

MOOSE, MONET and ME

The Moose have been really thick around the neighborhood. With all the deep snow, the moose are following the roads and being seen more than normal. Yesterday, Monday, Just as I reached the bottom of my hill on the way to the barn, I heard a noise behind me and there in my front yard was a moose strolling along. Amazing how easy they can get over fences. It walked up the fence and around the front porch and out of site. Now, Lou was barking but she didn't try to chase it and ALL the horses were watching from the pasture. Some were ready to run but since it had gone away from them they were OK. (Will Kind of). I was going down to the barn to feed and a few of the horses felt going into and being locked in a feed stall was not a good thing. After all, the moose might come back! All the horses kept an eye on the house and around the property but I never say that moose again.

Then, this morning while feeding the horses were watching the woods next to our house very carefully. The dogs were barking so I figure there was probable a moose again. Around 9am I went back to the barn to get the cleaning and watering done. Suddenly, as if my magic, a Moose and 2 calves walked between mine and our neighbor house, up the fence row (on the neighbor's side) along a ridge parallel to the horse pasture and disappeared again in the woods. It's amazing how they can disappear in the woods. The horses were all frozen in Place. One Quarter horse was frozen in place but ready to bolt if that moose looked her way. I was in the field at the time so way glad the horse didn't all bolt to the other side. It's kind of scary having 15 to 20 horses bolting right at you.

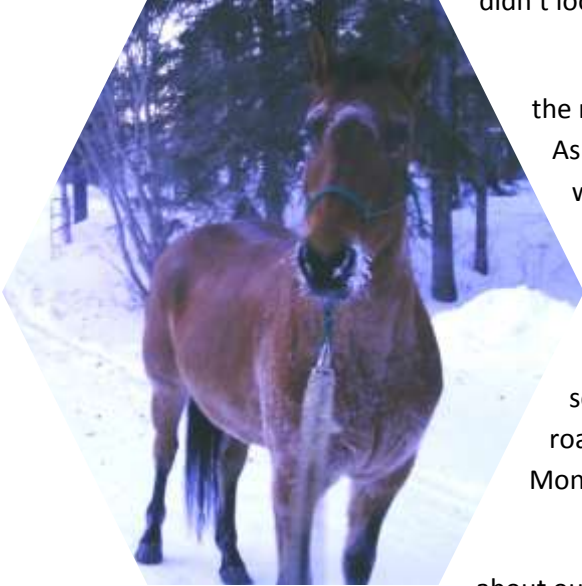


I spent the rest of the morning cleaning, trimming feet, washing horse water tanks and eventually feeding. By 3:30 I had almost everything done and decided to take Monet out for a ride.

She was nervous out of the pasture. Twice she tried to run back to the horse barn from the tack barn. But she did what I asked and we went for a ride. I actually lead her down to the road so she could see there were no moose. She very carefully looked every direction before going forward like I asked. She did let me mount her verily easy; it almost seemed she felt safer with me on her back.

So we started down the road. Now since all the really cold weather, the all the polishing winds, the road was a bit slippery to ride on but Monet is very surefooted and knows how to watch for ice so she did just fine. We are going down the road at either a walk or a slow gait. Every once in a while, actually quite a lot, we would stop and Monet would make sure a vehicle coming out of a drive way was not a moose, and then we could go on. I think we had three vehicles we had to stop and watch for a few

seconds. As we got farther away from the house Monet seems to settle down a bit, until we spotted a jogger. There was a small hill and the jogger was on the other side. I saw her first and stopped Monet. About that time Monet saw the Jogger and raised her head really high to look. Then the jogger saw Monet and Almost bolted the other Way! I yelled out "We are not a Moose" and the jogger stopped but didn't look too reassured. Did she think the moose learned to speak English?



I started walking Monet forward and moved over to the center of the road since the jogger didn't appear to want to move from her spot. As we drew closer, Lou went wiggling up to her and you could tell she was scared or at least leery. I let her know that Lou was just a puppy and wouldn't hurt her. At this time she told me about two moose up the road and that she had decided to go only about 1/2 mile more on my road. So I told her there had been 3 moose by my house but they were going the other way so I don't think she would see any more. The moose she had seen were heading away from the road too but she was still pretty scared. She even admitted to thinking Monet and I were a Moose!

Monet and I went on about our ride. We crossed a big swampy area that wasn't too deep in snow; in fact it was OK riding for there was enough snow cover over the ice. However, when we got to the other side, the drifts were very deep and I decided we had to go back, so we did. Monet was some cows quite a distance away but wanted to watch and make sure they were not going to come after us and of course they paid no attention to us. After that, we walked and slipped all the way home but didn't see any other scary objects. I took some pictures of Monet when I got home at the gate, then put her away, feed hay and called it a day.



I don't look like a Moose!

The End

Lou and Jo's new Calf, Marybell

