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POSTED ON THEHORSE.COM BY CHRISTA LESTÉ-LASSERRE, MA

Yes, Horses 'Talk' to Human Handlers

"Hey! See that bucket of feed over there? Yeah, that one. Can you grab that for me, please? I'm kind of hungry."

Wait a minute. Did your horse just speak to you? Actually, he might have—in his own way, of course. New research by European scientists has revealed that horses do, in fact, try to intentionally communicate with us to achieve certain goals.

In their pioneering study, researchers have determined for the first time that horses are capable of heterospecific referential communication—essentially, the ability to communicate about something, specifically to someone else. More precisely, to us.

So does that mean our horses actually "talk" to us?

"They sure do," said Rachele Malavasi, PhD, of the School of Ethical Equitation, in Moncigoli Di Fivizzano, Italy. Malavasi carried out her research in association with Ludwig Huber, PhD, professor at the Comparative Cognition Unit at the Messerli Research Institute at the University of Veterinary Medicine of Vienna in Austria.



"Horses are social animals which have evolved skills to maintain their social unity: affiliative relationships, protection from outsiders, social facilitation, and even social learning," Malavasi explained. "We know now that their skill set also includes the ability to communicate intentionally with humans."

In their study of 14 horses' behavior, Malavasi and Huber placed two buckets just out of each horse's reach. Each bucket contained either carrots, apples, or oats—as at least one of these treats would be likely to attract each horse, they said.

The horse and handler stood inside a fenced-in area where they could see the buckets on opposite sides of the enclosure, just past a gate.

The handler did nothing but stand there. The horse, therefore, had to figure out a way to communicate to the handler: "Get me that bucket!" And so they did. In fact, for the most part, they did whatever it took to get the message across.

"The horses would alternate their gaze between the human and the reward (bucket), with the aim of conveying the attention of the experimenter to

the desired reward," Malavasi said. "But if that didn't work, the horses would demonstrate real flexibility in their communicative strategies. They would nod their heads, turn their tails, and move their heads quickly toward the rewarded bucket in a 'pointing' kind of behavior."

What's more, the horses only made such great efforts when the human was actually looking at them, she said. The scientists instructed the "test" human to turn her body in different directions—as horses do appear to be able to detect a human's attention toward them. When the humans seemed to not be paying attention, the horses first tried to get their attention before communicating about the food bucket.

"The horses searched for eye contact with the experimenter by turning their heads back to the experimenter," said Malavasi. "But if they didn't obtain the reward, they would switch to another strategy, where they walked back to the experimenter and touch her."

Until now, the only domestic animal shown to be capable of heterospecific referential communication is the dog, she said. Now that we know that horses can do it, too, it's possible to extrapolate the significance of the findings even further—as it suggests that horses are capable of thought-out problem-solving.

"Having this ability means that horses do not just 'behave' without considering the consequence of their actions," she said. "Rather, they are able to create

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 10]

Iconic Puppets Auction

POSTED ON HORSE & HOUND ~
By Lucy Elder

Fans of War Horse will have a chance to get their hands on puppets used in the hit play later this year.

A full set of original puppets used in the stage show will be auctioned at Bonhams in London in aid of charity.

Horses Joey and Topthorn, a pair of crows and the goose will be going under the hammer at the evening auction in September.

A spokesman for the auction house said this is the "only time" a full set of these famous puppets will be made available at auction.

"This is a one-off opportunity to acquire a piece of theatrical legend and benefit a great cause," said Bonhams' director of African Art, Giles Peppiatt.

"War Horse captured hearts round the world including famously that of HM The Queen."

Joey and Topthorn will make an appearance on the night and the full set will be signed and numbered 1/5 by master puppeteer Adrian Kohler.

In all, eight sets of puppets were made, of which three are being preserved for future productions.

Money raised at the sale will go to the Handspring Trust, a not-for-profit organisation with the aim of inspiring creativity, commitment and innovation towards new puppet theatre arts.

