

# Jacob's Journey -- a Story of Inspiration

Linda Buchanan

**Not only is this my horse's registered name but our experiences have been journeys themselves.** This particular journey started in March when Jacob fell through a bridge up at Cultus Lake. His right hind cannon bone, ligaments and tendons were crushed. The good news, he was able to bear weight extremely well. Thus the journey began.

**Time is the true healer of all things, and this can be a test on one's patience,** since I am a person who feels they have to be doing something to help. I am fortunate to have a wonderful respectful relationship with Jacob. Together, we have over 600 endurance event miles and have travelled thousands more in the back country. Jacob stood patiently during the daily routine of wraps, hosing and icing. We started going out for a 15-minute walk every day, gradually getting up to 1-1/2 hours. Jacob would listen to me as I talked through my worries and I would always return feeling at peace.

I had ultra-sound and X-rays done and there was the possibility surgery might be required if the bone was chipped. Yvonne Allen from At Ease Equine Body Care had been providing some massage and light therapy for Jacob; however she felt that the Equi-Stim Log Saver may facilitate the healing of this injury. We decided to give it a try over a two-week period so she taught me how to set up the Log Saver on my horse which Jacob wore during our hand walking every day and the results were significant. The swelling was going down!

I've always done ground work with Jacob over the eight years we have been together, but when you have a horse that you can ride, one always goes too fast or skips over the little steps of foundation. Jacob still needed time before being ridden and was only allowed to walk so I took this opportunity to go back to our ground work. We also worked on our tricks and made this time a lot of fun.

**Working together everyday on Jacob's Journey to recovery finally paid off three months later.** My vet gave us the green light to ride! Our first ride was amazing, he felt so physically sound. His movements were SOFT and he was with me mentally.

We still have a journey left to go, a month of riding at the walk on the flats, then ponying in the mountains before riding. There is a noticeable lump on the bone and swelling in the fetlock is still present but every day is better than the last.

**This has taught me that disasters can be turned around and made into an experience of discoveries.** I could have just left my horse out in pasture for the next year, but I would have missed the opportunity to get to know and work with Jacob at a much deeper level. We experienced this journey together and I believe it set a more solid foundation for anything we may face in the future.

The encouragement from family and friends along the way was invaluable. When you see your horse every day and don't think anything is changing they can sure turn that around with a simple comment of "Wow that looks way better than the last time I saw it!"

So, make the most out of an unfortunate situation. Take you and your horse to new learning levels and try things you never seemed to have the time to do before. **Accept the fact that time is the true healer, slow and steady will never set you back.**



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