

Friendships are Important

Jax lying down next to Flynn indicates that Jax has begun to trust Flynn.



Studies of wild horses indicate that they form strong bonds with only one or two close friends, regardless of the total size of the group. Horse friends remain bonded for much of their lives. Wild mares with strong friendship bonds have more than double the number of surviving healthy foals than those who lack such relationships. Friendships benefit horses by reducing stress, increasing exercise, deterring harassment, and avoiding predators.

In the wild, bands of horses are most commonly formed by mares, their offspring and their close girlfriends. Domestic horses do not live in circumstances that allow for the natural formations of such friendship groups, so horse managers must facilitate the process and take care to try to put compatible horses together. Hence, Dunrovin is introducing Jax to the entire herd in stages, starting with the least dominate herd members.

In the coming weeks, the other more dominate herd members will be brought back one by one into the South Pasture where Jax now lives with the lower ranking members of the herd. Ultimately each horse will know its place in the herd and who are potential close friends.

A New Horse Shuffles Things up.



Flynn and Jax



Rusty and Jax



Scout and Jax



**Rusty, Scout
and Jax**

During the past week, Dunrovin viewers of the web cameras has noticed a parade of potential friends for Jax. Flynn was the first to offer companionship, but soon both Dusty and Scout entered Jax's circle and began interacting with him. This precipitated some jealousies on the part of others. For example, Banjo (Scout's long time friend)unsuccessfully tried chasing Jax away from being too close to Scout.

It will take months for Jax's entrance into the herd to settle the reshuffle of alliances. As with people, horse friendships take time and shared experiences to mold.



Canner

While most of the lower ranked horses are enjoying their freedom from the dominate group, Canner has refused to leave the fence overlooking the riparian pasture where they are. He longs to be united with his pals, and pays no attention to Jax.