



HAYES IS FOR HORSES.COM  
**What's Your Horse Thinking?**

By Tim Hayes

**1. I'm happier, more confident, more relaxed and perform at my best when I have a good leader.**

The most important thing in my life is to stay alive. I'm a prey animal and I know I taste good to predator animals. I'm fortunate that I was born with attributes that help me get away from predators: speed, strength, cleverness and super powerful senses of sight, smell and hearing. Even with all these advantages I feel safest and therefore happiest when I have a leader.

A leader is someone who looks out for me. They have certain leadership qualities: more life experience, clear communication, wisdom, patience, tolerance, forgiveness and compassion. A leader is someone who has demonstrated these qualities enough for me to trust and respect them. When I'm living in a group of other horses I will always look for a leader. If I don't find one I feel is worthy, I'll be my own leader. It's safer for me that way. This is also true when I'm with my human.

When I'm with my human they act like they want to be my leader. However quite often they don't demonstrate those leadership qualities that are important to me. Without those qualities it's very difficult for me to totally trust and respect my human. I never feel as calm and safe as I could so it's hard for me to do my best for them when they're riding me. When I can trust and respect them as my leader I'm much happier, more confident and perform at my best. The only way my human can truly become my leader is to learn how to demonstrate the same leadership qualities I look for in another horse.

**2. "I pay attention to what I see you paying attention to."**

I am a horse. Therefore I know that other horses are interested in and concerned about the same things as me. When I see them looking somewhere I will usually look there too. If my human is acting as my leader and I see him or her looking somewhere I will usually look and pay attention to where they are looking.

Sometimes when my human is leading me on the ground I tell them I have a good idea to stop and eat some grass. Some of them turn, look directly at me and pull on my head with the rope. When I see them looking at me it tells me they've acknowledged my good idea. When they start pulling on my head with the rope and halter I know they're just checking to make sure it's what I want to do. I also know they're not very strong. I let them know my decision to eat grass is a good idea by ignoring their silly pulling. I also do the same thing if they're sitting on my back.

Some humans are different. When they're leading me and I stop to tell them my idea of eating grass they don't look at me. They continue to look where they are going and keep walking.

When I look at them I see they're not looking at me. That tells me they don't want my idea and it's not time to stop and eat. I see them looking where they have been looking. That tells me they want me to continue to follow them in that direction.

If I protest and start eating they still look where they are going but start wiggling the rope and halter. If I keep eating they wiggle the rope and halter faster and with more firmness. Sometimes I think if I ignore them they'll stop but they only stop when I stop eating and continue following them. I follow them because I don't like the way the halter feels when they wiggle the rope. It doesn't hurt but it's annoying. It's firm, it's fair, and it's what an alpha horse would do in the same situation.

Sometimes these humans stop, turn around, smile, put their attention on me and allow me to eat the grass. That lets me know it's ok to graze. I know it's what they want when I see where they're looking and putting their attention. I understand these humans. They are kind and fair. They are more like horses.

**3. "If you treat me like a partner I'll treat you like a partner."**

When I live with other horses, most of the time we all get along very well. We're all partners and our leader is the senior partner. Partners understand one another. We know each other's fears, desires, vulnerabilities and how we like to be touched. We play with each other, we help each other, we mutually groom each other and we trust and respect each other. We treat other horses the same way we like to be treated. We're told humans call this "The Golden Rule."

I like when a human treats me like a partner. It makes me want to do the same for them. If I admire, respect and trust my human I will even accept them as my senior partner. When they request something of me, if I understand their communication and I'm not in any physical or emotional pain, I'm happy to cooperate.

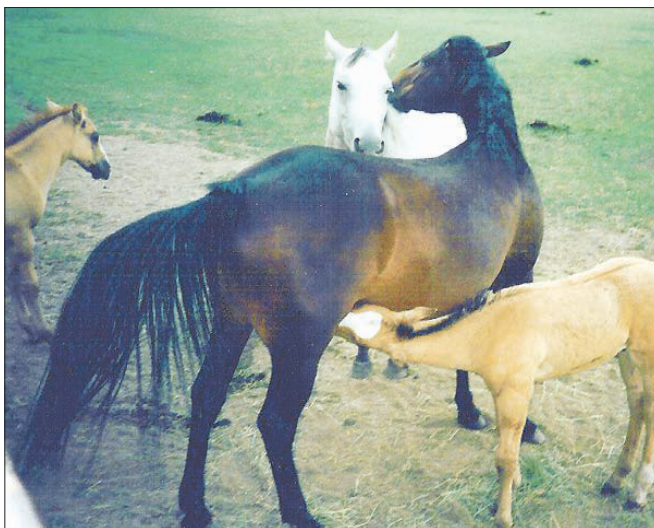
Sometimes humans try and physically force me to do what they want. This frightens me and reminds me that predators can't be trusted. It causes me to lose respect for my human. Sometimes a human tries to get me to do what they want by enticing me with food. Horses like unconditional treats but we find bribing disrespectful for both our humans and us. To us it indicates a lack of knowledge, understanding and relationship skills.

Sometimes when I'm hanging out with my other horse friends the topic of humans comes up. We all know that when humans go to visit a different country many of them do a lot of preparation. They read books or watch videos to learn about the culture and it's people. Some even read books or take lessons to learn the different language. They do this because they want to be able to communicate, understand and be understood. They want to get along, they want to be liked, they want to have fun and they want to have the fewest difficulties.

When we finish talking about our humans one of my horse buddies always says the same thing.