The charity was founded by Adrian Kohler and Basil Jones, of the Handspring Puppet Company —creators of the War Horse puppets. ■

POSTED ON HORSE & HOUND

9 things no one tells you about losing a horse

The best listeners in the world and the only cure you know for a bad day, you can't imagine life without your trusted horse. Sadly tragedy can happen and we heart-breakingly lose that special friend. Becky Murray looks at the things you should keep in mind...

1. Sometimes having a horse put to sleep isn't always a black and white decision

A terrible accident can mean the decision is made, but what happens when the decision isn't so clear? You could be facing making a decision on a horse that is going to have a lifetime of unsound, field rest. With the help of your vet, have faith that you will arrive at the best decision for your horse and you should never feel guilty for this. This isn't your fault.

2. The hardest decision can be having your horse put to sleep, but the next agonising decision can be whether to stay with them while they make their last journey

This is a completely individual decision and there is no wrong answer. Some owners can take comfort in being there until the end but others might prefer to say their good-byes beforehand. Never be afraid to do what feels right for you.

3. It's ok not to be brave

Losing a horse can be as heartbreaking as losing a family-member. You don't have to put on a brave face. It could take a long time to process things, you may have hundreds of questions, you might feel angry or that you didn't do enough. Everyone deals with loss in their own way; you may want to hide-away or keep yourself busy and surrounded by people. You won't forget your special friend, but with time you will feel better and know that you did your very best for them.

4. What happens after you've lost your dear friend?

You might quickly feel ready to fill that huge horse-shaped hole in your life. Looking for your next companion can help you move on and give you something positive to focus on. Horses can have a way of finding us and there is no time limit on how long you should wait. Guilt should never be felt for moving on to your next horse, it doesn't mean you don't think about the horse you lost or that you loved them any less.

5. Alternatively maybe your heart needs some time to heal

A friend may offer you a ride of their horse, or try to be helpful and tell you of a horse that they know would be just perfect for you... however it's ok to take a break. It could be weeks or months or longer. It might be that you just aren't ready to jump back onboard yet and that is perfectly acceptable.

6. After the sad loss of a horse your confidence can take a knock

You can doubt yourself as an owner after such a tragedy, perhaps wishing you had done things differently or blaming yourself. You might be scared history could repeat itself. Speak to friends, your instructor, or the yard owner and remember what a brilliant horse owner you are.

7. Memories of your horse can be painful for a long time

Photographs or even their headcollar can trigger all sorts of emotions. These memories will with time become happy ones. When you feel up to it you could look at having a photo-collage made, or even a keepsake bracelet of horse-hair.

8. Going into your horse's stable after the loss can be very hard and feel very empty

It's ok to ask for help and support while sorting their belongings or cleaning out the stable... and this doesn't need doing immediately. Take the time you need before approaching this tough task.

9. Dealing with people after a loss can be especially daunting

Everyone wants to be there for you and try to say the right thing, often leading them to say entirely the wrong thing in the process! Your horse friends will ask kindly what happened. Non-horse folk perhaps won't understand quite so easily. You could hear, "It was only a horse!" or "Can't you get another one?" which can be very testing at a difficult time. Often people don't know what to say in these situations and don't mean harm. Try and take some comfort that you have felt the special bond with such a beautiful animal and though you will never forget, you will be able to look back at all the happy times. ■



Based on the novel by Michael Morpurgo, *War Horse* is the most successful play ever put on by London's Royal National Theatre. Read more at <http://www.horseandhound.co.uk/tag/war-horse>.

War Horse

During its eight-year run, it was watched by more than 7 million people worldwide and toured across 11 countries.

Each set of puppets took eight months to create and is made of cane, leather and tyvec, (for the manes and tails)—a material used in book-binding.

The torsos are reinforced with aluminium and are strong enough to carry a rider.

The show closed on London's West End in March, but if you have not yet managed to catch it, a UK tour of the production begins in September 2017. ■

POSTED ON THEHORSE.COM BY CHRISTA LESTÉ-LASSERRE, MA

Slipping Saddle Impact Rider?

If your saddle slides to the side, what are you telling your horse through your aids? According to British researchers, a saddle that slips to the side can put riders in a poor position for communicating with subtle aids. And that, they say, can lead to poor equine welfare.

