



## THE KILLER SHEEP-SKIN

One day a friend brought by a Black Dried Sheepskin for our use with the horses. Horses don't like weird shaped or funny smelling objects so we decided to hang up the black Sheep skin and get the horses used to it. Her horse, Sassy, is specially scared of moose so we thought this might be similar and we would work her with it.

So at first we just throw it over the round pen panel. Monet was the first horse I lead over to the skin. She walked right up and sniffed it, not too scare until I made a sudden move and loud noise. Monet

thought it had gotten her and she jumped back and was ready to flee to the horse barn and safety. She actually didn't pull away from me and when I stopped laughing she came back up to the skin.

Most of the other horses weren't too scared, probable because it kind of looked like a saddle pad. It did have a strange smell (rawhide) and when we flapped it, they backed up a step but that was about all.

When we got back from our ride, I decided to put some of the horses in the round pen that had not gotten ridden like Jack, Dreamin, Cinch and Juka. Shelby was also in that bunch. I ran the horses around some but nobody really paid the hide much attention. But then things changed.

I decided to carry the hide over to the center of the pen and place it on top of the barrows. Now some of the horse totally freaked out. Jack, Dreamin and Cinch thought it was going to fly at them and eat them!! I caught Shelby and she was willing to walk up to it as long as I was between it and her, guest she figured it would eat me first!!! Juka however walked up on his own and almost touched it. Jack and Dreamin, even with ropes on would not get too close and Cinch would if we were between it and that thing.

After we quit laughing, we went and got the rest of the horses. Ellie and CC loved it. Luna wanted to take it with her, for what I don't know. The babies just thought it smelled funny. Blue and tinker thought it was just funny too but weren't scared.

Next morning after feeding, Monet escaped (again) and was wondering around. She went into the round pen where I had the sheep skin hide yesterday and pushed everything around. I had put the sheep skin away but she was obvious looking for it. So I went and got it for her. She must have felt left out yesterday for s he never got to play with the hide.

Now all the horses that were scare of the hide yesterday decided to put at least 2 fences between it and them. They put themselves back into the pasture. I moved to hide back to the round pen fence and Ellie came over to investigate. She had about 5 horses behind her. I walked up to her and ticked her with the wipe and she flinched. She wasn't scare, but the other horses thought the "thing" was eating her and they all took off for the far end of the place!. Again I had to laugh really had. Ellie then proceeds to smell, taste, paw and I think she wanted to take it with her to chase all the other horses.

Next I let Path out. At first he didn't see the hide but then he came prancing over to the fence and spotted the hide. His first reaction was to spin and I think he wanted to kick it!! Probable thought his herd was in danger!! After a few minutes, he just left it along and went about his business as a Stud (You know smelling all the poop and pooping on the piles, marking his territory.

What intriguing reactions the different horses all had. Some scared to death, others just enthralled!!!