



NEIGH SAYER

Making sense out of horse sense

By Alisha A Pina
Journal Staff Writer



HOW DID YOU FEEL ABOUT THAT? Sheila Ryan of Barrington nuzzles with her horse Indigo Moon at a stable in Swansea, Mass., earlier this year. Ryan helps horse owners by communicating with their animals to learn what is troubling them. (Journal Photo / Bob Thayer)

Making sense out of horse sense

Sheila Ryan says she has 12 years' experience communicating with horses but has also dealt with sheep, goat, pigs and dogs.

BY ALISHA A. PINA
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

BARRINGTON — Horse communicator Sheila Ryan says she improved one owner's relationship with her horse after it told her it did not like its stable because there wasn't any music playing or water flowing from a fountain.

Another horse wanted a different trainer because it didn't like the way the trainer looked. The horse said its trainer looked better after losing some weight, but still wasn't attractive enough to be in the ring with the horse.

She claims she even helped her former horse, Mijoy, three years ago with a severely abscessed and raw mouth.

The discovery with Mijoy led to HorseSense, a business she founded to assist horse owners, trainers and veterinarians by speaking with horses through hands-on healing techniques.

"The work that HorseSense performs is not meant to replace the vet, acupuncturist or chiropractor, but works with the owner and/or the medical professional to help identify problem areas emotionally and physically leading towards a healthier and happier relationship," Ryan says in her, new instructional video, Introduction to Spiritual Horse Communication.

"Horses have a spiritual essence as we do. And they are soft and sensitive and vulnerable. And I am able to determine what is going on with them."

Although there are skeptics, Ryan says she is booked almost three months out and travels up and down the East Coast to her clients. She presented two equine training clinics at the Eastern States Exposition last month in West Springfield, Mass.

She was invited to be a panelist in a PBS educational film, which aired recently, about healing. More than 1,500 copies of her video produced by Red Door Productions LLC of Warwick and shot at Glen Farms in Portsmouth have been sold.

"People that call me are ready for it, so I don't deal much with the skeptics," she said beginning an examination of 5-year-old Indigo Moon, her young horse that is stabled in Barrington.

"Most of my clients are from referrals."

The part-time job became fulltime after Ryan realized her management position at Samsonite, in Warren, wasn't fulfilling. "She says she has 12 years' experience, mostly with humans and horses. She has also dealt with sheep, goat, pigs and dogs.

A 60- to 90-minute session with Ryan costs between \$95 to \$125. It includes aura and chakra readings, hands-on energy work and communication through dousing rods, two L-shaped rods that are traditionally used to find water.

"We're more than willing to work with western medicine and practices," said Tammy Carboni of the New England Horse Care Center, in North Smithfield. "We have never



NEIGH SAYER

Making sense out of horse sense

By Alisha A Pina
Journal Staff Writer

worked with [horse communicators such as Ryan], but we won't steer from it either.

"I can't tell you if it's helpful, but it can't hurt. It's not going to hurt the horse because they don't do anything evasive."

Her examinations identify painful areas, saddle fit, feeding regiments, training techniques and emotional problems, she said.

"This is good for Indie [Indigo Moon] because I haven't examined him in a while," Ryan said. "He's a young horse. He's got a lot to learn."

In a chakra reading, Ryan checks areas of the body that she calls energy centers. The centers are connected to areas of life, for instance, the base of the horse correlates with food, shelter, the herd and survival.

"It gives me clues to that part of their personality and life," she said dangling a pendant above the area. "If [the pendant] travels in a clockwise, circular motion, that area is OK. If it is still, something may be wrong."

"... He's having trouble communicating with us," she said as the pendant stood still above Indigo Moon's throat area. "He trying to tell us something."

Taking out her dousing rods, she said, "Indie, may I talk to you?"

The rods move away from each other, indicating a "yes." An aura reading discovered Indigo Moon had a muscle pain near his backside. Ryan determined a few questions later that the horse was playing too hard with the other horses in the pasture.

"They play really hard and wrestle," she said. "It's not anything skeletal. He's just sore... It's like being a private detective. I find their happiness and make them smile."

"I bet you no one of her horses have contradicted her," said skeptic Dr. Robert Imrie, a veterinarian from Seattle. "Who's going to say she's wrong? The horse. Tell her to prove it and readers should step back and consider the facts."

Dr. David Ramey, of Glendale, Calif., a veterinarian, also has his reservations. He wrote a book called *The Consumers Guide to Alternative Therapies in the Horse*.

"It's hot medicine," he said. "Medicine is involved with the rigorous testing and evaluation of claims. There is no evidence that they can heal. You can't prove it. What she and others like her are doing is charging for things that don't need to be done. Medicine isn't easy, it's hard. That's why there are not a lot of people doing medicine."

Ramey said imagine taking a car to the mechanic and saying, "the oil light is on." He said a person would expect the mechanic to check the oil level, maybe tighten some hoses or change the oil.

"You wouldn't expect him to do a harmonizing session with the car and charge you extra for putting crystals over the oil," he said. "It's just mind-bending how silly it all is, but yet it appeals to a small segment of the population. If you want to make some money, you don't have to appeal to the masses."

"Either this lady is a charlatan, which is clearly a fraud, or she .landed from a different planet and has powers that the rest of us are not fortunate to have. No one has ever shown psychic or communicative abilities. You just have a bunch of silly stories."