

HCBC Horse Industry Professional 2018 – Severin Pederson

I met Severin in 2004 and over the years I have been impressed with his willingness to learn and share new and better methods of understanding our relationship with the horse.

Severin comes from an equestrian and farming family. He learned early on how to watch for those very subtle nuances of an animal's body language and how to use that knowledge to his advantage when training them; with this inborn sense of awareness, he was able to 'stock or block' an animal at liberty; especially useful knowledge when catching, moving or riding a horse or working with cattle.

But how do people without this home-grown experience get to achieve this ability to read a horse's body language and personalities? Easy, take instruction. Take instructions from an 'Industry Professional' who can 'walk the walk/talk the talk. Severin's sense of humour plus his 'feel and timing' adds to his ability to instruct well. He never humiliates the handlers or insults the horses, but guides them into understanding what is necessary to achieve the task at hand. He spends equal time teaching horsemanship skills 'in hand' 'on the ground' as he concurs that what the lessons we teach the horse about respect in hand, will bode well when riders are in the saddle.

Severin has been titled the 'go to' trainer if you have a tough problem horse; but I believe he deserves more credit. Take your horse to Severin before you have a problem; take instruction and follow up with him throughout the year. Your problems will fade and you will be more confident as you enjoy your rides with any horse. He has also placed many a good horse into new owners hands either through the Ranch's previous breeding program or re-purposed horses.

Severin has been invited to *The Mane Event* twice, to participate in the Trainer's Challenge. This past year of 2018, Severin WON the challenge with a small silver grullo gelding he fondly nick named 'Silver'. I was fortunate to be there to watch every step of the process and was in awe of Severin's gentle, confident, slow approach of introducing each and every new step to this green handled 2 year old youngster, with his goal to ride all three gaits three days later, on 'judgement day'. Even the fact of taking the young horse out of the familiar training round pen and placing him into the massive arena with all new obstacles plus the hoards of crowded stands filled with noisy people, the little Silver horse had learned to trust Severin and thus achieved the goals. "And the crowd went wild ..." (just an aside, Severin was still dealing with fractured ribs and a torn meniscus tendon)

It was at this year's 2018 'Trainer's Challenge' that I became more aware of Severin's 'Professionalism'. The announcer in keeping with entertaining and informing the audiences that packed the bleachers each day, in my opinion, tended to taunt and ridicule Severin about his 2017 Trainer's Challenge experience (Severin had been dealt a tough horse that year who threw him several times and subsequent accidents). But Severin in his soft quiet humourous manner kept his focus on the task at hand: working with his horse, albeit acknowledging the announcer's comments. At no time did Severin deny or retaliate or dismiss the allegations but his professionalism prevailed; I was impressed and proud to know him. Respectfully submitted by Jill Ackerman, 690 Regency Place, Courtenay, BC V9N8R5 HC #44427