

Elementary Classroom



Layla Rose Ranch
Horse Rescue

Fun facts and games from the horses just for you.

laylaroseranch.org

Classroom Notes

The genders for horses are

_____ = Young Male _____ = Young Female

_____ = Adult Male _____ *Mare* _____ = Adult Female

How long do horses typically live?

_____ Years

How do you tell how old a horse is?

We look at their _____.

How do you measure height in a horse?

From the ground to the *Withers*.

We use a scale called _____ versus feet or meters.

1 Hand = 4 Inches

Basic Parts of the Horse



How far away can a horse hear your heartbeat?

_____ Feet

How far away can a horse hear?

Up to _____ Miles

What colors do horses see?

_____ Yellow _____

How much hay does a horse eat a day?

_____ Pounds

How much water does a horse drink a day?

_____ Gallons or 32 Stanely Cups!

How many hours a day does a horse sleep?

_____ Hours



Fun Facts About Horses

Horses can't breathe through their mouth

Did you know that horses are super special when it comes to breathing? Unlike you and me, horses can ONLY breathe through their nose!

Imagine if you could only take breaths through your nose and never through your mouth. That's exactly how horses live every single day. Their noses are like special breathing tubes that help them get all the air they need.

When a horse runs fast in a field or gallops with its friends, it takes big, deep breaths through its nostrils. They don't have a backup plan like we do - no breathing through the mouth if their nose is blocked. Their nose has to work perfectly all the time.

Horses can sleep standing up

Horses have a super cool trick that lets them rest while standing up! It's called the "stay-apparatus" - sounds like a special superhero power, right? This is a clever system of stretchy tissues called tendons and ligaments that can lock their legs in place.

Imagine being able to stand completely still without getting tired. That's exactly what horses can do! This special ability helps them stay safe in the wild. If a predator comes near, they can quickly run away without needing to wake up from lying down.

But here's a surprising fact: horses DO actually lie down sometimes! People often think horses never sleep lying down, but that's not true. Horses take short naps on the ground each day - they just don't do it for very long. Most horses only spend about two and a half hours sleeping each day.

When they're standing, they can relax and rest their muscles while still being ready to escape if something scary happens. It's like having a built-in alarm system and a comfy chair all in one!

Horses have excellent hearing

Did you know that horses are like superheroes when it comes to hearing? While humans have just three tiny muscles to move their ears, horses have TEN powerful ear muscles! This is a big deal for these amazing animals.

Imagine being able to move your ears wherever you want, almost like having two satellite dishes on top of your head. A horse can rotate its ears almost all the way around - almost 180 degrees! Even cooler, each ear can move completely independently of the other. This means a horse can listen to sounds coming from different directions at the exact same time.

Why do horses need such incredible hearing? They're prey animals, which means other animals might want to hunt them. In the wild, being able to hear danger early can mean the difference between life and death. A horse can hear a predator sneaking up from almost any direction without even turning its head.

So next time you see a horse, watch its ears. They're constantly moving, listening, and keeping the horse safe - like a pair of living, moving warning signals!

Horses have a nearly 360-degree field of vision

Horses have super special eyes that sit on the sides of their head - very different from our eyes! This gives them an amazing superpower: they can see almost all the way around themselves without turning their head. It's like having built-in side mirrors!

But here's the funny part - horses actually have two big blind spots where they can't see anything at all. One blind spot is right behind them, and another is directly in front of their nose. Can you imagine not being able to see something that's right in front of you?

When a horse wants to know what's in front of them, they have some cool tricks. They use their super-sensitive lips, wiggly whiskers, and an amazing sense of smell to figure out what's there. So if you're trying to give a horse a carrot, don't expect them to see it right away! They'll move their head around or use their whiskers to "feel" what you're offering.

Their weird eye placement is actually a survival trick from being animals that other animals might want to hunt. Being able to see almost everywhere helps them stay safe in the wild. It's like having a 360-degree lookout that helps them spot danger before it gets too close!

