

Is Your Horse Ready To Go To War?



Are you ready to go to war? Or are you and your horse only ready to go to the mall for coffee on Wednesday.

I usually ask the clinic participants what they would like to get out of the clinic; is there anything they are hoping to get help with. Many times the answer is that they want to get a better relationship or partnership with their horse. I think that sounds good, I do as well.

I hear it said, but don't often see anyone trying to have much of a relationship. At a recent clinic down in Kentucky it dawned on me what was missing. People needed a different picture of what a relationship could be. That is when I came up with war and going to the mall. Here is the story. I asked the people I was sitting with, to think about the relationship they would have with someone that they meet at the mall on Wednesdays each week for coffee and a visit. Then think about what kind of relationship they would have with someone else that they had been to war with. Someone that they had hid in a hole with, the enemy all around, bullets flying by, carried each other to safety when one was wounded, and doctored those wounds. Now compare the differences in the depth of relationship between the two. Here's another example: what if you played on a team that won a World Championship. The practice time, wins and losses, shared highs and lows, and early morning practices compared to going to the mall for coffee. There is a very big difference in the relationships.

I made the examples extreme because honestly there is that much difference available with people and their horses.

Suppose you were the captain of the Navy Seals and you asked your team to take the mountain. The enemy is dug in, just waiting. You told them some of us are not going to make it, but we need to take the

mountain, and your team said "Yes Sir." They trusted your judgment and would do what ever you asked. That's quite a relationship.

So I continued on in the conversation, and asked the folks are you preparing yourself and your horse for the mountain or the mall? Some people want to be able to ride on their own, away from other horses or just get out of their yard. Or be the top Reiner in Canada or win the world in Eventing. What is a mountain for some might go unnoticed by another.

Whenever you play with your horse are you getting ready in case you want to go to the mountain, or are you staying close to Tim Horton's at the mall where its comfortable and the donuts are good. There is an unbelievable amount of wonderful out there but it is not going to fall out of the sky. If you want to go to the mountain start putting in the effort that it would require, and enjoy a relationship much deeper than coffee at the mall. Prepare the horse mentally and emotionally. Every time you are with them, stretch yourself and the horse. Staying comfortable to long is a dangerous place to hang out. The horse gets bored and doesn't even want to go to the mall.

Have fun, and enjoy the time you and your horse spend together.

- Glenn