



days at
Dunrovin

June 2019



**Ranch
Talk**



Three New Horses

You know that a guest ranch has been in business for a number of years when their pasture begins to fill with retired horses. Like people, horses reach that age when they must slow down and eventually retire from having to work.

Dunrovin has been very lucky to have had some of the best possible horses in its herd, horses that know their jobs, are kind to all riders regardless of their abilities, and hardy enough to do the difficult work with ease..

A few of Dunrovin's stalwart and most popular horses are beginning to show their age and are in need of a little break. Monty, for example, is showing signs of arthritis in his joints and should now be lightly used. Razz shows similar aging signs.

Dunrovin has been working with Herrera's Gaited Horses, a horse trainer and trader in Blackfoot, Idaho, to find the perfect trail horses for our guests. They need to be reliable, friendly, and in very good physical condition.

On Monday, June 10th, Herrera is sending his trainer, Jacob, to Dunrovin with three new gaited horses. Two are black, while the third one is a sorrel



Integrating New Horses into the Dunrovin Herd

Unlike new employees, it is not possible to get a herd of horses together to cordially make introductions. Horse herds are complex social structures. Each horse has to find its own position relative to every other horse in the herd. This takes time and plenty of space to ensure that no horse is injured in the process of getting to know one another. Figuring things out between horses can involve biting and kicking and chasing.

Dunrovin also wants to ensure that the new horses do not bring any new diseases to the herd. Dunrovin's horses are isolated and are seldom in the company of outside or strange horses. The new horses will be required to undergo a ten-day period of quarantine period in which they are kept apart from the herd.

It is a complicated process to quarantine the new horses, let the new and old horses get acquainted over a fence, and introduce them to some of the herd leaders first to ensure that they have some "friends in high places" before dealing with the rest of the herd. Then, of course, they must ultimately face her highness, Lady Lonza, who is the matriarch of the entire herd and is used to having things her way.

It will take all summer to fully integrate these new horses.



Broadcast Date: _____ **Time:** _____

Location: _____