

Apple Bobbing (tree test)

You will need a whole apple with a hole bored through the middle and long piece of string.

Tie the apple from a tree so the horse has to stretch to get it.

Lead the horse to the tree and show him the apple, then step back and observe.

Apple Bobbing (water bucket test)

A variation on this test would be to half fill a bucket with water and place the whole apple in

the water. The easy solution to this problem would be to knock over the bucket, so the water and apple spill out making it easy for the horse to retrieve his treat, but will the horse figure that out?



Our results:

This was by far the most challenging problem we gave the horses to solve. Single horses quickly became frustrated and gave up. However when two horses were allowed to work on the problem, they seemed to work together by trapping the apple between them. One horse could get a firm bite on the apple and retrieve the treat from the tree. When the apple fell to the ground both horses shared the fruits of their labor.



The purpose of this test is to determine how quickly the horses figure out if they work together - they can retrieve the treat.

Or in the case of the water bucket test - how quickly they removed the problem and arrived at a solution.

This kind of problem solving requires cognitive thought and a game plan.

Admitting that horses are capable of cognitive reasoning is not a popular idea among scientists - The quest is to gather enough data to prove horses are more intelligent than they are given credit for.

How to record and Submit the results of your equine experiments

Download the results form from www.TheHorsewatcher.com

Answer the questions and e-mail it back to thehorsewatcher@shaw.ca

Put Worldwide Equine experiment in the title bar