Horses have lightning fast reflexes

Imagine being so fast that you could defend yourself before most animals could even think about moving! That's exactly what horses can do. These amazing animals can go from standing completely still to delivering a powerful kick in just 0.3 seconds.

Let's put that into perspective: If you took 1.6 seconds to react (which is a normal human reaction time), a horse could have already kicked several times! It's like comparing a superhero's lightning-fast moves to a sleepy person just waking up.

This super-speed comes from being a prey animal. In the wild, horses need to be ready to defend themselves or run away in a split second. Their bodies are built to react faster than you can blink! Whether it's kicking away a predator or sprinting to safety, horses are nature's ultimate quick-response champions.

Foals can walk and run within a few hours after birth

When baby horses, called foals, are born, they're like little superheroes! Unlike human babies who can't walk for months, foals are ready to move almost right away. Just a short time after being born, they can stand up and run.

This amazing ability is super important for their survival. In the wild, baby horses are in danger from predators like wolves or mountain lions. If a dangerous animal comes near, a foal needs to be able to run away quickly with its mom. They can't just lie around and wait to be rescued - they have to be ready to escape!

Imagine being able to stand up and run just minutes after being born - that's exactly what a baby horse can do! Their legs might look wobbly at first, but they quickly become strong and fast. Within just a few hours of being born, a foal can keep up with its mother and the rest of the horse herd.

Horses are highly intelligent animals

Horses are super intelligent animals that can learn to communicate in amazing ways! Just like dogs, they can be trained to do all sorts of cool tricks and tasks. But did you know that horses can actually tell their human friends what they want?

In one really cool scientific study, horses learned how to use a special board with different symbols. When they wanted a blanket put on or taken off, they could walk up and touch the right symbol! It's like they were having a conversation without using any words.

This means horses are much smarter than many people realize. They can understand things and find ways to share their thoughts and feelings. Imagine being able to tell your horse, "Are you feeling cold?" and having the horse tell you exactly what it wants!

Trainers use something called "positive reinforcement" to help horses learn these incredible skills. This means they reward the horses with praise when they do

something right, which makes the horses excited to learn more. And no, we do not use treats at Layla Rose Ranch to train. Treats are for special fun occasions.

The earliest ancestor of the horse is estimated to have lived 55 million years ago

Can you imagine a horse so small that it would be about the same size as a big dog like a Labrador retriever? That's exactly how horses looked millions of years ago! Their very first ancestors were super tiny compared to the big, beautiful horses we know today.

Over millions of years, these little horse ancestors gradually grew larger and changed. They developed longer legs for running across wide-open grasslands, stronger bodies, and the ability to survive in different environments. It's like they went through an incredible transformation!

About 6,000 years ago, humans started to become friends with horses. Archaeologists - scientists who dig up ancient evidence - have found proof that this is when humans first began to work with and take care of horses. They discovered special artifacts and marks that tell the story of how horses and humans started to live and work together.

Horses are very social animals

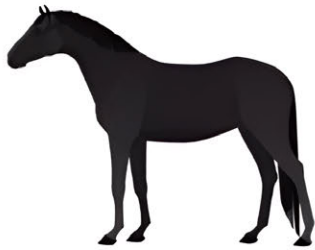
Horses are super social animals that love being together! They're not like some animals that prefer to be alone - horses find safety and comfort in their groups, which we call herds. It's like having a big family that always looks out for each other.

In a horse herd, these amazing animals actually form real friendships. They use their incredible senses to recognize horses they know and like. Just like humans have best friends, horses have special horse friends they enjoy spending time with.

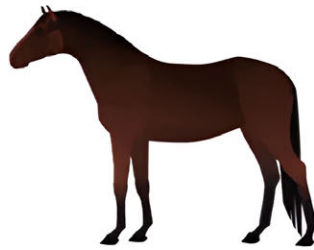
One of the coolest things about horse herds is how they take care of each other. When the group is resting or eating, one horse will always stay alert and stand guard. This horse acts like a watchful protector, keeping an eye out for any potential danger. While this horse is on "lookout duty," the other horses can relax, eat, and even take a nap, knowing they're safe.