"The influence of saddle position must be considered in order to improve rider balance and performance and optimize horse welfare," said Lorna Cameron, PhD, of Sparsholt College in the UK. Cameron presented the recent research on behalf of lead researcher Russell Guire, a PhD candidate at the Royal Veterinary College and a researcher at Centaur Biomechanics in Warwickshire, both in the United Kingdom, at the 2016 International Society for Equitation Science conference, held June 23-26 in Saumur, France.

In their study, Guire, Cameron, and colleagues investigated saddle fit's effects on seven sound horses ridden by their regular riders. Scientists had already determined that these horses' saddles rolled to the right or left, Cameron said. They first looked at rider hip angles and leg position (how low one

foot was in relation to the other) during a straight-line canter using high-tech sensor equipment and videos.

Then they had a Society of Master Saddlers saddle fitter adjust the saddles using shims to fit the horses correctly. The scientists repeated the same measurements using the same state-of-the-art equipment, this time with straight saddles.

They found that riders' hip angles were significantly smaller and their leg appeared significantly longer when the saddle rolled to the side, Cameron said. But when the saddle was straight, hip angles and leg lengths were equal.

"Saddle slip is a known problem, which we are becoming more aware of within the the general equestrian population," Cameron said. "It affects rider balance, the horse's back shape, and equine locomotion. We've now confirmed that

it also affects rider biomechanics, and this can have significant effects on how we ride and how we communicate our aids and, hence, on equine welfare."

The study results also confirmed that saddle slip does occur in sound horses, she added. However, whether this is caused by rider asymmetry or some other influence has yet to be determined.



While shims were used to correct saddle fit for the purpose of the study, they cannot be considered a permanent solution for a rolling saddle, Cameron stressed. Riders

should work with saddle fitters to ensure proper saddle fit. And equally importantly, riders and trainers need to keep saddle fit in mind when considering performance and welfare.

"Trainers need to be more aware of saddle position and take a more holistic approach," she said. ■

Short?

POSTED ON HORSE & HOUND ~ By Amanda Vlietstra

From being on permanent lookout for the nearest mounting block, to having to wear kids' clothes, here are some of the problems of being a vertically-challenged rider...

- No, there's no way you're going to get on a 16hh horse from the ground. You'd struggle with a 12.2hh, to be honest. You dread having to get off your horse out hacking, because the chances of being able to get back on again are slim to non-existent. You can't wait for someone to invent a portable stepladder.
- You couldn't live without your hole punch—it's an essential piece of kit for the stature-ly challenged. Your stirrup leathers have an extra eight holes on both sides. In fact, they're now more hole than leather.
- Finding long riding boots that fit is a nightmare for the short-legged. Most of them cut you off—painfully—at the knee. Not to mention that they look more like waders than smart dressage boots. It's a strong look—just for a fisherman, not a rider...
- Jodhpurs—in fact, all trousers—are an issue too. It's not that you've got fat ankles, it's just there's at least three inches of excess jodhpur material tucked away inside your boots.
- No, you don't want to be a jockey, thanks very much for asking.
- It is kind of handy that you can ride a 12.2hh without squashing it—but if you have riding lessons at a riding school, you know this means you'll always end up on one of the naughty ponies while the taller riders get the elegant warmbloods and hunters. ...But when you do ride something bigger, everybody double-takes when you're out hacking, wondering why some overly-ambitious parent has put their kid on such a huge horse.
- How come you ended up with the highest saddle rack in the tack-room? You've developed incredible abs from having to weight lift your saddle over your head every time you ride. ■

Trotting Over Poles Can Have Exercise, Therapeutic Benefits

Horse owners might spend hours improving their horses' gaits with training exercises, but there is still much that we don't know about the finer points of a horse's gait. That knowledge gap has made it difficult to analyze the effectiveness of certain exercises that are a common part of many riders' routines.

Michigan State University researchers recently conducted a pair of studies to analyze and compare the way a horse's legs and joints move during the "swing" phase (when the leg is carried forward through the air) and the "stance" phase (when the hoof is grounded and the leg is bearing weight), both over level ground and over poles.

