



days at  
Dunrovin

July 2019



**Ranch  
Talk**



## Erskine's Progress



**Tana with Erskine at her training facility**

Dunrovin's big blue roan gelding Erskine began his experience as a horse-in-training in late June. Montana Jane Getz visited the ranch and engaged him in a 2-hour assessment, getting a feel for him and his issues.

Erskine had begun to "balk," meaning to decline to do what was asked of him. As a guest horse, Erskine's job is to walk, gait, and occasionally gallop with our clients, and balking is definitely not an option.

Tana began "on the ground" with him in our round pen; she was on her own two feet, not yet in the saddle.

First, she reminded him that her space is her space, and that he could not enter it without permission. Then, she moved him around her in a circle, using her body language with which to communicate.

When a well-trained horse begins to misbehave, the first step is to determine if he or she is in any kind of physical distress or discomfort. Imagine if an athlete is asked to run, jump, or turn with sore feet, a misaligned spine, or a headache.

With a horse, their dental health, the condition of their feet and legs, and the fit of the saddle are checked to ensure that those things are not the cause of the behavior.

# Erskine “Under Saddle”

“Under saddle” refers to the horse saddled and with the rider atop the horse. At Tana’s ranch in nearby Hamilton, Montana, Erskine has been learning what it means to move along.



At The Corral this week features Tana and Erskine back at Dunrovin. We are fortunate to be able to watch his progress with his new trainer, and to be able to ask questions and offer comments, as well.

Tana will work with Ranch Manager Kelli, showing her the process that is being used to work with Erskine and his issues.



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

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