edgewood. Facilitated by Sam Pallin and Willow Romero. More information and map will be sent by email as we get closer to the date.

Sunday, October 10: HDR easy, local ride in the afternoon. Five Hills? Cerrillos? Bosque if the leaves are changing? La Cienega Horse Bypass in the Sandias? Contact Sheryl LaRue 505.730.9899.

October 15-17: Yes! HDR THOMPSON RANCH RIDE at Don Thompson's, an HDR favorite. Estimate \$80.00/individual for the weekend, including meals. It is about 1-1/2 hour drive from Moriarty, near Santa Rosa. More info to come. Contact Martha Eden for more info.

Sunday, October 23: HDR easy, local ride. Trail TBD. Cedro Peak? Raven Road? Contact Sheryl LaRue 505.730.9899.

Saturday, October 30: HDR "Fall Festival" & Flea Market behind the Walgreen's in Edgewood. Contact Willow Romero, Martha Eden to help! Games for kids, food, livestock, vendors.



### CLASSIFIEDS:

FOR SALE: 13YO AQHA Gelding McNeils Haystack ("Max"). Very nice horse, no vices. Outstanding trail horse, with some work could be a top level shooting horse (took his previous owner to a level 5). Barrel prospect. Pedigree includes Doc's Dee Bar, Poco Panzarito, Royal King, Mr. Trouble on top, and My Sugar King, Sugar Bars, War Leo, Senorita Polly on bottom. \$3500. Bob Hoffsetz 286-1485

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