

**KEVIN & ON A PROMISE**  
**"Promise" - 2 yr old TB Stallion**

Dear Kevin and Theresa,

I can't thank you enough for all you've done for Promise and me. I can't even put it all into words. Incredible comes closest but still not enough.

I'd like to share some of my experiences with anyone thinking of using Kevin for training, problem solving or just to soul search and improve their relationship with their equine partner.

Anyone who's attended one of Kevin's clinics knows his favorite saying, "How little does it take?" He's asking how little do we need to ask for a change or a response from our horse? We tend to ask one way and never work on asking with less; some of us tend to do a lot more than we need to. I have my own definition of "How little does it take." Here's my story.

After being out of the equine world for over a decade, I purchased, yup, a baby. Not just any baby, but a big, thoroughbred colt. He was 9 months old and had been haltered once, never even had his feet picked out. His previous owner herded the horses about with a whip. He was a mess, mentally and physically.

He was well bred and desperately in need of a good home. I bought him 'on a promise' to make something of him. Hence, his name, Promise.

We worked on the basics, hoof care, grooming and the daily routine of in and out, etc. I never asked a lot of him because he'd become nervous. Due to his background, he was fearful, reactive and untrusting.

Then, a local farm was having a one-day clinic with Kevin Crane. I'd met him a time or two, but knew little of his real horsemanship skills. I totally lucked out and the farm had an opening for Promise and me to attend.

Promise was 16 months old and 15.3 hands already. He was a fairly good boy, but like I said, I avoided struggles with him, as he appeared scared and unpredictable.

Well, he proved to be all that at the clinic. He was so fearful and confused by simple requests that he attempted to bite and kick Kevin, who was not surprised at all. Kevin had told us what to expect from Promise, just by watching me lead my colt into the round pen! Kevin read him like a book in less than 2 minutes.

"How little does it take?" Kevin worked with Promise for about an hour that day. It was THE most important hour of Promise's life. My colt learned to overcome his fears, to make better choices and to truly trust. Very important life lessons for any being.

It was incredible! In one hour, he was a different horse. He was able to think things out, without panicking or exploding, accept confinement, give to pressure and enjoy the pleasant strokes of Kevin's rewards.

What does all of this mean? Well, the very next day, I was able to longe him at the walk, trot and canter, reverse directions and even send him over a few ground poles. This was the colt I could barely lead the day before. He was happily motivated by the reward of a gentle stroke of appreciation from me.

For those who can't afford a month of training, do what you can to attend a clinic with or without your horse. It's amazing how much an hour or two can benefit you.

I learned a lot about myself too. I'm working on being a better teacher, listener and friend to my horse.

Promise and I just spent the last month at Camp Crane and I'm so pleased. He is started under saddle and is a fantastic ride. He continues to grow and mature, both physically (16.2 hands now) and mentally.

Promise had a serious hoof injury in January of this year. I'm not sure if he would be sound today, if not for Kevin's work at the clinic last fall. The intense treatment and long recovery was only accomplished because Promise was willing to trust me, even when he was in a tremendous amount of pain.

Well, Promise and I are leaving Camp Crane this weekend and I feel confident that we have the tools to continue to grow and communicate clearly. We'll be back for updates soon, plus we had a great time! We look forward to Camp Crane get-togethers and future clinics!

Thank you!

Becky & Promise

P.S. Promise went to his very first show on Sunday, June 2nd

- He placed first in the Open Halter class of 15 horses, handled by Kevin!