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Equine Behaviour News November 2017

Getting to the bottom of horse behaviour problems, and resolving them from the root cause up. Identification of the causes, bespoke behaviour modification design, coaching to help you and your horse reach success.

Clipping?

By the time most owners of clipped horses are reading this, the first clip has happened. If you wish it could have gone better here's how I can help. Clipping desensitisation happens in bite size pieces, intended to help your horse be less emotional and more accepting, but it's a procedure that's best proofed with its friend, 'counter conditioning' – teaching a new, and unexpectedly pleasant association with the process. Practice it well and the new memory (and behaviour!) will be evoked by clipping, leaving the scary memory (and dangerous behaviour) dormant. If this is how you want your January clip to go, please get in touch now!

Communities For Horses

My good friend and former CHAPS colleague, Lisa Lanfear has been working hard since CHAPS closed to fill the gap left behind.



Communities For Horses is an outreach program, helping urban horses and their owners achieve greater welfare standards, via call-outs to problems and their popular vet days supported by Cotts Equine Clinic. Please help in any way you can.

www.communitiesforhorses.org

Jargon of the Month: Rebound Behaviour

You know the one about behaving like a kid in a sweet shop? This is rebound behaviour. When a horse really wants to do something but can't, because they have been restricted in some way, when they do get to do their thing, they do it big. Typical examples are a kick and buck, and a sprint when turned out, or overeating when a strict diet is lifted (or when the pony gets under the electric fence!).

A lot of rebound behaviour is thought of as a welfare issue as the horse is clearly getting a lot of pent up motivation (frustration) beforehand – a negative emotional state.

Tip for Winter Stabling:

Finely slice carrots and swede and mix in your horse's hay.

SEEKING

Neural communication for raw feeling

Jaak Panksepp
1943-2017

Thank you for bringing your science to our understanding and recognition of animal feelings and emotional lives

horsestranslated.com

Emotional Lives

Yes, of course horses have that neural infrastructure for an emotional life! The SEEKING system is all about anticipation of successful behaviour, exhibited by a very curious Gower filly.