It's like having a group of friends where someone is always making sure everyone else is okay. Horses are amazing at working together and taking care of each other - they're true team players of the animal world!

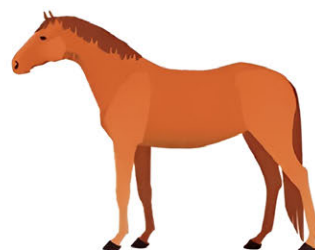
Horse Colors



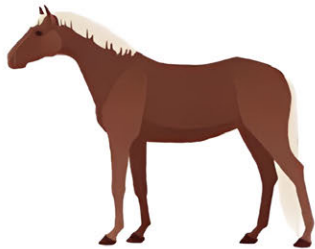
BLACK



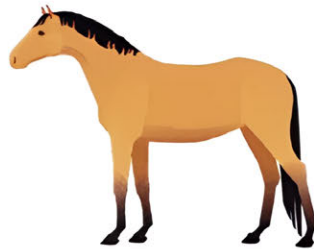
DARK BAY



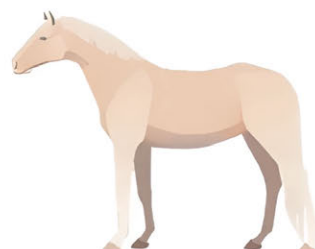
CHESTNUT



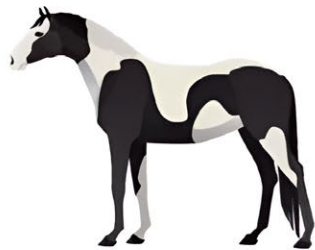
FLAXEN CHESTNUT



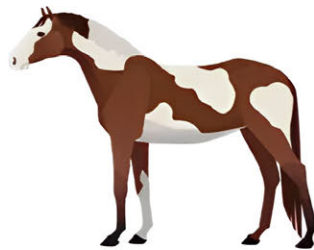
BUCKSKIN



CREMELLO



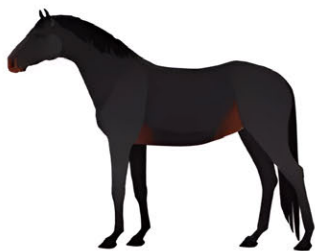
PIEBALD



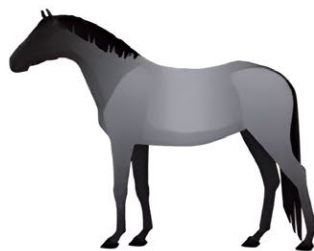
SKEWBALD



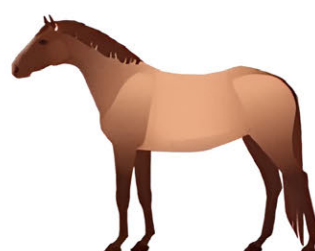
DAPPLE GRAY



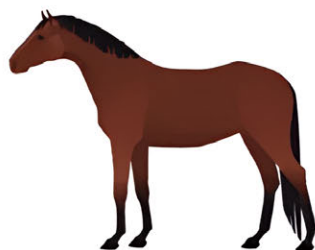
SEAL BROWN



BLUE ROAN



RED ROAN



BAY



PALOMINO



GRAY

Common Horse Breeds in USA

1. American Quarter Horse

The Speedster of the West



The American Quarter Horse is one of the most recognized and beloved breeds in the U.S. Known for its incredible speed over short distances, the Quarter Horse is a versatile breed used in everything from western riding to cutting and barrel racing.

- **Fun Fact:** The American Quarter Horse is the most popular breed in the U.S. due to its calm temperament, which makes it perfect for beginners and families.
- **Fun Fact:** Quarter Horses are also known for their stamina, and they can often be seen in rodeos and ranching. An all-around athlete.

