



ABOVE: Gary gets a horse used to long-reins.
 RIGHT: Gary with his Andalusian stallion, Brujo.
 PAGE 29: Demonstrating at a show.

show people what you do." We became friends, and he decided to come in with me so I could go back to working with horses. Cozy had just one more tour to do with Brian May and then we were going to start. But he was killed in a car crash. It was an emotional time and for a while I lost faith in it all. Then Will and Sarah Long, who had horses that I had worked with, stepped in and offered to help me with funding.

So would you describe yourself as a "horse whisperer"?

That is a term that is used but the way I work has got nothing to do with whispering! It's about "natural horsemanship". There's nothing magic about it, it is about understanding the animal. We try to think of horses or dogs as human, but they aren't. All animals need a leader, and the way I work is to encourage the horse to think of me as its leader. Once I have achieved that they will do anything for me. I have managed to break horses they said could never be broken – and I have even been successful with four zebras!

Don't old-fashioned methods work just as well?

I just don't see the need for cruelty, for beating an animal into within an inch of its life if it doesn't respond, or kicking it with spurs to make it go faster. I don't believe you get results like that either. And you will certainly have problems later on.

How do you understand a horse?

It's partly down to years of experience and training, but it also comes from spending so much of my time just watching them. They are very sensitive animals. You have to listen

and watch to learn to read the signs, and understand their behaviour and body language. But you do also need to have a fire in your belly about it too.

Tell me about some of the horses you have worked with.

I have worked with horses all over the world, in places like Hong Kong, Australia and Barbados. I've worked with those belonging to the Aga Khan and to The Queen, and with some of the biggest trainers and best-known racehorses.

And you perform in public too?

Yes, although to be honest I am not planning to perform in public for much longer. I am doing the East Anglian Game & Country Fair on April 25 and 26, however. I will show my stallion and explain what to look for. Then I'll break in a couple of horses and work with some of those that visitors have arranged to bring along.

Do you have a favourite horse that you've worked with?

My own Andalusian stallion, Brujo. I went to Spain to buy a horse for someone in Norfolk a few years ago and he was there in the stables, chained up. His chin was all maggoty and you could see right down to the bone. They said he was mad and would be packed off that evening to be killed. I asked if I could work with him and take him myself. They agreed. He's now a beautiful horse.

Do people ever liken you to Robert Redford in the Horse Whisperer?

Not any more! It used to happen sometimes when I was a little younger, wore my hair longer and was perhaps just a little slimmer! 🐾

Fun of the fair

Hosted in association with EDP Norfolk, the East Anglian Game & Country Fair will be held at the Norfolk Showground on Saturday, April 25 and Sunday 26.

Attractions include:

- Clay-pigeon shooting.
- Mountain boarding.
- Archery.
- Dog shows – dock dogs, dog agility, gun dog scurry.
- Helicopter rides.
- Fly fishing.
- Holding birds of prey.
- Riding in an off-road 4x4.
- Air rifles.

Book tickets in advance to make the most of discounts: £9 adult, £2 child (five to 16 years), £22 family (adults and three children), under fives free, free parking. Call 0871 230 1099 or visit www.ukgamefair.co.uk. Tickets are also available from all EDP offices. Show membership costs just £20 for adults, £7 for children and £45 for a family, for one day; or £30 for adults, £9 for children and £69 for a family, for two days. Becoming a member includes entry to the show as well as privileges, such as priority admission and parking, and access to the members' enclosure – which has a prime view of the main arena – and its restaurant and bar. Call the Show Office on 01263 735828 to book. Special weekend break tent or caravan tickets are available for £64. This covers three days' camping and weekend admission to the show for up to four people. For a booking form, call 01263 735828 or visit www.ukgamefair.co.uk