

Integrating Gentleman Jax into the Herd



We always start by letting new horses first meet over a fence to prevent fighting.

Jax literally jump-started this process when he recently escaped his paddock and introduced himself to his neighbors.

Nichole came out to feed the horses and found Jax in an area we call the Sorting Pen. She could not find an open gate or a broken fence, so we think he jumped into the Sorting Pen.

The rest of the Dunrovin herd came running to the corner of the pasture to meet Jax.

Jax ran along the fence and met some of the horses nose to nose. We are lucky that Jax was not injured during his little early morning escapade.

Today we will supervise Jax in a more formal introduction, and put him into the large South Pasture with some of his new herd mates.

The Dunrovin Herd

Name	Age in 2023	Place in Herd
Monty	24	Leader
Butte	22	Middle
Lady Lonza	21	Only Mare
Whiskey	21	Leader
Razz	21	Middle
Chinook	20	Bottom
Rocket	18	Leader
Dugan	17	Middle
Jasper	17	Middle
Flynn	16	Bottom
Banjo	16	Middle
Garnet	14	Bottom
Scout	14	Middle
Rusty	13	Bottom
Mystery	12	Middle
Oggy	6	Mom Protects
Jax	1	Yearling



It would be great if one of the younger horses like Mystery (above) or Garnet (below) were to become friends with Jax to help show him the ropes with other herd members.

In a single day, we will introduce Jax to all the members of the herd who are in the middle or the bottom of the herd hierarchy (those highlighted in **green** above). Hopefully this allows him to find a friend or two before he has to meet and accommodate the herd leaders (those highlighted in **purple** above) who are sure to dominate him and aggressively put him in his place. Just as with people, friends in the horse world are important buffers to stressful times. Integrating a horse into a herd is much like helping a new kid at school learn the social situation in each classroom and figure out how to make some new friends.

