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## **“Mounted Police Style?” by Joann Long, Gentle Dove Farm**

What does it mean to train Mounted Police Style? Is obstacle training just a matter of throwing some obstacles out in the arena and pushing our horse through it?



Should we just keep trying to prod the horse over or past that fearful object? How do police horses stand for all the commotion in the cities? How does this relate to my horse and me? My police horses, Dillon and Shamrock, could tell you a lot if they could talk. Let me share our experiences to answer those questions.

For over 12 years we were a member of the volunteer mounted police and had the privilege to train with various professional mounted police in the US and Canada. We are National Mounted and Toronto Police Services certified. Dillon was multiple-time international Grand Champion and Shamrock is his understudy. The professional trainings provided us with a format to build communication. Our police horses would be out on the streets with buses whizzing by, listening to police sirens blaring, standing for large crowds, and walking over high bridges with rushing water beneath the grates, among other duties. At Gentle Dove Farm we share the principles of this mounted police training with the general equestrian public.

Mounted police follow closely to military type protocol and utilize training from the cavalry. The training format is based on structure and discipline, as well as natural horsemanship. An intricate piece of the training is to develop and maintain focus using specific strategies and



methods while staying within the horse's comfort zone. The training uses a building block approach to develop trust and overcome the fleeing instincts of the horse, as well as improve the rider's horsemanship and effectiveness. The mounted police style strategies are developed for individual success.

Throwing obstacles out on the field without a knowledgeable plan may actually decrease your horse's confidence. There is a REAL training process in mounted police style obstacle strategies and the instruction and preparation will provide a horsemanship foundation for any riding style.



We could never desensitize our horse to every obstacle; there will always be something that may give our horse anxiety. The mounted police style training is a process that enables us to cope with any situation by building our horse's trust and confidence using the tools we teach. Further, the Gentle Dove Farm Obstacle Training Mounted Police Style is applicable for any riding discipline! Our mission is to help horses and their people form a special understanding and partnership of trust towards a mutually rewarding experience together.



We work through 30-40 obstacle opportunities in each clinic geared for individual success, safety, and appropriate challenge level whether you're a novice or experienced! In fact, many extreme cowboy challenges and trail trials today have duplicated some of the mounted police obstacle tests. Unique to our clinics is our Police Horse Demonstration. Let our horses show you the ultimate trust that can be achieved! You'll have fun while learning in this unique,

professional, educational opportunity! Come join us to see and learn from our experience and success!

Happy and safe riding!

Joann K. Long  
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