



days at  
Dunrovin

July 2019



**Ranch  
Talk**



## Erskine's Long and Winding Road



**Erskine** arrived at Dunrovin Ranch in the summer of 2016 along with Dugan and Flynn. All three horses had been purchased from a horse trader who had brought them to Montana from Kentucky. This was an unusual purchase by Dunrovin Ranch who does not normally deal with horse traders because of the lack of good information about the horses' past. This certainly was the case with Erskine, Dugan, and Flynn. All three showed signs of having both emotional and physical problems.

In Erskine's case, he showed some lack of coordination in his hind quarters and a reluctance to move forward when ridden. We addressed the physical issue with a special exercise program and through the use of medicinal herbs, which has made a big difference. He is now sound physically.

Because his reluctance under saddle continued after he gained his physical strength, Dunrovin decided to engage horse trainer Montana Jane Getz (Tana) to help him adjust emotionally. So far, so good. Tana has been working with him for the past several weeks and is now ready to get Ranch Manager Kelli involved in his rehabilitation.



**Erskine's size is a big plus for his service as a guest ranch horse. He can easily carry a large person for many miles on the trail.**





## Can Erskine be a Guest Horse?

Erskine has been ridden out on the trails and in our arena where he has performed nicely and without any incidents. However, he has always been with an experienced horse rider, someone who is confident and able to handle his “balking” when faced with something that concerns him.

A guest horse must be “stock solid” and assist inexperienced riders. They need to be to tolerate mixed messages from their riders, remain calm during emergencies, and cope with the shifting weight of unbalanced riders who are nervous at times.

Kelli and our other guides will have to continue to work with Erskine and use him themselves until we are all certain that he fits the bill for a guest horse.



**Dunrovin’s Goal and Hope is for Erskine to Soon Earn the Title of Guest Horse.**

**Broadcast Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Location:** \_\_\_\_\_