

Why Common Sense Isn't So Common

By Karen Scholl

Like many people of the time, my Grandfather used horses for a living. Farming in Iowa, and raising draft teams of Shires and Percherons, he deeply loved his horses, appreciating their effort and heart. He once refused to go to church because he didn't like how the preacher treated his buggy horses! He truly loved horses and they were in his life from his earliest memory.

My Father knew about horses from what Grandpa told him, but he had a slightly different version of appreciation. Horses seemed more of a chore than a blessing for a growing boy on a sprawling farm, and Dad sure got excited when machines arrived on the scene, and like many families, farm life became a part of our family history as businesses and jobs moved into the towns as they expanded into busy cities.

Many folks today have a high-tech lifestyle where children spend more time interacting with electronics than with people. How we once learned about nature and animals is becoming a thing of the past, and it has become difficult to have the same "common sense" that our parents simply took for granted. Though we don't have the exposure to the true nature of horses, we're still somehow expected to know something about horses simply because we own them.

Most people go along riding horses with minimal problems and don't usually seek education about horses until something serious happens. Horses are considered a high-risk hobby, but it seems that people are more likely to gain skills with tennis, golf or ski lessons than with horses. Regardless of how much we know, not one person is guaranteed to remain unhurt by horses, but education can absolutely minimize the risk. Educational programs are an emerging segment of the horse industry today. Different than traditional riding lessons, many programs are now available where people learn how to recognize and influence horse behavior, just like our Father and Grandfather did.

I strongly encourage anyone with a love for horses to expand their knowledge about these incredible animals. It's a fascinating study and an incredible feeling when you build a special bond with your horse. Imagine a time when you become so good with horses that even your horse will think you're brilliant, just like your Grandfather's horses probably did.

Karen Scholl is a horse behaviorist and clinician, teaching "Karen Scholl, Horsemanship for Women" throughout the U.S. Learn more about this empowering program by visiting karenscholl.com or call for a free brochure at 888-238-3447.