

YODER SAYS...



YODER

THE THERAPY PONY, FEATURED COLUMNIST

You can email me through
Janet@holdyourhorses.org
(Please write Yoder Says in the subject line)

I busted a few fences sticking my neck out to get the green grass. I can't help it. When I am stuck on the sand lot diet in the afternoons I just long for the green stuff in the next pasture. In the cooler weather, the hay from my neighbor's paddock blows just close enough to reach if I push ... a little harder ... **snap!** ... oops.

I am not trying to escape. I just want to eat. That is my mission and to do it I have to extend my reach. I do it for the sole purpose of achieving another mouthful and satisfying my nutritional needs (as I see it).

In addition to my primary mission of eating, I also focus on my work. Many of you know that I am versatile in all of our services at the farm: occupational therapy, mental health sessions, and educational events. I suppose it is my temperament that allows me to participate in all of these different services, and I really like the variety of working with different people. I am a sturdy fellow so I can carry people of all sizes. I can stand still and be groomed or lean into a hug and let a few tears roll off my side. I am happy to be hand lead through an obstacle course, long lined outside, or visited out in the pasture. I am also excellent at counting. When we play "What time is it?" I am always the best at matching my footfalls to the numbers called out by my person.

I can't say all my barn mates are as versatile. I understand that sometimes they can be too big or too small for a person. Some are still working on balancing themselves (emotionally or physically) before they can help balance a person. Some are aging and need a break, and some just need more time to grow and learn. Our team of people encourage them to extend their reach and learn to be good at this job of therapy horse. It is always a challenge to know when to push a little harder and when to stay in your paddock. I trust the people here to make those hard decisions and I know making those decisions comes with time, experience, and more than a few busted fences.

Sending out my best wishes for a winter season of peace, health, and bigger pastures,

~ Yoder