



days at
Dunrovin

June 2019



**Ranch
Talk**



Trailers—A Part of Ranch Life

Transporting horses to and from mountain trails is a routine part of life at Dunrovin Ranch. All of the horses need to be comfortable with all aspects of trailer living: loading up, standing quietly for many hours at a time, maintaining their balance over rough and bumpy mountain roads. unloading, and being tied to trailers for short periods of time or as long as all night.

Remarkably, with the proper training, horses are able to overcome their natural prey instincts that tell them to fear small places that make them vulnerable to predators. The key is trust. Establishing trust is the most important part of horsemanship training. Once a horse knows that you are a true and trusted partner, they will do just about anything for you.



Dunrovin uses two trucks and three trailers in its operation.. The small trailer holds two horses, the medium-sized trailer holds four, and the large trailer holds six horses, which is the upper limit for a 3/4 ton diesel pickup to haul. With these two trucks and trailer, Dunrovin can haul up to ten horses at a time, which it has had to do on occasion when offering riding adventures to guests staying at private ranches.

All of Dunrovin's trailers are called "goosenecks," because the hitch is built into the cantilevered front of the trailer that then is hooked to a ball that is attached to the axle of the truck, giving it greater stability and maneuverability

The little two horse trailer has a large "dressing room" in front of where the horse stands which can be used as a camp trailer.

The medium-sized four-horse trailer was specially built for the man who literally wrote the book on packing horses and mules. Dunrovin was very lucky to get ahold of this unique trailer. Dunrovin has since modified it by adding a rack with a pulley system so a person can load bales of hay on the roof and store water for the horses.

The large six –horse trailer is the most difficult one to handle on rough back country roads, as it requires plenty of space and land has a low clearance. It take hours of practice to be able to safely back and maneuver the six-horse trailer.

A special jack is required to change a tire on a loaded horse trailer.



Oggy Continues to Learn About Trailers



Teaching Oggy to confidently and safely deal with trailers is an important part of his training program. Expert horsemanship trainer Brandon Carpenter has been working with Kelli Kozak, Dunrovin's Ranch Manager, to implement a comprehensive program to teach Oggy all of the basics.

Kelli has been doing an outstanding job with Brandon via "tele-training" sessions in which Brandon talks with Kelli on the phone while watching her work with Oggy via the Dunrovin Ranch webcam. Together, the three of them, have made great progress. Kelli is rapidly becoming a horse trainer in her own right, Brandon has learned to provide quality coaching across many miles through the magic of technology, and Oggy has been steadily adapting to the demand of human world in which he lives.

Oggy's first trailer training sessions with Kelli and Brandon took place last November. Kelli demonstrated a deft hand and perfect timing in following Brandon's instructions to encourage Oggy in willingly and confidently approaching, entering, and backing out of the trailer.

All three participants received gold stars for their efforts. The question is, how much did Kelli and Oggy retain since then? Tune in to find out!

The four-horse trailer can be the best for learning!

The door on the four-horse trailer is a single door that opens widely, plus the sides of the four-horse trailer are open on the upper third, giving the insides of the trailer a more open feeling than either of the two-horse or six-horse trailers. Stepping into a dark, totally enclosed box through a narrow door can be an intimidating introduction to trailers.

Broadcast Date: _____ **Time:** _____

Location: _____