



Frank Bell Horse Whisperer

Naughty Pony

Hi,

Firstly I love your stuff!! Straightforward and understandable!

My 8 year old rides a 12.2h Welsh X. He's 8 yrs old. He spooks a lot but that's not really the main problem.

Every time Brooke rides he decides he's going to go somewhere else. He moves off after trying to grab the bit and put his head down. Usually it's at trot and usually to the gate. She's not quite strong enough to pull him up if he gets to an extended trot. I've put grass reins on him with a lot of success. The only thing is she can not compete with them on so hence I would like to fix it if I can. LOL!!! This spare rein goes from the bit to the loop on the brow band back to the D on the saddle below pommel. Normal side reins are no help as he just avoids the bit and tucks his head down very low and either pulls the reins out of Brooke's hands completely or nose to chest.

If you have any suggestions I'd love to know.
Thanks a lot,
Kate Hutchinson

Kate and Brooke,

A Pony like this needs schooling and discipline, by an adult to begin with. And then teach the 8 year old how to do it. He needs some boundaries. He must learn his job. Like any horse. Training from the ground to get co-operation from him. He must learn what is the right thing to do and he must enjoy it once he knows it. Start with leading exercises. When you walk forward he must stay with you. Stop. Walk. Turn left. Turn right to his head and he must learn to stay out of your space. You will also respect his. Make this fun for him. Every now and then a small piece of carrot. Sometimes ponies can be nasty. But try to get his attitude to want to please you. Lots of praise. And lots of rest time. Chill. Time out. Do not be aggressive or get after him because a child cannot do it. I always say, ride a pony like a child, (strength wise) because afterwards a child must be able to ride it. So now, train it to listen to subtle aids. Hide some carrots around the garden and the two can go look for it. Later on she can ride and look for carrots. Then he will want to stay with her and not run off to some other place. Make it nice here. Teach her to do one rein stops. Pull on one side. But teach the pony what it means otherwise you can pull to Cairo and have no affect. Bending through objects etc. Keep the grass rein on to begin with. There are so many exercises to do, we can write pages full. REMEMBER that you must know what you want to do. Have it in your brain. Write it down. Plan it indoors. Think it through. Horses want to learn if you know what to teach them. Otherwise, he might leave because he finds it not worth his while to stay around. This can be great fun and what a challenge for the two of you. Let me know how it goes. In my book - no naughty horses, only untrained ones.

Herma Jansen
South Africa