



Heidi Potter Holistic Horsemanship

Improving relationships between horses and their humans using compassion, understanding, patience, & praise.

An excerpt from the Heidi Potter Horsemanship March 2017 Newsletter

Don't Lose Your Guppies! Trailering Tips for All Drivers!

I have enjoyed traveling to teach this winter and have met some wonderful people along the way. While I love helping horses and their humans, I also value learning from them. "Don't lose your guppies" comes from one of my Florida students who heard it from an instructor from England. We were discussing trailer loading and I was explaining that anyone who hauls a horse should safely experience riding in the back of an empty horse trailer. She smiled, grabbed my hands and said "thank you!"

It turns out that several years prior the English instructor had suggested the same thing to her. She used the analogy of driving like you were hauling a large aquarium, complete with Guppies, in your horse trailer. I love how this image clearly illustrates just how slow, smooth and steady you would have to drive in order to prevent the water, not to mention your guppies, from sloshing out over the top. I thought it was brilliant and so have decided to "borrow" it.

Before your next trailering venture I strongly encourage you to take a short, safe drive, preferably around your own property and experience exactly what your horse feels. My family and I did this many years ago. My biggest "OMG!" moment was hearing all the noise created by the halters, lead lines and bridles hanging in the tack room right next to my horse's heads. On our country road it was a constant clanging of metal banging on metal. What a racket! Also notice loose hinges, chains, pins, etc. that rattle. You can line the tack room wall with foam or carpet and wrap other noisy hardware with duct tape or vet wrap. On your journey also be sure to experience the difference that 5 miles an hour can make, especially on the corners and when coming to a stop. Then remember the saying: Happy Guppies=Happy Horses☺



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Centered Riding Instructor/Clinician
CHA Master Instructor/Clinician
CHA Accredited Site Visitor
Horse Agility Accredited Trainer
Natural Style Trainer
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