



Connection Matters

How do you develop a working, collaborative connection that really matters to your horse?

It's a question on the minds of many a horse-owner, because we dearly want our horses to enjoy their experience of us, as we do them!



Sometimes we wonder why connection is so easy to lose - or even whether it's possible to keep, when challenges come up.

And when we do need to be firm, doubt can lurk in the back of our mind about how our steed will respond. Can we recover the connection if something happens? Will a mistake set us back?

The key to clear communication that is of most help to your horse, particularly when facing challenges, is to get good at managing the connection by **knowing what matters to your horse** in real time, so you can **fill in what's needed** and **guide the flow**.

It's within reach for anyone who seeks a working, collaborative connection with their horse - you just need a clear strategy and practices to get there.

I'd love to help you build instinctive value into your connection from your horse's point of view, so you have closer communication and can stay together on things through the ups and downs.

Karen Musson

I help students who want true collaboration with their horse build instinctive value into a stretchy connection they can both count on - even when things get challenging.



The Trail So Far

It was a long and uncertain road to understanding why the connection with my beloved sport-horse *Chase* wasn't working, and what to do.

I had enjoyed a heart connection with my eventing mare *Sequin*, through thick and thin. I had to wonder - did I get lucky, is this a one horse in a lifetime thing? During the time I was struggling with *Chase*, she passed away. She was 36. As I relived old memories, I caught her clues.

I remembered the blissful ease we felt out there, even over the trickier cross-country fences. We shared the joy and had a stretchy connection that got us through pretty much anything.

It reminded me how much the feel of the connection really mattered. It defines the partnership.

When the connection is right, all the effort is effortless. Trust is strong, and you get closer and closer *through* the challenges. And it's so fun!

But fun was a fading memory... *Chase* didn't enjoy what we did together and the connection felt terrible. I was giving it everything I had and wondered if he'd be better off with someone different. But he seemed to nudge me "Karen, go deeper". Go beyond convention.

Understand what really matters to horses, how to align with them from moment to moment. Guide from there - it's the only place that matters.



Slowly he showed me the way, the intentional steps to a truly collaborative connection, no longer by accident or when the stars align. And not something you experience only in a perfect moonlit moment, but a connection that carries into daily activities and into our way of resolving the challenges we inevitably face - even in the extreme.

The horses (and humans) I worked with privately, at clinics, and even online appreciated this *Connection IS the Way* approach as much as *Chase* did.

And together over many years, we mined, refined and defined the strategy, roadmap and focused practices to bring the joy and a stretchy connection that you can both rely on - through thick and thin.

Karen Musson



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Your Successes



Tara and El Camino, Minnesota, USA



"I just wrapped up a coaching session with Karen Musson. Her subtle way of changing the timing so that you are communicating directly to the horse through his feet instead of cues or pressure and release (which she explains actually sets you up so your timing is too late, forcing you to micromanage your horse) is so rewarding to experience!

In fact, your horse responds to it with willingness and pleasure. So much so that the release or "reward" is actually the feel itself! Not a release to mark a point where the horse has done what you asked. This allows you and your horse to continue in the flow without interruption. Love this stuff!"



Kate Sandel, Des and Tycoon, UK



When Philippe Karl said about our ridden work, 'If your horse trusts your hands as much as this you can do anything', I was pretty sure that I needed to send my thanks again to Karen Musson, my mentor in the states – this feeling of release has helped us under saddle as much as on the ground.



Paul Wiedemann and Centano, Canada



I bought a very sensitive Andalusian who had a dangerous bolting habit. Karen's methods, inspired by Bill Dorrance, operate under a completely different paradigm from clinics with different trainers I attended and DVDs I bought in my search.

The feel I learned to project is of key importance to my horse. The float I keep in my rope is effective and my horse loves it. The timing and type of maneuvers used are natural to how horses move. My horse doesn't anticipate the next phase of pressure with fear. In short my horse has stopped bolting and is tuning into my intentions more and more.

Most trainers know horses can only learn when they are calm; Karen's principles deliver calmness and connection."



Karen Musson

Karen is known for her intuitive and practical way of helping people build a working, collaborative “stretchy” connection that matters to their horses. She coaches students to find their way to a connection they can both count on, even when navigating challenges.

Rooted in her life-time with horses (so far!), she combines technical skill from her European background with insights from her studies in the USA of feel-based horsemanship, flow, mindfulness and nervous system function.

Karen’s approach instinctively reaches the horse by strengthening the natural wiring we share to prioritize connection as a problem-solving strategy.

If you need help with your horse, contact Karen below or click to set up a complimentary chat.



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