

Backyard Horse Tales: Sox 2nd Edition

Excerpt from Chapter 4

Herd Life isn't all Clover!

After breakfast we were turned out, as usual, with Mom and me in the front paddock and the other three horses in the back. Everyone was settling down to some serious grazing once they got the morning run and bucks out of their systems. Then, Katie came for Mom and me.

She talked to Mom as she walked her to the back paddock. I think it is safe to let you and Sox join the other horses, now that everyone has settled down. And then she opened the gate to let us in to the much larger back paddock.

Excitement got the better of me, and I immediately ignored my mother's warning: "Stay close to me, Sox."

The large white mare with many spots came up to greet my mother, but once again she ignored me, which made me even more fascinated with her. I pranced up to say hello, but she continued to graze and totally ignored me. I shook my head and reared high, I placed my front hooves over her back, the same way I did with Mom when I wanted to get her attention. Like lightning her back leg lashed out! She rocketed me into the air, then looked over her shoulder and warned me.

"Watch your manners little brat!"

I slowly picked myself up from the dirt, along with my dented pride, and I went in search of my truant mother.

A string of curses escaped from Katie's lips singeing my little ears as I went skidding along the ground. If you have ever hit your elbow and felt a sharp pain run up your arm, then you know just how my hip felt. The pain was easing, only to be replaced by a numb feeling. It was as if my back leg had gone to sleep; I couldn't feel it!

I spotted my mom and hobbled up to her, expecting some sympathy. She just continued to graze and said, "I told you to stay close to me, Sox."

Not everyone is as indulgent as I am with your rowdy behavior and bad manners.”

I was crushed. Momma had never criticized me until then!

It took a lot to intimidate me, and I was always looking for something or someone to challenge, but a lack of information could get a guy killed! If I had known that the white mare was the herd boss, I might have waited to introduce myself...well maybe not.