2. Thoroughbred

The Champion Racer



When it comes to horse racing, no breed compares to the Thoroughbred. This breed is designed for speed, with its long, lean body and long legs built for sprinting.

- **Fun Fact:** Thoroughbreds are descendants of three famous stallions—Byerly Turk, Darley Arabian, and Godolphin Arabian—and are known for their powerful genetics.
- **Fun Fact:** While famous for racing, Thoroughbreds can also excel in jumping and eventing, making them versatile athletes.

3. Mustang

The Wild Heart of America



The Mustang is an iconic symbol of the American West. These free-roaming horses are descendants of Spanish horses brought over by explorers, and they continue to roam public lands in the western U.S.

- **Fun Fact:** Mustangs have a strong survival instinct and are often found in remote areas, thriving in harsh conditions.
- **Fun Fact:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is supposed to oversee the protection of Mustangs, but they are failing in this role. Mustangs can come in various colors, including rare pinto patterns.

4. Appaloosa

The Spotted Wonder



Appaloosas are known for their striking coat patterns, often speckled with spots or mottling. They were originally bred by the Nez Perce Native American tribe and are known for their versatility in many equestrian disciplines.

- **Fun Fact:** Appaloosas are born with solid coats that often develop distinctive patterns as they age.
- **Fun Fact:** Aside from their unique coat patterns, they are also known for their friendly personalities and are great for trail riding and showing.

5. American Paint Horse

The Colorful Companion



The American Paint Horse is easily recognizable due to its beautiful, large patches of white and another color (like black, brown, or chestnut). This breed is a popular choice for western riders and enjoys a friendly, energetic disposition.

- **Fun Fact:** The American Paint Horse is one of the most popular breeds for rodeo events, thanks to its speed and agility.
- **Fun Fact:** Paint Horses are known for their loyalty and friendly nature, often forming strong bonds with their owners.

6. Tennessee Walking Horse

The Smooth Operator



Tennessee Walking Horses are famous for their smooth, four-beat gait called the “running walk.” This breed is known for its comfort during long rides and is a popular choice for trail riders.

- **Fun Fact:** The “running walk” is incredibly smooth and is a favorite of riders looking for a gentle ride.
- **Fun Fact:** These horses are also popular in competitive events such as trail competitions and horse shows, thanks to their smoothness and elegance.

7. Clydesdale

The Gentle Giants



Clydesdales are one of the most well-known draft breeds, thanks in part to the iconic Budweiser commercials. These horses are massive and strong, originally bred to pull heavy loads and plows.

- **Fun Fact:** Clydesdales can stand 16 to 18 hands tall and weigh up to 2,000 pounds, making them one of the largest horse breeds in the world.
- **Fun Fact:** Despite their size, Clydesdales are known for their calm and friendly nature, making them gentle giants in every sense.

8. Shetland Pony

Small, Mighty, and Adorable



Shetland Ponies are one of the smallest breeds in the world, often standing under 42 inches tall. Despite their small size, they are incredibly strong and were once used to pull carts and work in mines.

- **Fun Fact:** Shetland Ponies can carry heavy loads despite their size, and they are known for their hearty and stubborn personalities.
- **Fun Fact:** These ponies are often seen as ideal companions for children, as they are small and manageable, but they also have a lot of personality.

9. Arabian Horse

The Ancient and Noble Breed



Arabian horses are one of the oldest and most recognizable breeds in the world, known for their beauty, endurance, and intelligence. They have a unique, refined appearance with a distinctive dished face and large, expressive eyes.

- **Fun Fact:** Arabian horses are known for their stamina, making them popular in endurance races and long-distance competitions.
- **Fun Fact:** Many other modern breeds, including the Thoroughbred, have Arabian blood in their lineage, contributing to their strength and speed.

10. Belgian Draft Horse

The Workhorse of the Fields



Belgian Draft Horses are known for their strength and size. These horses are used in farm work, pulling heavy loads, and even participating in competitive pulling events.

