

THE QUOTES THAT INSPIRE ME

If you have ever been to one of my clinics, you will know that I love a great quote or words that inspire. There are a few quotes and sayings that have made me the horseperson that I am, so I thought I would share some of them and what they mean to me.

"I BECAME A GOOD RIDER BECAUSE I RODE EVERY DAY"

My grandfather was a mountain man, stock man and racehorse breeder and trainer.

When I was only young, I was sitting with him and he made this statement. As I sat there and soaked in the words, I thought to myself "If he can do that, then I can too" and I made it my business to ride every single day that I could from that day on.

Needless to say this dedication to riding has never really left me. Back then I may not have ridden very well, but the more I rode, the better I became. Even now I take that attitude; every day I do not ride is an opportunity lost to work on my skills.

"YOU ONLY GET OUT WHAT YOU PUT IN"

My Dad was the horseman who started me off. It would be safe to say that I did not show a great lot of talent or ability as a child, but my keenness could not be doubted.

One day, possibly because I was frustrated with not being able to do as well as I wanted, my Dad pointed out to me that I would only improve if I put in the effort to work my horses, learn and become a better horseperson.

It is a journey that has never stopped; every so often on bad weather days or when I am tired or busy, his words come back to me.

"THEY GO HOW YOU RIDE THEM"

Ian Francis has been a mentor and friend to me for many years. At clinics he often tells a story that revolves around this quote and it has become a bit of a mantra at our place.

It means there are no excuses; if your horse does not perform as well as you had hoped or if things aren't going your way, there is no point blaming the horse or the weather or the competition; ultimately you are responsible for how your horse rides or competes; the buck stops at you.

"IF IT IS TO BE, IT IS UP TO ME"

This is the first quote I ever wrote down in my collection of quotes.

Nobody can make the journey for you; nobody can learn what you need to learn, nobody can put in the hours on your behalf; it is all up to you!

"PRETTY IS AS PRETTY DOES"

Don't get me wrong, I love a good looking horse and I strive to breed horses that are conformed correctly, but at the end of the day, a horse that can perform at the highest level or who is trustworthy with the most inexperienced rider or who can handle pressure situations easily, is worth more to me than a pretty colour or an eye catching face.

And if you ever need proof of this, have a look at the horses that step onto my truck; they are usually chestnut and hardly any white between them!

"IF YOU KEEP DOING WHAT YOU'RE DOING, YOU WILL KEEP GETTING WHAT YOU ARE GETTING"

This is another one of Ian Francis's quotes that I often use.

You can't keep repeating the same mistakes and expecting a different outcome. If things aren't working, or if you are not moving forward, stop, step back and look at what you are doing and why you are doing it. Break each step down into a logical process, work out where the problem is and try a new direction or method.

It doesn't matter if your new method isn't instantly successful, after all the method you were using was obviously failing, so why not try a different one! And if the new one doesn't work, then maybe you need to try another. Being successful in horse training requires imagination and perseverance.

"THE PEOPLE THAT MATTER DON'T MIND AND THE PEOPLE THAT MIND DON'T MATTER"

Dr Seuss really sums it all up!

It is common to battle with worrying about that other people think about you, but you cannot control what other people think, so there is no point wasting any time on it. You will have more success focusing on what you can control, rather than those things you cannot.

Quotes and inspirational words are what keep me going and thinking when I have a problem. They may or may not work for you, but it is important that you find what works for you and use it.

Training horses is a long journey that never really ends and it is important to have the tools that you need to ensure you succeed, in whatever form you consider success to take.

"It is not the mountains
that we conquer, but
ourselves."
Sir Edmond Hilary

"If nothing ever
changed, there'd be no
butterflies."
Author Unknown

"It was inside you all the
time."
Glinda from the Wizard of Oz

"Obsessed is just a word
the lazy use to describe
the dedicated."
Russell Warren



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or we'll come to you!*



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