*Continued on page 26*

*"Partners and Leaders" Photo by Tim Hayes*



### Highwind Farm continued from page 18

coming off of the nearby bay. What more could you ask for? Clinics you say? But of course! Highwind has opened their doors to clinicians in all disciplines. For more information about Long Island's hidden treasure "Highwind Farm" and upcoming clinics, go online to: [www.Highwindfarm.com](http://www.Highwindfarm.com).

Long Island Riding Lessons has a new home now at Highwind Farm and we would like to thank the owners, boarders and staff of Highwind for giving us such a warm welcome. Everyone has been more than helpful. The relaxing atmosphere that surrounds the stable is working its magic on my horses, my students, and my boarders. If you look up the word "home" in the dictionary it reads:

"At home in one's home, at ease, in the family, at rest, familiar, being oneself, before one's own fireside, homey, in the bosom of one's family, down home, in one's element, comfortable. An environment offering security and happiness."

All I can say is: "Honey, we're home!"

### LIDCTA column continued from page 20

Tom feels that his mischievous gelding is the far better partner in the pair, but I'd say Tom is well deserving of an accolade or two of his own.

In conjunction with the amazing discovery of a man in our midst, LIDCTA member **Doug Shaw** is sponsoring a men-only challenge. If you know any man who will ride at all, start teaching him the Into Tests - go for it! Who knows where it may lead? Look at Tom!! Call (631) 902-2338 for more information.

All in all, LIDCTA had a good season. We look forward to a new year of clinics, meetings and shows.

### Tim Hayes continued from page 25

"Humans have much bigger brains and are much smarter than us. They know exactly what to do when they go somewhere that has a different language and different customs. I wonder why they don't do that with us?" ©Tim Hayes 2007

FOR CLINICS OR PRIVATE SESSIONS

CONTACT TIM AT: 631-329-5840 OR GO TO:

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

## ARHA Rewards Youth Members for Their Reading & Their Riding

Since the founding of the American Ranch Horse Association in 2004, the organization has been dedicated to supporting its youth members in a variety of ways. In 2009, ARHA expanded its support with a new scholarship program. Recognizing that some youth members excel in the saddle and others' highest strengths are in school, ARHA is offering two opportunities for them to earn scholarships for continuing education.

### HIGH-POINT YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The newest ARHA scholarship program is based on youth members' performance in the show ring. A \$500 scholarship will be awarded each year for the ARHA youth member who earns the most points in competition from January 1 through December 31.

Youth members of any age are eligible to win the scholarship award, although the money will be kept in an interest-bearing account and awarded when the member enrolls in a post-secondary education program such as a college or trade school. There is no application process, as all members' and horses' points are automatically tracked by ARHA.

The High-point Youth Scholarship winner will be announced during the ARHA National Convention each year.

### YOUTH ACADEMIC-BASED SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

ARHA youth members who are planning to enroll in or who are already enrolled in post-secondary education such as a college or trade school are eligible to apply for an academic-based scholarship. Each applicant must be a current member in good standing and have been an ARHA member for a minimum of two years to be eligible. An application form and further application details are available on the ARHA website.

The deadline for academic-based scholarship applications is December 31 each year. The recipient will be notified in June, and announcements of scholarship winners will be made at the ARHA World Championship Show.

For more information regarding ARHA, visit [www.american-ranchhorse.net/scholarship.htm](http://www.american-ranchhorse.net/scholarship.htm) or call 606-872-2742.

### **UPHA to Offer Ribbons of Service Program for Saddle Seat Equitation Riders**

*By Stacey Meier and Terra Schroeder*

The UPHA has initiated a new program designed to reward saddle seat equitation riders for their community service involvement and fundraising efforts for approved charitable organizations. Jim Taylor describes Ribbons of Service as "a shared-commitment program that encourages riders to show an American Saddlebred, Arabian (including Half-Arabians), Morgan or National Show Horse in saddle seat equitation competitions, and encourages donors to pledge funds for charity for each class in which the rider shows. The rider is not only responsible for raising the donations, but for performing community service as part of his or her own contribution to the effort."

Riders interested in participating begin by submitting an application to UPHA and after receiving approval begin fundraising. Donors pledge to give a minimum of \$10 for each saddle seat equitation class the rider competes in during the duration of the annual program. Proceeds of the program will be given to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or the approved charity of the rider's choice. In addition to soliciting funds, riders enrolled in the program must commit to performing and tracking their own hours of community service to be eligible for awards.

UPHA will recognize top participants at the end of the program's season in a special awards ceremony at the UPHA Annual Convention. The rider who raised the most funds will receive an overall award including a \$5,000 scholarship donated by USA Equestrian Trust, Inc. and a \$3,000 scholarship to Stephens College in addition to other prizes. Furthermore, the rider who raised the most in each of four individual breeds (American Saddlebreds, Morgans, Arabian breeds, or National Show Horses) will receive a \$2,500 scholarship donated by USA Equestrian Trust, Inc. and other awards. A \$1,500 scholarship made possible the Kenny Wheeler family will be awarded to the participant with the most community service hours.

A detailed listing of the awards made possible by the generous sponsors to reward the saddle seat equitation riders' for their dedication is available on the UPHA website.

For details and forms regarding the program, please visit the UPHA website:

[http://www.uphaonline.com/ribbons\\_of\\_service.htm](http://www.uphaonline.com/ribbons_of_service.htm),

or contact: Helen Robertson at [hclouse8@aol.com](mailto:hclouse8@aol.com) or 502-633-0123.

