

By Alexandra Stone

Iowa rancher's photos of horse spark internet outrage



GLENWOOD, Iowa —An Iowa rancher's Facebook post created an internet uproar this week. However, what some have called animal abuse, the rancher and trainer, Logan Allen said is nothing of the sort.

The photos show one of Logan Allen's horses with its legs tied, being sprayed with water, captioned 'bad boy'. The photos went viral, leading to calls to local law enforcement and to KETV Newswatch 7.

Allen said he has been a rancher and horse trainer near Glenwood his whole life.

"I love horses more than anybody out there," Allen said. "Every day I use horses and the last thing I'm going to do is hurt one. I mean, they're a partner to me. I'm not going to hurt my partner."

Allen said the photos don't depict waterboarding, as some have accused, but an old technique calling laying a horse down. He said he was trying to wash mud off the horse when it started acting up, so he used the method to get the horse used to water.

"It's just a technique that some people do with their horses to gain trust," he said. "The absolute worst thing you can do when you lay one down is to hurt him, and I did not hurt him." Others who work with horses in the metro said the technique is outdated.

"Not too many decades ago, we had very different training methods than we do now," Emily Johnson, a trainer with **Mountain Rose Horsemanship said.** "Back in more the cowboy up, wild west days, horses were handled in what today, we would consider to be very coercive,"

Emily Jones talked about how she would handle a similar situation with her horses, calling it a different philosophy. Johnson uses a technique called approach and retreat, pouring water on the horse, and moving away as the animal moves its feet. Different people, and different methods.

Allen showed KETV NewsWatch 7 other photos of his horses and said the images posted on Facebook don't tell the full story.
"I do not hurt animals," Allen said. "I love animals."

Mills County Sheriff Gene Goos said they had spoken with Allen Wednesday, and he fully cooperated.