



COCO photo

*He is watching every move you make.
You need to be his leader, before you can become his partner.*

There are two kinds of people in this world...horse people and the other kind!

Then there are five kinds of horse people; naturals, normals, nuts, nuisances and nerds! I see them all over! Do you know who else categorizes people this way? Horses!

A horse knows from the moment he sees you approach, exactly which category you fall into. They will categorize you as dangerous or non-threatening. If he thinks you are a nut or a nuisance he will react out of self preservation. He'll be unpredictable and in many ways dangerous to you. If he thinks you're a nerd, then he is going to try to dominate you. He'll do this by pushing on you, pushing on your leg aids, pushing on the bit and resisting rather than cooperating with your wishes.

Horses make a living out-thinking people. Horses as prey animals are programmed to do the opposite of what predators want. Our biggest challenge is to prove to the horse that even though we look and smell like a predator, we're really not. You see, when horses get scared, they don't think you are going to hurt them. They think you are going to kill them.

Don't be fooled into thinking that the horse is a domesticated animal, because inside every gentle horse is a wild horse, and this is the horse that hurts people and can even kill in self defense.

Horses have three major instincts—they are alert to

danger, fly from fear and are friendly and playful with the herd. If we want our horses to start acting more like partners instead of prey animals then we have to turn their attention to what WE are communicating; the flight tendencies into going the way WE want them to go, and the friendliness into bonding with US.

Becoming more emotionally fit is not just something you work on when you are around horses. You need to work on yourself continuously. It doesn't mean you stop reacting to things, but more that you have control over how you react, especially 'the hole under your tail' and its anatomical connection to your hands!

So you learn to stay calm no matter what is happening around you and not to react under pressure. (You can always go off somewhere later and have a big scream or a quiet cry!)

A Natural Horseman has to learn to think like a horse in order to be able to predict reactions. Understand that the horse always reacts instinctively, out of self preservation, so punishment is out of the question. They are motivated only by safety, comfort and play...unlike us! We are motivated by praise, recognition and material things...as opposed to those motivated by material things like rosettes, trophies and prizes!

If we're going to be successful with horses we must learn to always look at life from their point of view; think like a horse, act like a horse—which is dramatically different from →→