Study author Hilary Clayton, BVMS, PhD, Dipl. ACVSMR, MRCVS, said many trainers use work with ground poles to improve horses' technical skills, while veterinarians and therapists use poles to rehabilitate horses from injury or neurologic conditions.

"Therapists use hoof-eye coordination exercises to rehabilitate horses after neurological diseases," said Clayton. "These include walking and trotting over, around, or between poles or other obstacles. The challenge for the horse is to see the objects, plan where to put his feet, then use neuromotor control to place the feet correctly."

Although the practice is tried-and-true for rehabilitation, scientists didn't know how well or why it works, so they set out to study the specifics. Researchers attached markers to different points on horses' legs and measured the heights

and angles of the joints as the horses trotted over flat ground, over low poles, and over high poles. A series of force plates recorded the weight on each horse's legs as they moved through the series of poles.

They noticed a few points of particular interest:

- When horses trotted over the poles, they cleared the poles using increased flexion in all of their limb joints, rather than pushing their whole bodies higher off the ground.

• Since horses weren't pushing their bodies higher in the air to clear poles, the vertical force between the hoof and the ground did not increase, indicating that there was no increase in weight-bearing when horses trotted over poles—a point that might have been considered problematic for horses overcoming some injuries.

- Based on the measured angles and forces, it is unlikely that the leg's soft tissues are stressed more when horses trot over poles versus trotting over flat ground.

Like humans, horses learn about the experience of moving their body over an obstacle like a pole.

"During the first few times trotting over the poles, horses tend to exaggerate their response so they lift their hooves higher than is necessary," Clayton explained. "As they practice, they learn that they don't have to exert as much effort and that a lower hoof trajectory



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Young Foals Learn Basic Handling Skills

When's a safe, effective time to train young foals basic handling techniques? And what's a reliable method? Researchers in Australia and New Zealand have determined that training young Thoroughbreds using learning theory and equitation science principles at only 3 weeks old can yield excellent results.

However, each foal learns at a different rate, and breeders should be aware that learning differences are normal and not a cause for frustration, said Leigh M. Wills, BSc. Accompanied by study co-author Andrew McLean, PhD, of the Australian Equine Behaviour Centre, Wills presented her work during the 2016 International Society for Equitation Science (ISES) conference, held June 23-26, in Saumur, France.

"Training using the 10 ISES training principles was successful for all foals in our study," Wills said. The 10 ISES training principles are guidelines for horse train-

ing developed by leading equitation science researchers, founded on learning theory—the science of how horses learn and respond to training.

Using the principles described on the ISES website, Wills and her fellow researchers taught basic handling skills to 56 Thoroughbred foals from one stud between the ages of 3 and 6 weeks. "This corresponds to the critical socialization phase, in which young horses seem to be naturally more open to being handled by humans," she said.

The researchers taught the foals to stand still while being approached by a human, balance themselves on three feet and hold one foot in the air for five seconds, and respond to light pressure to move forward and to stop while leading. The young horses initially stayed next to their mothers during the training, and the researchers used a small padded area to prevent flight responses, Wills said.

Taking into consideration foals' limited attention span, the researchers trained them for only 15 to 20 minutes per session, said Wills. Further, she said, they never trained them more than three days in a row to give them time to acquire what they had learned.

Foals took anywhere from one to eight training sessions (an average of five) to learn to stand still as a human approached them, Wills said. It took four to nine sessions for foals to learn both the foot-lifting task and the pressure-response task. There were no injuries to either horses or humans throughout the study.

While the gap was wide from one foal to another, the number of training sessions had nothing to do with either the sex of the foal or the foal's sire, Wills added.

"There's an inherent variation that exists in the amount of training required for each individual foal, and it's important for breeders to understand that," Wills said. ■

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POSTED ON THEHORSE.COM BY CHRISTA LESTÉ-LASSERRE, MA

Post-Exercise Snacks Benefit Horses

Your horse just had a fabulous workout, got really sweaty, and used up a lot of energy. Now what does he want you to do?

