



FRISO

“The warrior horse”

The story of a wonderful horse at TMA Farm

Friso, a seven years old BLM branded Mustang gelding, arrived at The Mustang Acres Farm in January of 2019. Friso was described as a “bolting” horse; difficult to manage in the barn or stall and exceedingly difficult to ride.

We still remember the night he arrived. It was late, about 10 o’clock at night; the driver backed up the trailer to the barn and admonished us: “watch for this guy, he will run away very fast...” Friso did not run away that night. He walked in the stall quietly, sniffing and looking around to understand better where he was.

We started working with him and with extreme caution approached him making sure he knew we were not going to hurt him; he was nice. In and out of the barn with no bolting or signs of distress, yet vigilant and attentive to every move we would make around him.



Friso in training: staying close with no bolting away.

We became convinced that Friso experienced some violent treatment during his staying at other barns. We could tell this, because as soon as we would raise a hand, just to grab something around him, he would become tense and ready to spring away. He was afraid, and although he would play along during the training, he remained non trusting.

We took him on long walks in the back of our property and he was ok; ...until one day, he bolted away and ran straight back to the barn. We were perplexed; what did we do wrong now? We followed all the basics and there, he bolted away. Well, we kept the same training during the spring.

Friso after a training session at TMA Farm.



Friso was responding very well, but still we could not touch his back legs and every day was a fresh start; everything he learned one day, we had to restart the day after. Friso was working ok, but he would not go the extra mile needed to learn.

Our goal was: “if we could touch his back legs and gain his trust” we could go on and try to ride him.

We were told: “watch out, he bucked a few cowboys! ...And these guys know how to ride horses.”

Enough to scare us.



Friso looking back and asking:
"when are we going to do the
real thing?"

But while fear is important and every warrior knows its importance, it is also true that it presents an opportunity to be brave and push the limits to new boundaries.

So, one day, we decided to change the approach; Friso was nice, working along, but not yet fully trusting and fully willing to work together. It was as if Friso was thinking "well, OK, I do the thing you ask me to do, I will play along, but listen you are not understanding me, I am no cowboy horse. I bucked off a few cowboys, because, like you are doing, they were thinking they got my trust and make me do things, and want me to jump here, run there ... but really I am no cowboy horse; so, wake up!"

There we were; Friso and us. Let's change!

We told Friso: "OK boy, we will do this "the warrior way", we will never ask you to do something we will not do, but please understand we will push all the boundaries and although we are scared, we are going to trust each other no matter what, and we will cement the relationship through hard challenges".

How we did it?



Courage, passion, grit, and can do attitude.

The storm will come; the storm will pass. The storm can kill you, but what's important is the fact that you gave it all to save lives. If you die during the storm, you know you can tell the Creator you were ready because you live your life to the full extent. If you survive, you will continue to live as if it is your last moment on earth. Always do good, always SEMPER PARATUS!



We saddled him up; we went straight into riding together and performing all the difficult tasks together. Yes, he challenged the relationship to make sure we were no cowboys; once Friso understood the nature was different, the bond was in place.

From that moment onward, we could touch his back legs, from that moment onward Friso became "the warrior horse".



You got this! I am not going to run over you.
You can ride with me.
You can run with me.
You can dream with me.
I will go with you places we never visited
before.
If afraid, I shall master the fear and use it to
build up my courage.
Together will push all boundaries.
We shall always decide for the best.
We shall never harm each other.
We are now brothers.

*Friso: an incredible horse. A horse with a great
spirit. This is why we call him "the warrior horse".*

The Mustang Acres FARM

A horse
rescue
operation

