

OPEN LETTER FROM PAT PARELLI

To Festival of the Horse Attendees, Parelli Savvy Club members worldwide and horse lovers everywhere –

I wanted to take this opportunity to personally address some concerns that have been circulating on Internet forums about our recent demonstration at the Royal Festival of the Horse show in Stoneleigh Park, UK with the stallion Catwalk. I can assure you that the Parelli philosophy and methods never tolerate abuse of any kind and nobody works harder than I do to make the world a better place for horses.

First and foremost, I would like to apologize to the audience members that were confused by the demonstration methods that in the moment I chose to use on a horse that proved more difficult than anyone ever expected. In hindsight, I realize that when the microphone fell off, I should have stopped the demonstration and talked to you about it. Some people had difficulty trusting me in this situation and for that I am sad and apologize for allowing confusion to evolve.

In over 30 years of public problem-solving, this is without a doubt the most extreme horse I have ever had. In fact he ranks in the top 3 of all challenging horses in my experience. When dealing with any problematic situation I'm there first for the horse and taking care of what he needs. It became apparent that bridling and ear handling has been a very perplexing issue for Catwalk long before he came to his new owners. I had to prove to him that he did not need to fear it. You have to be able to match the energy, not do more or less than the horse, and that takes passive persistence. You cannot rush or force it or you'll push the horse over the edge. You just have to prove to him that no matter how long it takes, you would never go there. That's when they finally trust you and some horses take longer than others. Catwalk surprised me because there were several times he gave me signs that he was changing, and then suddenly he would try another tactic.

While his lack of acceptance provided quite a challenge, we continued to work closely together to accomplish success. We finally achieved that success the following day after some more hours of passive persistence. To make sure there was no cause for concern, Catwalk was examined by an independent veterinarian (see attached report) and has successfully been bridled and even competed since last weekend.

I realize that not everyone practices Parelli techniques and certainly that is each individual's choice. Unfortunately, this situation has given those with anti-Parelli sentiments 'fuel for fire' to contradict our methods. I have lived my life to serve horses and humans, and I'm sorry I created an uncomfortable environment for some of the attendees.

Today, I can report that Catwalk is being bridled easier than ever and without incident and that he is doing his best jumping ever according to his owners. I thank everyone who supports Parelli and look forward to continuing to serve humans and horses each and every day.

Sincerely,

Pat Parelli

July 16, 2010