

I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words about a fine gal they call “The Horse Whisperer” - Brenda Gauthier.

Just recently I had become the proud owner of two beautiful mares. My old girl Dyna, now 22 years young, and the younger of the two is my 5 year old mare we call Tess. Both my girls came to me with somewhat challenging backgrounds which I have learned to have an enormous amount of patience. My girl Dyna came to me with many health issues which one would expect from a lady we call an icon in our industry...”She Can Stop...She Can Slide, She Can Spin...and she Stamps all Her Babies” that’s my girl Dyna!

Tess on the other hand came to me with many different challenges of her own. While her life experiences are now all positive, she had endured times in her short life that other horses half her bloodline would have given up. Tess had been at the hand of rough trainers, she couldn’t trust and she couldn’t calm no matter what. The only time she felt safe was when I was with her. She had a head full of fears that claimed her to fame as the leader of “Spooks Ville”. Not being a horsewoman for long, I knew that I needed someone to help both my girls...Someone to teach me how to help them best.

I drove to many Manitoba Ranches, I spoke to a never ending list of people who felt they could help. On my very last day of searching, I ran across an article on the internet about a woman in Manitoba they called “ The Horse Whisperer”... Brenda Gauthier. Off we went on the journey to find this miraculous woman. When she heard the story of both my horses, she let me know it would take a while but if I had the patience and I truly loved my horses that it would be worth it and together we could help them...we would do our best. I had so many reservations about trying someone new , someone I hadn’t known of prior, and one who at the time I thought was so far away that in the event of an emergency I wouldn’t be able to make the haul.

The long haul I am speaking of is the Horse Hilton...in St. Pierre Jolys, a mere 30 kilometers from the City of Winnipeg. It may as well have been 1000 miles away because to me I couldn’t see them when I opened my eyes. I recall that I met with Brenda at least three times before I made my decision. I was putting a lot of faith in another person who had many promises.

Before I moved my horses we came to an agreement. We would adjust their diets, strip them down to good natural food. They would get excellent quality alfalfa, natural supplements, basically start them from scratch...clean them from the inside out. That old mare of mine loved the attention, loved the heated facility in the -50 degree weather, and had become so calm. She was treated well by everyone...especially Brenda. She loved Dyna’s old western style. Dyna had become relaxed, content, and she is on a whole new program. Dyna today is going on twenty three, but has the energy, drive, playfulness and appearance of a 15 year old. She loves to work out, she loves her new home and the people who care for her when I can’t be there. To see Dyna at peace, touches my heart.

Now for Tess. Tess too started from square one. Only her daily program would entail getting her system back to healthy, training, learning to trust, calming down and becoming a horse again. I remember Tess' worst day like it was yesterday. She had given up ...lost her spirit. I was told she would never amount to anything, she was damaged. I remember looking in her eyes and thinking there is something warm and kind about this horse and I wanted to help her. I just didn't know how or where to begin. My little psychological train wreck as she was referred to by a previous trainer was at times within my reach but still so afraid. I needed to learn to be strong for her...teach her to be strong for me.. Tess' previous trainers never saw the light in Tess that shines so bright that it is like heaven shining down. There is a warmth that comes from Tess that tells you she has a soul, she is alive and when she invites you in you will be loved...she curls her neck gently around you and places you in the rocking chair. I needed Brenda to believe that Tess was different. I needed her to see Tess how I myself saw her.

Was Brenda the same as all the others? Did she think I saw something just because Tess was my horse? Was she willing to take the time as she promised. I was waiting for the fall. I had a horse for almost two years that I never rode. None of the other trainers would let me ride her. I simply wasn't a good enough rider in their eyes. I needed to get to know my horse, I needed to understand her under saddle. I knew in my heart Tess would never do anything to hurt me. Tess trusted me, I could feel it.

Much to my surprise, Brenda jumped right in. She tested her, she rode her, she gave her such a high degree of tender loving care that Tess had no alternative but to begin to trust people other than myself again. There has been no negativity, there has been no rearing up, there has been the face of a horse that is inquisitive, happy to be around people, and getting healthy again. Tess is proud-she doesn't drop her head, she doesn't slouch. She is soft, willing to learn, willing to work and wants only to please. She is a beautiful dark bay mare with the desire and a heart so big you can hear it beat from a mile away. In a few short months, Tess has grown up. I ride her as much as possible, and hope that in the future we can look at perhaps competing. Because of Brenda Gauthier Tess has started a new life with new beginnings and Dyna, well she just keeps getting younger and younger Brenda believed in me-she believed in my horses, she saw something that no one else had seen. I do know that we have a long road ahead of us, and that if we continue to work together, my horses will continue to be content and I will be the horsewoman I always dreamed of becoming.

Brenda...well she has a very special bond with my horses. She sees Dyna as a very polite honest horse. She talks to me each week about how sweet that old girl is...and Tess? Well...you best come out and see it...because when they ride, they are ONE...when they walk together there is a calm that I prayed to see each day. They talk to each other without saying a word. You hear Tess knicker as they walk ever so closely-I think she's just letting Brenda know what a GREAT Day she had. Brenda has taken this young mare of mine and brought her back to where she needed to be. I have seen an amazing turn around in my both my horses and that trip to St. Pierre Jolys...well it just keeps getting shorter and shorter. I recall leaving Richland Ranch one day thinking that we finally made it home- there was such a feeling of peace. That distance between me and my horses ...well I explain it best now as just a heartbeat away thanks to Brenda Gauthier.

We love you Brenda....Thank you for Everything!