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Equine expert teaches riders horse=speak

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Equine expert teaches riders horse-speak

Communication all about body language

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Dennis Reis is a top-notch "horse whisperer."

The equine expert will be at Hoosier Horse Park in Johnson County Park on Thursday to teach horse owners riding and other techniques.

Reis also is on a mission to establish a National Day of the Horse. Last year, California became the first state to adopt a day to honor horses.

"It went through the assembly with virtually no opposition," Reis says.

He has arranged for petitions to be signed through Tractor Supply stores around the country. Reis is on the last leg of a 14-state tour, trying to get people to sign the petition.

The founder of the School of Universal Horsemanship in Pennngrove, Calif., Reis will



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Dennis Reis is trying to establish a National Day of the Horse.

share techniques of communicating with horses through body language, the only language they understand.

The objective is to teach people to get along with horses and get the animals to follow their lead, he says.

"Through their nature, they are looking for leadership," Reis says of horses.

Seminar topics will include herd dynamics with all horses loose in an arena.

Horses and rider will overcome their fears as they challenge a 6-foot red ball, flapping car wash, sirens and flares.

Each skill will be taught without using artificial restraints and mechanical devices.

About 100 to 200 people are expected at the seminar, where Reis will also demonstrate jumping and running patterns without a bridle.

Reis plans to ride a horse that has never been ridden and offer advice about troubled equines.

His typical students, Reis says, are middle-aged professional women, many of whom are intimidated by a horse's size.

Yet he says horses are born cowards.

"Under pressure, they will fight back or run," he says. "To earn a horse's respect, riders have to be dominant without force or anger."

SADDLE UP

Horsemanship seminar

When: 6 to 11 p.m.
Thursday

Where: Hoosier Horse Park at Johnson County Park, 6018 S. Harrison St. in Edinburgh

Tickets: In advance, \$65 per person or \$36 per person for groups of five or more; at the door, \$100 per person; free for children 12 and younger

Note: Horses will be provided for hands-on activities.

Information: (800) 732-8220 or www.reisranch.com

Directions: (812) 526-5929