A) Put him back in his stall or paddock and say, "Good job, Buck. Lunch'll be ready in an hour."

B) Load him up in the trailer and head for home, where plenty of food and water is waiting for him.

C) Feed and water him right away, and give him plenty of time to finish his food.

Italian researchers say that while many riders tend to practice the first two techniques, it might be time to switch to the final option in order to keep their horses happiest.

"Horses should eat and drink after intense exercise and racing, but in reality most horses fast and travel before a race and receive food when they come back home," said Barbara Padalino, PhD, researcher at the University of Bari Aldo Moro Veterinary School, in Bari, Italy. "Or, in some stables, feeding time is scheduled and not in accordance with the

training plan," she added. "The caretaker feeds all animal at the same time. So the horse that raced at 11 a.m. must wait until 1 p.m. for food!"

In her study Padalino and fellow researchers followed 12 Standardbred harness racing mares for two months as they performed basic training (essentially, a control group), sprint training, and racing. After exercise the horses returned to their individual stalls, and the researchers evaluated the mares' physical parameters (heart rate, respiratory rate, and rectal temperature) and behavior. The team observed the latter for four hours over several intervals following exercise.

They found that these horses, which were in good health, returned to normal physical parameters within an hour after exercise. If mares raced or performed intense (sprint) exercise, they spent most of the first hour eating and drinking and rarely laid down or rested. In the following hour the horses urinated frequently (probably because of all the intense drinking in the first hour, Padalino said),

and after that they rested. There were no signs of depression or unwanted behavior such as cribbing, which indicates that the horses were "well adapted" to their situation. However, Padalino added, the frequent presence of humans interacting with the horses (grooming, cleaning, feeding, etc.) and the horses' young age (between 3 and 5 years old) might have made the horses less likely to be "bored" or develop bad habits.

This study provides a basis for what owners should expect in healthy, content sport horses after exercise, Padalino said. Scientists call this an "ethogram"—a list of typical, expected behaviors and physical parameters that define what's "normal" for horses in certain situations. As such, Padalino said it's clear that exercised horses should be allowed to eat and drink immediately after cooling down in order to restore the lost water and energy. If that doesn't fit your stable's organization, she added, it's time

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Facts

POSTED ON HORSE & HOUND ~
By Amanda Vlietstra

Here's some weird facts you probably didn't know about our four-legged friends...

- In Wilbur, Washington, it is illegal to ride an 'ugly horse.' Do so and you risk a \$300 (£228 with today's exchange rate) fine.
- The longest tail ever recorded on a horse, according to the Guinness Book of Records, belonged to a mare in Kansas, USA, called JJS Summer Breeze and measured 381cms (12 foot 6 inches) on 23rd August 2007.
Imagine plaiting that up for a dressage competition.
- In New York, it's illegal to open or close an umbrella in the presence of a horse.
- Horses in Burns, Oregon, are allowed into the town's taverns with their owner – provided their owner has paid for their admission, of course.
Your round then, horsey! Make mine a double.
- There were no horses in Australia until 1788. They arrived with the first Western settlers, and were used for farming and utility work. As only the strongest and fittest horses survived the hard sea journey over from Europe, Australian horses still maintain a reputation for being amongst the hardiest equines in the world.
- Horses' eyes are the biggest of any land mammal. They also have a third eyelid which lies on the inside of the eye and closes diagonally over it. Well eye'll be damned!
- Arabian horses have fewer ribs and lumbar vertebrae than other species of horse. At least, some do – 5 lumbar vertebrae rather than 6 and 17 pairs of ribs rather than 18.
- Horses' teeth take up more space in their heads than their brains. Male horses have 40 teeth, and mares 38. Explains a lot. ■

POSTED ON THE HORSE.COM BY NANCY DIEHL, VMD, MS

Are Stall Toys Good for Horses?

Q. When I walk down the aisle of the stable where I board, I see a lot of horses have balls or other toys hanging up or sitting on the floor of their stall. But I never see them playing with the toys. Is it good for horses to have toys in their stalls?

