

## Jean Abernethy Brings Horses to Life

**Take a look behind the artwork of an illustrator.**

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Jean Abernethy may not be a household name in the horse world, but she's definitely becoming a "go to" person when editors and writers need a horse savvy artist to illustrate their projects. Although she's put pen or pencil to paper and drawn horses since she was a child, Abernethy got her first big break as a freelancer when Monty Roberts commissioned her to illustrate his training methods for his book, *From My Hands to Yours*, in 2000. Beyond her continuing assignments for *Horse Illustrated* magazine and various other equine publications, Abernethy also illustrates books. Her most recent is adding her artwork to Cindy Hale's humorous text in *Horse Sense and Nonsense: A Survival Guide for Horse Lovers*. She also sketches, paints and works in bronze sculptures. And then there's Fergus. He's a sort of googly-eyed, fuzzy horse at the center of Abernethy's hilarious yet insightful comics. So much creative output, however, doesn't drain the earnest horsewoman. Though she has a single-minded devotion to her work, she loves her job.

"When I work on assignments, I find myself privileged to work with very knowledgeable horse people," Abernethy says.

Perhaps because she's a dedicated student of equine anatomy, she's able to combine reality with humor in her illustrations. That can be a difficult objective for many artists.

Abernethy explains, "I love it when experienced horse people ask for something very specific in a drawing, and I am able to nail it for them because I've done my homework. I love horses, and I love drawing and painting. So, when I can continue my studies in both of these fields, to expand my knowledge, and sharpen my skills--well that's more than a job, it's a blessing."

To read more about Jean Abernethy and her life as an equine illustrator, visit her website at [www.jeanabernethy.com](http://www.jeanabernethy.com). And for some Fergus fun, go to [www.fergusthehorse.com](http://www.fergusthehorse.com).