



Renewal Ranch AZ | 8605 West Northern Avenue | Glendale | AZ | 85305

## Boundaries Are Important

By Icee



Hi Everyone!!

Do you remember our last newsletter? [[Click here](#) for my last article] I was so excited to finally have a chance to work with the humans who come to the Ranch for workshops. Well, it was *even better than I dreamed!!*

I got my try-out at the OK Corral Certification workshop. Usually I just get to go out so everyone can see how beautiful and fun I am, but then the big horses take over, and I only get to watch. This time was different. I got to stay in the arena and interact with the students. They were all there to learn how to facilitate workshops. *I got to help them learn!* I had my nose everywhere! I wanted everyone to know that I'm now a coach!! I wanted them to notice me!

Gayla said I was actually quite a pest. I didn't know what a *pest* was and I didn't have a chance to ask my mom (Shanelle), but I had the feeling it wasn't a good thing. But I know I gave Greg some good examples to share with the students.

Then we had a Christmas Party with some great people from Kornegay Designs. It was my first party! I was all excited, and I wanted everyone to share in my excitement! So when people weren't paying attention to me, I gave them a nudge or got right in front of them so they couldn't miss me!! I wanted to play or teach.



Well, that brought up the topic of **boundaries**. Tim and Gayla both said I don't have any. But since I didn't know what they were, it didn't bother me not to have any.

Now that I've learned more about them, I'd like to share a few things I learned with you. First, people need their space. They don't appreciate it when you crowd them with either your body or with your conversation. We have to learn where we stop and others start.

Boundaries are like the fence around the arena. That fence is designed to keep the horses in and sometimes keep the people out. We open the gate when it's alright for horses to go out or for people to come in. (I've heard a story that my mom, Shanelle, can open the gate and let horses out when they are supposed to be in, but I've never seen her do it.) Rules are boundaries, too. They set boundaries for behavior. I understand rules. I also understand what it means when someone crosses the boundary into my space, like when they put that hula hoop over my head. Just kidding, I did that myself when I was showing off. I can't really say the same for those silly reindeer antlers they put on me for the Christmas party!



Anyway, I had plenty of time to think about the whole boundary idea because Gayla said I let my exuberance (new word for the week!) overcome my good sense when I gave her a nip on the elbow during the party. That was not a good thing to do! She asked Jeff (one of our cool volunteers) to take me out of the arena. I didn't mean to do anything bad. I only meant it to be a nuzzle. But, you know, sometimes her elbows are so tempting. . . .

Here's the moral of the story. Everyone needs to respect the space and privacy of others, even if we think it would be better for them if we gave them advice or a nuzzle on the elbow.

That's all for now. Gotta go see what's in the feed bin!!

Icee