- **Fun Fact:** Belgian Draft Horses are among the heaviest horse breeds, with some individuals weighing over 2,000 pounds.
- **Fun Fact:** Their muscular build and gentle temperament make them ideal for farm work and heavy-duty tasks.

11. Standardbred

The Harness Racing Star



The Standardbred breed is synonymous with harness racing, a sport where horses race at either a trot or pace while pulling a sulky (a two-wheeled cart). Known for their speed and stamina, Standardbreds have made a name for themselves in racing circuits across the U.S.

- **Fun Fact:** Standardbreds are trained to race while harnessed, and they are incredibly fast trotters or pacers, with some reaching speeds of up to 30 miles per hour.
- **Fun Fact:** Unlike Thoroughbreds, which race under saddle, Standardbreds race in harness races, making them a unique and specialized breed.

12. Friesian

The Black Beauty



Friesians are known for their striking black coats, long flowing manes, and dramatic presence. This breed is used for both driving and riding, particularly in dressage and other high-level equestrian sports.

- **Fun Fact:** Friesians are often referred to as the “Black Beauties” due to their glossy black coats and elegant appearance.
- **Fun Fact:** These horses are one of the oldest horse breeds, originating in Friesland, Netherlands, and were originally used for medieval knights and chariot pulling.

13. Hanoverian

The Dressage and Jumping Pro



Hanoverians are a warmblood breed that excels in dressage, show jumping, and eventing. Known for their athleticism and willingness to work, they are highly regarded in the competitive equestrian world.

- **Fun Fact:** The Hanoverian is considered one of the top breeds for Olympic-level sports, particularly in dressage and jumping.
- **Fun Fact:** Their temperament is balanced, making them an excellent choice for both experienced riders and professionals.

14. Paso Fino

The Horse with the Perfect Gait



The Paso Fino is a unique breed known for its smooth, four-beat lateral gait, which is incredibly comfortable to ride. Originating from Puerto Rico and Colombia, these horses are now popular in the U.S. for both show and pleasure riding.

- **Fun Fact:** The Paso Fino's gait is so smooth that riders often describe it as "floating" over the ground.
- **Fun Fact:** They are excellent for long-distance riding and often perform in gaited competitions, showing off their unique movement.

15. Gypsy Vanner

The Beautiful Draft Pony



The Gypsy Vanner is a relatively newer breed that has gained popularity for its beauty and gentle temperament. These horses are small for draft horses, with flowing manes and tails and beautiful, feathered legs.

- **Fun Fact:** Originally bred by the Romani people in the U.K. to pull caravans, the Gypsy Vanner is now popular for driving, dressage, and as a family companion.
- **Fun Fact:** Their unique appearance, often resembling a fairy tale horse, has made them popular in movies and equine shows.

Horse Markings



Snip



Star



Stripe



Blaze



Bald face



Coronet



Pastern



Sock



Stocking

Layla's Word Search

H S Y A F E T L O C K K A Y F
N S T T E C L R F X G T C U U
C H C A J B A W O T Y B U I W
C M D G L H L K A H A L T E R
J O A W A L U H P W X A O L I
E B L G I D I A M S T Z C O F
B P L T I T Y O P I Q E U D V
E F E H V C H Z N L S R A F H
U A I K O N E E X D V O W U W
P M I L K O N K R Q G P C I P
A L A Y L A F N T S Z E T H Z
I X A R M Y O P U G M A N E H
G W S S E C N M G P X X V B A
U K M E T C S A D D L E K S Y
S T A L L G S L G M C T I R A