A. Well, it can be really beneficial to give stalled horses something to do. The problem with "toys," either commercial or hand-made things, is that horses can become habituated to them pretty quickly. That is, the novelty wears off and they ignore them. Some recommend rotating stall toys so the horses keep seeming new. But in general, I think toy use is pretty variable.

What we're really talking about when providing a "toy" is environmental enrichment. That's a big issue in particular among zoo keepers and habitat designers for captive wild animal spaces and management. The objective of environmental enrichment is to increase the complexity and diversity of the animal's environment to improve physical and behavioral well-being.

There's a two-pronged approach to environmental enrichment for captive wild animals: one is to create a naturalistic habitat and the other is to devise activities. Toys were the first rather primitive approach, but today the objective is to provide things for the animals to do that mimic what they'd be doing in the wild, searching for food for example.

We can take this same approach with our domestic horses. Clearly the best environmental enrichment for horses is the most natural housing and feeding management as possible. But if we are looking at horses that live mostly in stalls and individual paddock turnout, we can still try to provide things that help encourage natural behaviors.

Edible enrichment is probably the most studied and most likely to be beneficial. There are foraging toys: big plastic containers that have holes in which you put hay pellets or cubes and the horse moves it around so the food drops out intermittently. These do seem to have behavioral benefits. You might get a similar effect from just dispersing your

horse's ration of forage around his living area. A few studies have shown that providing multiple types of forages keeps horses more occupied than a single forage type. In other farm animal species, researchers have looked at using complex systems where animals have to complete a task or respond to specific stimuli in order to get feed.

You can also consider tactile enrichment. That is, providing substrates that the horse can rub and scratch on or roll in. There are commercial products that can be wrapped around posts that horses like to scratch on. And while we're usually not crazy about mud, horses do like to roll in it on hot days and they'll make their own if they can.

Visual enrichment can simply be having a broad field of view to see neighbors in other stalls. Studies have shown that even just the sight of other horses, without direct physical contact, can have positive effects on stabled horses. We've also talked before about mirrors for horses that are weavers.

Environmental enrichment also includes any exercise as well as the tasks we ask our horses to do when they are ridden or handled. So daily interactions that ask the horse to do something are also beneficial and have been shown to have benefits even for captive wild animals. This is partly why I am a proponent of positive reinforcement training because it can give you a daily opportunity to teach your horse something new while providing a highly desired food reward. Left to their own devices, horses will learn how to move or manipulate things to get something rewarding. In some species it's been shown that a more "cognitively interesting" environment improves an animal's ability to learn.

So some horses will play with a toy that they can kick, pick up, roll, or toss. But I would encourage looking into other objects or activities that simulate natural behaviors or things that they would more likely encounter in a natural environment. These things are more likely to keep the horse's interest over time and may reduce the amount of stereotypes in horses that are predisposed. ■



http://www.thehorse.com/videos/37828/broken-bones-not-always-the-end-for-horses?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=lameness&utm_campaign=07-20-2016

Broken Bones:

**NOT ALWAYS THE END FOR HORSES
POSTED ON THE HORSE.COM**

Surgeon Dr. David Levine of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine's New Bolton Center explains options for horses who've sustained bone fractures or breaks. ■

WITH ... DAWN JOHNSTON

20 Questions

about your life with Arabian horses

1 What is your current involvement with Arabian horses?

I, along with my family, own and operate Ash-Bren Equine Ltd. (former Pinacole Arabians facility) and show 2 half-arabian horses.

2 How many years have you been around horses?

All my life.

3 They say, "the Arabian horse finds you". How did the Arabian horse find you?

Through 4-H and Lori Galloway and her parents.

4 Who is or has been your favorite horse companion?

Capomar – aka Soloman.

5 Who has been your (horse) mentor?

The following are people I consider to be great mentors – Lori Galloway, Ed and Pat Galloway, Pam Zimmerman, Carla Jackson, and Mike Whelihan. Wouldn't be where I am today without them.

6 What is your favorite horse book?

7 What is your favorite horse movie?

Horse Whisperer.

8 What are some 'Arabian horse activities' in which you participate?

I show half Arabian mare Western Pleasure and a half Arabian gelding in Country English Pleasure.



