

# Triple E Training – Equine Education Made Easy

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"Experience is golden," says Bob Herring as he talks about helping people and their horses. Bob and his wife Misty, who operate Triple E Training near Homestead, strive to bridge the communication gap between horse and rider. "We just want to prevent those bad experiences from happening."

## The Bounties of Boarding

The Herrings initially set out to build a basic indoor riding arena but instead built a fantastic barn, complete with a 60x72 arena, 11x12 padded stalls, and even a lounge area.

At the Herring's stable, getting people involved is one of the key aspects to their training philosophy. "We like the owners to get involved in observing as much as they can," says Bob. "The more the owners learn, the more successful they'll be when they get the horse back home." Bob encourages clients to come out to watch and/or video tape his training sessions.

These new amenities, combined with a one-stop shopping atmosphere, make Triple E Training a very convenient choice. Bob does farrier work and they work closely with Abraham's Equine Clinic. Stall and pasture boarding options are available and guests aren't limited to the Herring's 22-acre property. "We also have access to neighboring timbers and we're only about 3 miles from the DNR ground," says Bob.

## Custom Training

The Herrings will take on about any western training challenge that comes their way. Some clients bring their horses annually for a refresher course after a long, idle winter. Others come with new horses or colts. Recently, Bob worked with a mare that was being trained for cowboy mounted shooting. "We did lots of things to desensitize the mare," chuckles Bob, "including shooting my son's cap gun around her."

Regardless of the issues each horse and rider are trying to work through, the Herrings keep a practical format to their methods. "We make a concentrated effort to teach the horses things to redirect or defuse them," says Bob. "We get them back to the basics and make them do things to gain confidence."

## Assessing the Situation

Friday nights at Triple E Training have become somewhat known as an assessment night. As a free service, the Herrings will take a look at a new horse someone has purchased or one they are considering purchasing.

"We really like it when people come to us before they have actually bought the horse," explains Bob. "That way we can spend a little time with the horse, and maybe even get in a short ride. We can get a feel for the horse's disposition, see if there are any problems and also see the good things each horse has to offer."

## Catering to the Kids



Currently, the Herrings are also working out a curriculum they'll be using during their upcoming horse awareness and understanding clinics, which they plan to host on Saturdays. Aimed at kids ages 5-14, the Herrings hope to educate kids on better communicating with their horses and gaining a solid understanding of horses in general. They want kids to be successful with ground work and transitioning lessons from the ground to the saddle.

## One Day at a Time

The goal at Triple E Training is to keep things small and intimate. Training no more than 3 horses at a time, the Herrings go above and beyond what most facilities will offer. "We want to keep it small and give each horse a lot of individual attention," says Bob. "Sometimes there's a little bit of a wait but we want to make sure we get the results we're looking for from

each horse."

A normal 30-day training session includes lots of ground work, which is how the Herrings always start the process. Then horses are ridden in everyday situations like up and down the roads, on trails, over water and other obstacles. The horses are handled and haltered daily with turn outs. Both Bob and Misty ride each horse, and sometimes their oldest daughter as well. This exposes the horses to a variety of voices and body types to truly test their responsiveness.

"We pattern our training somewhat like Pat Parelli's or Buck Brannaman's styles but with a little different twist," explains Bob. Part of that twist is the emphasis on individual time and attention by working one-on-one with the horse and rider.

It can be a demanding profession and the Herrings are used to working hard. Bob has been employed with Proctor and Gamble for 27 years, shods an estimated 300 – 350 horses each year, fills in with the local bus route AND trains horses. Misty also works full time at Pearsons, in addition to training horses. With three kids and still finding time for fun along the way, Bob says, "After 20 years, Misty and I still work pretty good together. We enjoy what we're doing and get great satisfaction from helping people understand their horses."

