

Horsemanship Training at Dunrovin



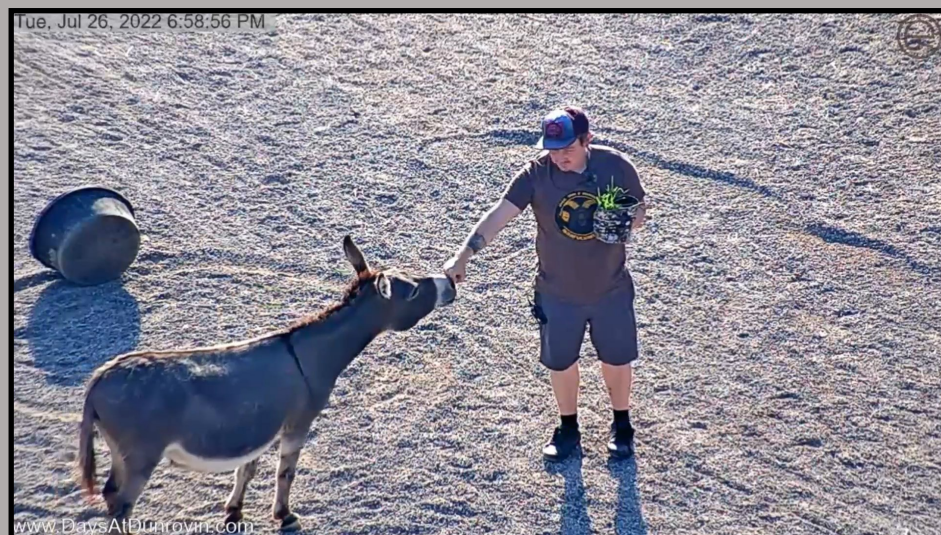
Dunrovin uses Natural Horsemanship principles to train and interact with our horses.

Natural Horsemanship is based on using the horse's natural instincts and methods of communication. It incorporates the fact that horses do not learn through fear or pain, but from pressure and the release of pressure, in the same way that horses pressure one another within the herd hierarchy.

Dunrovin's Mackenzie Cole uses Clicker Training to teach the donkey DIVAS a variety of behaviors including tricks and dance moves.

Clicker Training is based on positive reinforcement. The sound of the clicker or the trainer's voice is followed by something the animal wants, such as a treat. The animal learns which behaviors the trainer wants because those behaviors pay off.

All Interactions between humans and animals at Dunrovin are based on mutual respect, and never involve fear or pain.



Consistent Human Behavior is Key



Guest Horses Have Special Needs

Horses that routinely interact with many different people with varying levels of horsemanship skills need to be very tolerant, respectful, kind, and predictable. They must not over react during unexpected incidents on the trail. They must be able to interpret clumsy directions by inexperienced riders. They must not invade a human's personal space.

One of the most important ways to support horses cope with a constant stream of new people is to institute consistent protocols and routines whenever possible. Dunrovin employs a simple pre-use exercise that staff are required to perform with every horse that is brought forward to interact with a guest. The exercise is intended to evaluate the horse's readiness to perform, to help it mentally transition from being on its own to being with a person, and to remind it to respect a human's space bubble at all times.

Dunrovin also makes sure that guests understand that they are interacting with a sentient being, deserving of respect and consideration. All Dunrovin horse activities begin with a short lesson to encourage guests to try their best to show our horses respect.