

What Does Horse 'Savvy' Mean?



Savvy means knowing when to be, where to be, why to be... and what to do when you get there!

How do you get savvy? How can you learn those elusive skills of feel, timing and balance? How can you learn to become a true horseman and a natural with any horse you touch? It took me more than 20 years to learn what I know, but now I am able to teach students in a few years what took me a lifetime to achieve. Because there is now a system and progressive steps in every level, my students save years of time in developing their savvy.

How good can you become with horses? And how will you know when you are that good?

Most riding schools focus on just that - riding. But as a horseman, riding is only one-quarter of the skills and knowledge you need to be safe and effective with horses.

Horses are more than just a riding animal. They are an attitude on four feet. They have instincts, thoughts and emotions about people just as we do about them. Their attitude determines whether they will respond or react, positively or negatively.

Unconsciously, people trigger survival instincts in horses all the time and usually with great consequences. A horse will do anything to escape if he perceives his survival is threatened.

Because people aren't usually taught how a horse thinks, the bolting, rearing, striking, bucking, kicking and biting are labeled as "vices". When in fact, they are sure signs of self-defense or poor communication and a lack of trust and respect.

Horses are herd animals who have a strong need for social order. They regularly challenge each other to find out who is the strongest, fastest, quickest and the bravest among them. Once the alpha horse has been established, the