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So many to choose from

I am excited to hear about Linda's contest and eager to enter. But who shall I write about? I have used TTouch on so many dogs, cats and especially horses since my first clinic with Linda in 1976. Schwadron, the Trakehner mare I took home from the monthlong clinic in Reken Germany from which the first TTouch book was created? She could not stand still for a moment the first week she was there and while she had been labeled a run-away turned into my first lariat neckring horse. Or the small kitten I met while working in a vet clinic for a winter? She had been hiding in a warm car engine and had her ear ripped off and suffered serious head trauma when the car was turned on. She was curled in a tight ball when I first met her and could only walk in tight circles. TTouch and a labyrinth made of pencils helped with her full recovery. Or my Bouvier cross who broke her pelvis when she was run over by a truck and only stopped crying at night when I TTouched her. When she returned for follow up x-rays the vet thought there must have been a mistake on the date of the injury, there was no possible way she recovered that quickly from such a severe fracture. Or shall I write about my Newfie Husky cross Benson who was so well educated and made such good decision with people and other dogs due to the mutual respect we had for each other which I learned from the TTouch philosophy. Most of my friends marvelled at the close relationship and

understanding we had. Or better yet the hundreds of horses I safely started under saddle using Linda's method. But most of those are not at all interesting and that's exactly how I like it. The young horses already have a connection with me before I set my foot into the stirrup for the first time, they know what to expect from me, that they can trust that I will listen to them if they are concerned and I feel I know them by the time I have taken them through a few days of groundwork. I have lost count of the number of horses I have started, it must be close to 400 and with many of them I did not have any help and mounted the first time by myself. I have never had a horse buck or bolt as it was ridden the first time, but I always remembered Linda's advice to check for tension in the girth area before getting on. It became an automatic "hand in front of the girth" check every time I got on any horse and there were a few times I chose not to get on even though the horse seemed okay when the girth area was tight. And I have never regretted it.

If I am the lucky person to win one of the amazing prizes I would love to auction off the reward to support my latest passion to help the horses and woman of Nicaragua. I will be travelling to Nicaragua in December 2018 to build a home for a single mother and support the veterinarians who travel to this poor country to help the hard working horses.