



The Highline – 01-17-09 Volume 4: Issue: 3

Hello Everyone!

We've had a rather warm week of 40 degree days and with it continuing to freeze every night, the ice is still here. The snow is now pretty hard and difficult to do anything with. The guys did a great job of clearing paths for the livestock to get around on. For Randy and myself, the week seemed to be either riding or going to town. The riding has been a lot of fun in that we each take turns calling out what to work on. As we come across a rough spot, we're all able to coach each other through it; makes for a relaxed atmosphere and a LOT of laughter. We managed to bring in the yearlings to work with one day and really got into the nitty-gritty of roping at faster clips. The two new horses, Sailor and Jerry, took to cattle very quickly; you can see Sailor's interest above. I'm riding the filly, Beauty, and we're just tagging along for moral support.



We also incorporated roping their feet.





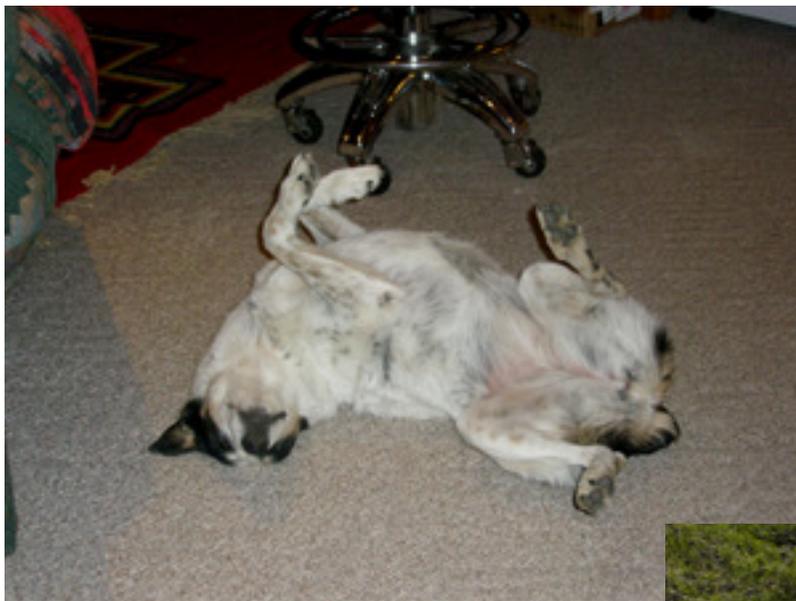
Hanging slickers off of them.



Dragging slickers.



And practiced tracking up behind each other with a rope, rating, dallying, slipping rope, coiling on the go so the horses get used to the routine of what they will experience when we are roping cattle, and they have a job to do. It's very cool seeing how quickly these young horses take to working and roping cattle. Likening it to people, their expression says "I'M A BIG KID NOW!"



While we are all busily working with the colts and keeping the ranch in order, Jo-Z can be found lounging in the lodge while Shayne and Jo-Anne are back in Washington.

After lunch each day, Wes has been heading out to the horse herd, catching up a horse on the feed ground and trimming their feet to keep them maintained through the winter.



Here's Shadow waiting his turn, licking on homemade snow cones.



A really foggy morning.





Tuesday... It was mid afternoon and the girls & I were riding in the indoor. I was struggling on some things with my horse when Randy walked in. After a while of not seeing him ride, it was good to have him with us. He wasn't dressed to ride. He offered up some pointers for Kathy & Bri to work on, and when he got to me he started to say something and stopped himself short. "Let me get on him." Not in a "You're wrecking that horse!" kind of way, but a "It's hard to explain in just a few words" kind of way. We were at the opposite end of the arena from the tack room, and looking at his size 12 snow boots and my stirrups, I thought, "No way would that work!" On the spot, he took his boots off and in his stocking feet, climbed on. For the next hour there was no pain, no thought of past or future; he was in the now with that horse.

There was a conversation going between them, not with words but through his hands & body. The parts where there wasn't understanding, Randy's actions were just in a manner to say, "No, that's not it. That's not it. That's not it." Until we saw the change he was looking for and a big release to say, "THERE. That's it!" And both looked pleased with their newfound understanding. Lord, please don't let this illness take his horses away.



This is inauguration weekend, a historic moment as Barack Obama takes the office of President. Our country continues to evolve just as our lives continue to evolve. There is much wonder in the future ahead. Then there's Jo-Z. It's a sure thing you'll find her lounging contented and worry free. Ah, a dog's life!

Have a great week!

Dori