9 What would be your most memorable experience or moment with an Arabian horse?

Winning Canadian National Reserve Champion half Arabian Western Pleasure AOTR 18 and over in 1988.

10 What has been your greatest achievement with your Arabian horse(s) so far?

Training and showing my horses with great success and now owning a facility that lets me do it.

11 Which horse do you consider to be your "dream" horse, either past or present?

Every horse I have owned/trained/shown has made a dream come true for me in one way or another.

12 Horses are amazing teachers. What has your horse taught you that has helped you become a better person?

Patience, humility, and kindness.

13 What is the best thing about working and playing with your Arabian horse?

Their willingness to learn.

14 What would you say to a person considering buying a horse to encourage them to purchase an Arabian?

Take your time. Do your research. Visit farms. Attend shows/events. Do not rush. I believe horses "pick" their people.

15 What is your advice to someone, "brand new," considering becoming involved with horses?



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Editor Message

At **DISCOVER ARABIAN HORSES.COM** we are always excited to bring you this vital line of communication.

The newsletter is published in November, January, March, May, July, and September and will continue to be sent to you by email blasts. It will also be posted on the DAH website with a link on Facebook and Twitter.

The newsletter will cover many topics:

- We will sometimes feature, *The Arabian Horse in History*, where the generally ignored role of specific horses in history will be presented.
- Will also have a spotlight section where we present information on a specific Arabian horse owner, trainer, barn, program, or event in our industry. What a great opportunity to get to know our fellow horsemen and horse lovers.
- "Activities" puzzles, games for the young and the older ... just play.
- Check out our articles, stories and classified ads.
- A source of information and education.
- 20 Questions ... about your life with Arabian Horse ... with.
- excite prospective newcomers to the Arabian horses ... it is totally engaging!
- The team is more than willing to work with other horse associations regardless of breed type or discipline to assist them in getting their message out.

Tell us what you would like to see added or if you would like to be added to our email listing, please email: info@discoverarabianhorses.com ■

By the Numbers

In the horse world, specific numbers often come into play. See if you can transfer the proper numerals from the outer frame into the equations in the inner frame. ■

gallop = ___ beats
 pen = ___ by ___ feet
 hand = ___ inches
 a healthy horse = ___ to ___ degrees F
 event = ___ riding disciplines
 walk = ___ beats
 draft horse = ___ to ___ pounds
 lead rope = ___ to ___ feet
 canter = ___ beats
 box stall = ___ by ___ feet
 pony = ___ or less hands
 trot = ___ beats

ANSWER: gallop = 4 beats, pen = 24 by 12 feet, hand = 4 inches, a healthy horse = 99 to 100.5 degrees F, event = 3 riding disciplines, walk = 4 beats, draft horse = 1,500 to 2,200 pounds, lead rope = 8 to 10 feet, canter = 3 beats, box stall = 10 by 12 feet, pony = 14.2 or less hands, trot = 2 beats.

Change of Pace

If you change just one letter in each of the words shown here, you can spell a dozen different ways that horses stop and go. ■

toot wall salt boat prince
 pack banter rut
 pump rock job lose

ANSWER: trot, walk halt, bolt, prance, pace canter run, jump, rack, jog, lope.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cFF4JP3H7hk>

Advice

GAIN VALUABLE ADVICE FROM ARABIAN HORSE BREEDING PROFESSIONALS.

Ever wanted to take an inside glimpse into the Arabian horse breeding industry? Ever thought of becoming a horse breeder yourself? We sat down with some of the industry's leading breeders and asked them what advice they would give to someone wanting to go into the Arabian horse breeding industry. This is what they had to say. ■

CAN YOU SOLVE THE PUZZLE?

