



The following article was featured in the **California Riding Magazine** July 2006.

## **Christa Petrillo Training**

A horse is a horse, of course, and sometimes even the most wonderful horse can sometimes develop behavior problems. Horses that haven't had good, consistent training, or any training at all, can present even more difficult problems. Those less than "golden moments" might include a runaway; or a rear, a buck, or a spook; or perhaps a horse that flat-out refuses to load into a trailer.

"Problems like these are just a few of the things that Total Horsemanship Training can help solve," according to Christa Petrillo, a Certified John Lyons Trainer whose home base is in Winters, California, near Sacramento. "It doesn't matter if it's a western horse, trail horse, dressage horse, or jumper – problems can crop up with any horse, and these techniques work for them all."

Christa calls her business "Total Horsemanship" because it encompasses so much more than horse training. Total Horsemanship involves the total aspect of horse ownership, including equine health topics such as acupuncture, chiropractic, herbal remedies, nutrition, foal handling, stallion handling and management, rehabilitation, horse husbandry, ranch management, ranch and barn design, grooming, saddle fitting, and more. The list goes on and on. She teaches these subjects at her clinics, and clients come away with more than they ever expected. It's useful information that enriches their total equine experience.

It should come as no surprise that Christa takes a comprehensive approach to horsemanship – her personal experience covers many equestrian disciplines. From her early childhood at a premier A-circuit hunter/jumper barn, through childhood and teen years riding and showing Arabians and Quarter Horses, plus everything from trail rides to dressage shows to parades, Christa and the wonderful variety of the equine world were well acquainted.

"When I decided that I wanted to become a professional trainer," Christa recalls, "I did a lot of research. I wanted to emulate the best trainers I knew. Deciding to become a John Lyons Certified Trainer was the best choice I ever made. His professional horseman's certification school program is incredible."

Combining the techniques she brought home from her training at the John Lyons' ranch in Parachute, Colorado, with the variety of her personal riding experiences, Christa says, "I've learned to analyze a horse's problems so I get to the cause of the problems. You can't solve a problem by addressing the symptoms; you've got to address whatever is causing the problem!"

Sometimes those symptoms have a physical cause; sometimes they don't. Fortunately, the horses in Christa's care have excellent veterinary care. For veterinary acupuncture, the Petrillos rely on Dr. Nancy Martin of Berryessa Veterinary Services to help keep the horses in the best possible condition, whether their job is in the breeding shed or the show ring.

"I've always loved horses," Christa says simply. It's a passion she shares with her mother, Rhonda Petrillo.

Training, breeding, and exceptional care all come together with Christa Petrillo Total Horsemanship Training.