



Elli Pospischil
3-STAR INSTRUCTOR
PARELLI PROTÉGÉ
SWITZERLAND, FLORIDA,
COLORADO • USA

Babies, Babies, Babies!



With every Spring comes new life, and the same is true for the horses at Pat's World. This year, we expected two foals: one from Pat's mare Whizby, who is retired but an outstanding mom, and Liberty Belle, Caton's bay mare whose first foal was born in 2015 (a filly named Luminosa, or Principessa Luminosa, as Caton so endearingly calls her).

Foaling season usually calls for many sleepless nights on foal watch, checking on the mare every other hour. However, this year, the mares made our lives very easy; I was sitting with a group of Mastery Students from all over the world, having a late dinner, and exchanging highlights of the day when we got the call that it was happening. We were having a baby!

Actually, it was a little more dramatic than that. As many of you know, the cell service in some areas of the Florida Parelli Campus can be a little spotty to say the least, but, thanks to modern technology, WiFi, and Facebook, the message got across to us.

We hustled up to the barn and sure enough, there were two baby hooves sticking out. We quietly stood by and observed as Liberty Belle gave birth to a small filly, perfect as can be. Shortly thereafter, the little girl stood up on wobbly legs, made her first attempts at walking, and nursed eagerly.

Not only did Dr. Robert Miller write an article in the 1980s for Western Horseman that put Pat Parelli on the map, but he



is also a big proponent of foal imprinting. Therefore, Pat is adamant about spending as much quality time with the foal in its first 2 hours after birth. When this filly was born, Pat was out of town, so we had the pleasure of imprinting little Bella. We petted her all over, moved her feet around in preparation for farrier work, gently stroked her ears, and helped her feel good about humans in general. She also got to experience the feel of a massager (which she really seemed to enjoy) a plastic bag, and a Savvy String.

The mom, Liberty Belle, is far advanced in the Parelli Program; therefore, she not only accepts humans in her presence and the foal's presence but also seeks out humans for scratches and the occasional treat. Having such a good relationship with the dam is vitally important since any perceived skepticism or fear from the dam towards humans or

anything really, will immediately transfer to the foal.

The foal's first week, or 168 hours is the next milestone in the young life. The next day, Pat took the mare and filly out into the round pen to continue to play the Friendly Game and start teaching her about Steady Pressure.

As the week progressed, Pat taught Bella about yielding to Rhythmic Pressure, the concept of Stick To Me, and the Squeeze Game. The mare is a big part of this process. Caton loves riding Liberty Belle, so he rode her around in the playground, over logs, and into trailers and Bella was happy to follow, with a little

encouragement from Pat.

The second foal, named Artois, was born three weeks later. She was another strong, beautiful filly. The two fillies enjoyed the summer together with their moms in Florida and were weaned when Pat returned there in the fall. 🐾



THE SAVVY CLUB

Horse Health and Progress Tracking

The Horse Health and Progress Tracking (which will be available in March 2017) is an easy way to keep track of your horse (or horses) health and activities. Think of it as a maintenance book for your horse! Keep track of vet, farrier, dental, or other visits as well as and custom tracking for all types of treatments. In addition to health, you can also track activities like working for 1 hour in a specific Savvy or Level, or you can create custom tracking to celebrate wins like your first successful trailering to a friend's place!

The Health Tracking is unique to each horse that is connected to your profile and can be found under each Horse's profile. We want to make the Savvy Club not only a community platform and educational tool, but also a practical one for everyday horse care.

While this was an existing feature in Parelli Connect as Savvy Hours, we have redesigned it to make it more streamlined and user friendly. It's a great way to keep your horse's records up to date and have a quick look at what your horse may need. 🐾