Stallion

Halter

Magic

Layla

Rope

Fetlock

Saddle

Colt

Mane

Withers

Blaze

Hoof

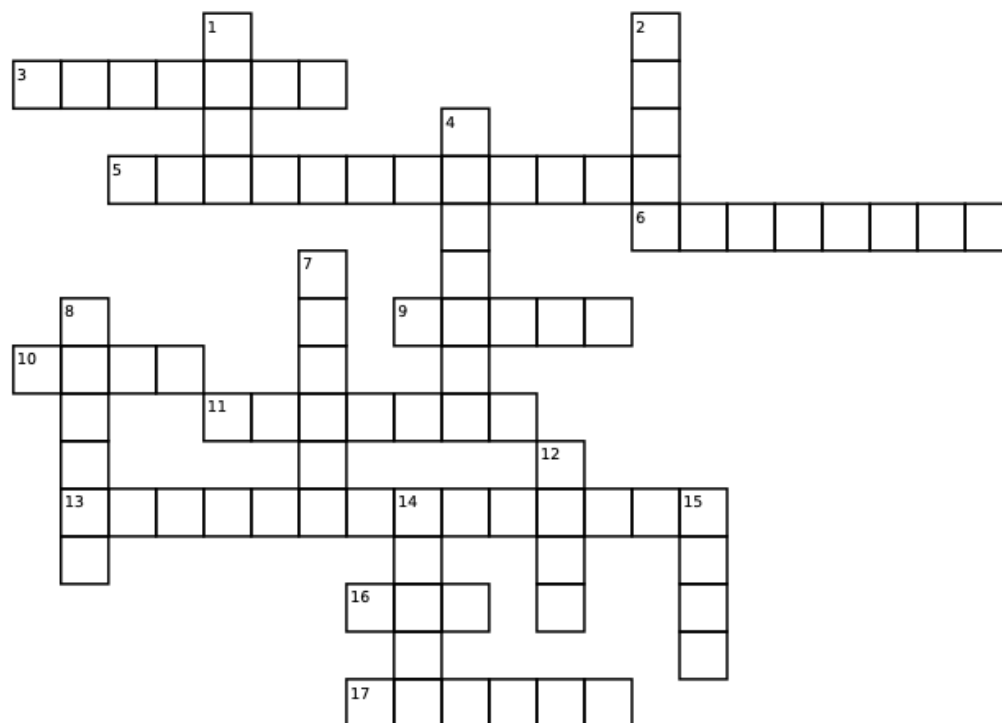
Mare

Filly

Stall

Hay

Cletus' Crossword Puzzle

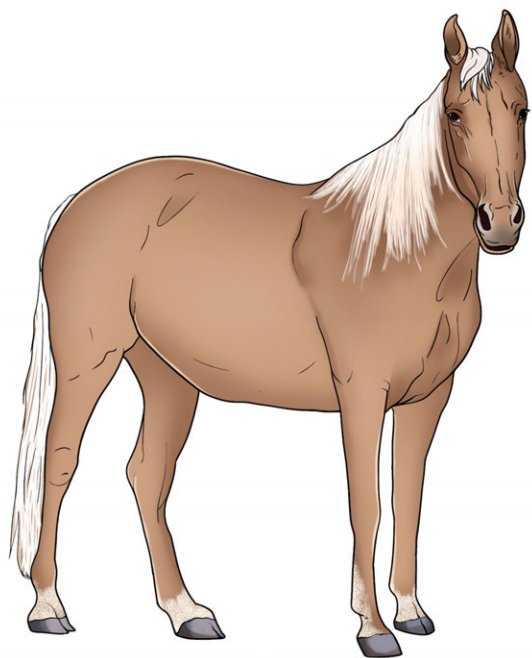


Down:

1. A young male horse
2. The rope or strap used to guide a horse
4. The person who trims the horse's hooves
7. A rope or strap used for leading a horse
8. A leather seat for riding a horse
12. A growth of long hair on the neck of a horse
14. A place where horses stay in the barn overnight
15. The name of the horse's foot

Across:

3. A joint in the horse's leg
5. The doctor who takes care of horses
6. An adult male horse
9. A young female horse
10. An adult female horse
11. The ridge between the shoulder blades of a horse
13. The name of our horse rescue.
16. A horse's favorite forage food
17. The name of the first horse rescued by Layla Rose Ranch,



Hi there! My name is Layla, and I have a pretty special story. I was born right here at Layla Rose Ranch - in fact, they named the entire ranch after me! But our journey began before I arrived, with our first rescued horse, Cletus, who is actually my dad.

