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SPOTLIGHT ON IH RECOMMENDED TRAINER Jade Trelease

IH Recommended Trainer Jade Trelease is based in Glastonbury, Somerset. She says: “I would love to run more clinics and I’m really excited about the future of my two ponies and their training”.

How long have you been involved with horses?

Ever since I had my first pony ride at the age of five, horses have been a very important part of my life. Growing up, I was surrounded by those who knew only the more ‘traditional’ side of horsemanship. A lot of what I’d seen and been asked to do didn’t sit right with me. I knew that there must be a better way.

I’d heard that there was going to be a television programme on the BBC about an American Cowboy called Monty Roberts, a ‘horse whisperer’. He was going to catch a wild mustang stallion using only his horsemanship skills. He was going to communicate with the horse using the horse’s language, using no force. I was intrigued. I had to watch this. I thought, if this is possible, why isn’t everyone else working with horses as this man does? Well, watching the program and seeing the magic unfold between Monty and the wild Mustang now known by the name ‘Shy Boy’ was pure joy. A new path of horsemanship opened up to me, one of fairness, partnership and harmony. It is the path that I have walked from that moment on and always will. I feel very fortunate that I’m able to combine my love of horses with work.

A theme of ‘tricky’, ‘naughty’, ‘un-rideable’ horses, or those written off due to ‘behavioural issues’, have tended to gravitate towards me, and with time and patience, all have gone on to live much more positive lives than those set out for them before we met. Each and every one of them has imparted some of their knowledge to me and for this I am eternally grateful.

Why did you decide to qualify as a Recommended Trainer?

I found Intelligent Horsemanship and embarked on their courses. I knew from the moment I began that the path of IHRT was for me. The techniques and most of all, the mind set, was one that I knew would help me be the trainer I wanted to be. After lots of learning and self-development I can proudly say that I am.

What is a typical day for you?

Days vary hugely. One day I may be holding a clinic, another an

area day, or be visiting local clients or have them come to the yard where I’m based. More recently on top of that has included attending a fascinating whole horse dissection with Ivana Ruddock-Lange, presenting a talk at the IETA (International Equine Touch Association) annual conference, demoing near Darlington for an Enlightened Equitation day along with seeing my local clients and spending time with my own two ponies.

What’s important to you when you see an owner and their horse for the first time?

Ideally to see the horse and owner working in their natural environment as they normally would.

What are the common challenges you face in your work as an RT?

Time! A 48-hour day with long periods of daylight would be super.

If you could change one thing in the world of horses what would it be, and why?

The removal of peer pressure and the addition of support. I often see the two confused, which I feel is detrimental to both horse and human.

What would be the first piece of advice you would give someone looking at buying/loaning their first horse?

Speak to your instructor/trainer and together work out what sort of steed would be suitable and start looking! I also advise that you take your trainer with you on viewings.

What is the most common issue you have to deal with when working with horses?

Miscommunication and misunderstanding.

What are your plans for the future?

My plans at the moment are fairly fluid. I would love to run more clinics and demo and I love working with my one-to-one clients too. On a personal level I’m really excited about the future of my two ponies and their training and continuing to hone my ridden skills with Enlightened Equitation. Longer term I think there’s likely to be a book or two of some sort somewhere along the line... who knows... watch this space!

• For more information about Jade, visit www.jtequine.co.uk