

The Horse Watcher - Equine Behaviour Workshop - Overview

You will learn how to:

Unravel the mysteries of how horses communicate with each other and why they do what they do.

By having a deeper understanding of what "motivates" a horse to act in a certain way - you become more attuned to their natural way of being and able to form stronger bonds and relationships with them.

We address some very interesting questions:

- Are horses self-aware?
- Why they form close friendships?
- Do Stallions have a preference when it comes to mares?
- How wild stallions "steal" a mare from an existing herd?
- Are horses capable of creating a "game plan" to get what they want?
- Can horses count?
- Can horses smell fear?
- What smells are horses either attracted to or repulsed by?
- Do horses see in color and if so which colors do they react to?
- How do mares teach their foals what is good to eat and what to avoid?

Think Like a Horse Part one - Equine behaviour

Mare and Foal Behaviours and communication

We start our journey with the birth of a foal and the behaviour of the mare leading up to the delivery. What foals learn in the first few months of their life stays with them forever. What important lessons does he learn and who teaches him? They say "It takes a village to raise a child" how does this sentiment equate to horses?

Imprinting is a very trendy word - what does it really mean and who should imprint on whom? By the end of the workshop you will know the answers to these and many more questions and be well on your way to being able to "Think like a Horse"

Wild Horse Secrets and Herd Dynamics

Has thousands of years of domestication changed the horses natural way of being? In-depth insights into herd dynamics (beyond the obvious) We will conduct a simple experiment to discover who is the "King Pin" in the herd.

Discover why horses (both wild and domestic) choose to give birth at night.

Why bachelor groups are just like street gangs - the truth is not pretty Are wild horses smarter than their domestic cousins? What can wild horses teach us about a healthy life style.

Roles and Responsibilities of each herd member

We will examine how a stallion “moves” his herd

The responsibilities and perks of being the Alpha female.

Why some horses are bullies.

“Pair bonding” why some horses form special friendships with other horses.

How Horses Self-Medicate

We learn which herbs heal and which harm. Not all fruits and veggies are good for horses - discover which ones can be deadly plus weird and wonderful cures that horses seem to know about. We will also touch on the subject of zoopharmacology and how we can incorporate that into our horse care.

How to think like a horse Part 2 "Body language and communication"

When learning it is always best to start at the beginning and build on your knowledge and understanding.

So we suggest the “How to think like a horse – part one workshop” as a pre requisite to the advanced body language and communication class. Even if you are a seasoned horseman or woman we cover many subjects and areas you may not have given much thought to, or explored more fully, important elements and steps to understanding equine behavior.

Advanced Equine Behavior

In this class we will delve deep into the psyche of the horse in an attempt to understand why he does what he does.

Discover Equine personalities

Explore your own to understand why you seem to get on better with some horses and not others. Not every horse is going to be your ideal partner and it has as much to do with your personality as his.

Equine vices

This is a term generally used for either an action or behavior that can ultimately cause harm to the horse himself. Or anti-social behavioral traits that make the horse difficult to own and keep with others. We will look at the various “vices” their cause, how they manifest, what harmful effects they have on the horse and also possible ways to minimize or cure the problem altogether.

Equine expressions

For the most part horses use body language to communicate; however they do have quite a range of facial expressions

Equine Body language

A large portion of the workshop is dedicated to learning about equine body language.

Horses have Silent conversations in the same way two deaf people can carry on a meaningful conversation using sign language. Because they have both learned the meaning behind each “sign” clear communication is possible. When watching people use sign language I am always amazed at how fast their hands move and how quickly each person understands the messages being conveyed.

The secret to understanding how horses communicate and what they are saying to each other is to de-code their signs and body language.

What students will take away:

1. A deep understanding of how horses communicate with Humans and other horses.
2. An enhanced awareness of equine behaviour and the ability to use that knowledge in the welfare and training of horses.
3. Greater confidence and a real understanding of what "Horse Sense" really means.
4. The ability to recognise how your own body language effects your horse (horses can read your body language from across a field)
5. A passion for discovering the meaning behind the Silent conversations of horses.
6. The ability to quieten your spirit and truly see what motivates horses to behave the way they do.