

The art of gentle spursuasion

by Tina LoCurto

Linda Hauck, the creator of Spursuader and a Level 2 Equine Canadian-sanctioned coach, told me about her new version of spurs. When I got my Spursuaders, I saddled up my five-year-old mare, Mattie Mae, and tried them. Since she is young, green and a little sensitive, I didn't want her first spur experience to be bad. I first rode without them to check her mental state. We started in the round pen, and once I realized it was a good day to experiment, we put the Spursuaders on and went about our routine. She didn't tense up, get upset or really even notice I was using an additional aid. She moved off my leg really well, surprising because we just started this training step. She moved off my leg without increasing her speed as usual. I often



Spursuaders



have to bump her a few times to move her, but once was enough. It was a good experience and I got a great response from Mattie – half the time and work for the same result.

Hauck said, "I developed this spur because of my experience riding sensitive horses, particularly Thoroughbreds. Many overreacted to a traditional spur, some would get tense right away when they knew you were wearing a spur or watching a horse get inadvertently "spurred" by a rider with an insecure lower leg. I thought there must be a better way to get the point across without offending or creating tension in the horse."

The Spursuaders are allowed in American and Canadian hunter/jumper, Canadian eventing, USDF and Canadian dressage shows.

Spursuaders are \$54.99 a pair. You won't regret it.

For more information, email linda@spursuader.com, visit www.spursuader.com; tina@equinemonthly.com or 716-603-4313.