Desirable Traits

	A	B	C
1	d	p	r
2	i	n	c
3	o	a	t
4	m	f	e

It's important for a rider to consider a couple of general characteristics when choosing a horse. To find out what they are, use the letters in the grid to fill in the empty blocks below it. Printed above and below each of the blocks are coordinates to two possible letters. If you choose the right one in each case, you'll solve the puzzle. ■

2C 3B 1C 4B 1B 3C 4A 2B 3C 1A 3A 2B											
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
4A 3A 2B 4C 3A 1C 3B 3B 4A 2A 2C 4B											
						2B 2B 3C					
						<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>			
						3B 3A 1A					
3C 4C 2B 1B 1A 4B 3A 4C 3A 2B 1A											
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
4A 3B 4A 2B 4C 1C 3B 4A 4C 2C 3C											

Telling Teeth

ANSWER: Twelve years old.

"You can tell how old a horse is by seeing how worn down its teeth are," explained the veterinarian to his new assistant, as he peered into the mouth of a gelding named Dex.

"So, how old is Dex?" asked the assistant.

"Well," responded the veterinarian, "I'd say that in 2 years, Dex will be twice as old as he was 5 years ago!"

Based on what the veterinarian said, can you figure out how old Dex is now? ■

To find the solution of these puzzles or to check out more games and activities, check out the Discover Arabian Horses website "For Kids" section at www.discoverarabianhorses.com ■

Get lots of hands on experience with all aspects of horses – not just riding.

16 Is there a favorite reference book you'd like to share?

Modern Arabian horse is a great publication.

17 What is the one thing you'd like to do that you haven't done yet?

Win a national championship title.



18 What about "kids" and an Arabian horse?

Couldn't ask for a better breed of horse for kids.

19 Why do you think you get such a "rush" being around or riding your Arabian horse(s)?

They are the most beautiful creature on this planet – to me anyways.

20 What are your words to live by?

Always be humble and kind – Tim McGraw. ■

a mental plan (for example, to reach a goal with the help of others around them), to evaluate the attentional state of that audience, and to modify their communicative strategy accordingly. Horses seem therefore able of iterative problem solving strategy."

While all horses probably have the ability to intentionally communicate with us, many handlers don't see it, Malavasi said. And some horses might have "given up" on trying to communicate with us, she said, especially if they have experienced learned helplessness through constant isolation and/or abuse.

"I recommend spending some time doing nothing but observing your horse in the field, if not with other horses, then alone," Malavasi said. "Horse people need to know how horses communicate and especially how their own horses communicate.

"We found some horses were very 'talkative,' whereas others would use very subtle signals," she added. "Learning the communicative strategies of your own horse is like getting to know another person: You'll never stop learning, but the more you know, the more you love.

"It's also possible that your horse has given up in communicating with you, because you never listen," she continued. "That's an unfortunate situation, but it can be fixed. If you don't know what your horse wants, be creative, and test solutions. It could be a great game to play together, and you're sure to see a positive change in your horse's attitude!" ■

is adequate."

That reduced effort doesn't mean the exercise loses its benefits over time, however: The amount of flexion the joints undergo is still substantially greater over poles as compared to flat work, so the exercise helps increase joints' range of motion, especially in horses that are recuperating from lameness, Clayton said.

Clayton recommended trotting over poles as a good therapy for horses being rehabilitated from physical injuries after their movement has become symmetrical at the trot.

She cautioned, however, that the study was performed in horses that were sound at the trot, and the effects of trotting over poles in unsound horses have not been studied. Therefore, she advised, do not begin pole work until your veterinarian confirms that the horse has returned to a satisfactory soundness level.

Additionally, although her study did not touch on how the work impacts older horses, Clayton said it would make sense that the exercise's mental and physical benefits could be good for seniors if they are sound. ■

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[SNACKS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5]

for your organization to evolve.

"To improve welfare, we should try to adapt horse management to the horse's behavioral needs and not to the humans' needs," she told The Horse.

Likewise, if a horse isn't interested in eating or drinking after intense exercise, there could be something amiss. "Watch the animal after exercise," she said. "Frequently there's a lot of attention to horses before exercise or a race or competition, but not after"

Strenuous exercise and racing are more likely to lead to health problems than just light exercise, she said, so it's particularly important to watch horses after an intense workout.

"Any abnormal behavior after strenuous exercise could be a red flag for a possible risk," Padalino said. "We should always observe our animals, but it is really important after intense exercise." ■

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