In 2020, we started our mission on these 11 beautiful acres, dedicating every inch of our land to helping horses who have been abused, neglected, or are fighting health challenges. We're not just a ranch - we're a healing place for horses in need.

As an official 501(c)3 charity, our work is about saving lives, not making money. Every horse that comes to our ranch is a priority, and every horse deserves a second chance.

Let me tell you about our unique 3-Phase process that helps transform these horses' lives.

PHASE 1 : RESCUE – FROM A LIFE OF HOPELESSNESS



Rescuing a horse is a deeply emotional journey of hope and healing. Many of our beloved horses arrive from "kill pens," marked with a yellow tag signaling their dire fate of potential transportation to slaughter. Each horse we save represents a life given a second chance.

Our first act of love is a comprehensive veterinary examination. Every rescued horse receives immediate, personalized medical care. Our dedicated team meticulously creates an individualized care plan, addressing critical health needs. We carefully redo coggins tests, update vaccinations, and provide essential dental care. Our compassionate farrier begins specialized hoof treatments with gentle, attentive precision.

Most rescued horses arrive in heartbreaking condition – battling health challenges like strangles, pneumonia, or EPM, and severely malnourished. To protect both the new arrivals and our existing herd, we provide a specialized quarantine center. This self-contained area, with separate water supply, tack, and feed, ensures comprehensive treatment and prevents potential disease transmission.

Our commitment is unwavering: each horse receives premium medical care tailored to their unique needs. We nourish them with carefully selected feed – one flake of California alfalfa daily, complemented by protein-rich, low-sugar Teff hay from Washington. Every morsel is chosen with love and scientific precision to support their recovery.



PHASE 2 : RESTORE – TRUST IN HUMANS AND ITSELF



Healing goes far beyond physical recovery. We understand that emotional wounds often run deeper than physical ones. Drawing from the Clinton Anderson Method, our approach is patient, gentle, and profoundly respectful.

Unlike traditional training methods that rely on force and submission, we believe in earning a horse's trust. Our philosophy is simple yet powerful: we wait, we listen, we allow. Many trainers might quickly rope and subdue a horse, but our rescued friends need something more –

they need understanding, patience, and unconditional love.

We recognize that these horses have experienced profound trauma. Many have internalized their suffering, believing they were somehow responsible for the abuse they endured. Our mission is to help them rediscover their inherent worth, to rebuild their self-trust and confidence.

Countless hours are spent simply being present, creating a safe space where these magnificent creatures can heal. We sit quietly, allowing them to set the pace of their emotional recovery. Our goal is not just obedience, but a genuine, loving connection built on mutual respect.



The goal is to get the horse to trust humans again. This is huge challenge, but a rewarding one. But it is also to get the horse to trust itself again. One of the things we notice in our rescues is that many have given up. They feel like it is them that caused the abuse. They are not sure why, but they stop trusting their own instincts as well.

So we are just as focused in the horse believing in itself again as much as us humans. This explains why we slowly wait for them to engage rather than force them. Many hours just “sitting in their presence” when they first come in leads to a horse who can just again.

PHASE 3 : RELIVE – THE LIFE IT WAS BORN TO LIVE IN A FOREVER HOME.

This is the most joyous phase of our journey – witnessing a horse transform from a state of hopelessness to finding their true purpose. A "Forever Home" is not just a location, but a promise of unconditional love, care, and belonging.

Our adoption process is rigorous, not to discourage, but to ensure each horse finds their perfect match. Potential adopters undergo an extensive application process. We communicate with their veterinarian and farrier, conduct thorough reference checks, and even inspect the proposed living environment.

We're committed to preventing horse flipping or casual placements. Each adoption is a carefully orchestrated dance of love, designed to create a lifelong bond between horse and human.

If you have a horse that needs a loving, permanent home, we're here to help. Together, we can rewrite their story – from survival to thriving.



For more info visit laylaroseranch.org

To Donate and help horses in need, scan the code.

