Equine behaviour modification techniques for veterinary practice

SUMMARY:

This course is for veterinary professionals dealing with equids in practice and will develop the practitioner's skills in handling difficult horses using the objective, evidence-based principles of equitation science. It will review equine ethology and learning theory and explain how these principles can be used to address behavioural problems encountered by veterinary professionals in their day-to-day work, for example when handling needle/clipper shy horses or horses that won't go into stocks/vehicles. The 2013 BEVA accident survey highlighted the high incidence of accidents affecting equine veterinary surgeons and the need for training in methods that practitioners can employ to remain safe when working with horses. Upon completion of this course delegates will understand how to apply effective, humane handling techniques that can be used in any setting. This course includes demonstrations and hands-on practical sessions so delegates have the opportunity to practice many of the techniques themselves.

INFORMATION

Date: Tuesday 27th and Wednesday 28th June 2017
Venue: The Horse Trust, Slad Lane, Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire, HP27 0PP
Availability: Course limited to 12 delegates

BOOKING

To book on to this course please telephone 01494 488464 or email training@horsetrust.org.uk.

DETAILS

Key Learning Objectives

- Understand equine ethology and associative and non-associative learning processes in equids
- Understand how to use learning theory appropriately when handling or restraining horses for veterinary examinations or procedures
- Be able to assess horse behaviour and correctly apply learning theory when handling horses
- Understand when poor performance or unwanted behaviours may be caused by pain and when they may be a learnt response
- Be able to assess horse behaviour and demonstrate how to approach re-training horses that perform unwanted behaviours during common husbandry and veterinary procedures

Course Organiser: Liane Preshaw

SPEAKERS:

Ms Gemma Pearson BVMS MRCVS, ESI Associate Diploma in Equitation Science – Edinburgh
Ms Carolin Gerdes MedVet (Hanover) MRCVS – Newmarket
Ms Michelle Campbell – Edinburgh
Mrs Liane Preshaw MSc – Buckinghamshire

Programme

0830 Registration and coffee
0900 Welcome – **L Preshaw**
0910 Introduction to equine behaviour and learning theory – **G Pearson**

- Horse behaviour – dispelling the myths
- Horse and human equipment
- Operant conditioning
- Classical conditioning
- Behavioural reasons for unwanted ridden behaviours

1000 Practical application of positive and negative reinforcement – **G Pearson**

- Practical demonstration
- Practice session for delegates

1100 Investigating causes of unwanted behaviour – **C Gerdes**

- Investigating and diagnosing pain related causes of unwanted behaviours

1200 Using learning theory in the practice – **G Pearson**

- Comparison of behaviour modification techniques and traditional methods of restraint
- Gradual habituation
- Flooding
- Negative and positive reinforcement
- Counter-conditioning
- Stimulus blending
- Approach conditioning
- Overshadowing
- How to spot the potentially dangerous horse before you get hurt

1300 *Lunch*

1345 Case study discussion – **G Pearson**
1445 Dealing with equine welfare cases – **L Preshaw**
1500 Optimising the role of nurses and grooms – **M Campbell**
1515 Dealing with common unwanted behaviours – **G Pearson**

- Practical demonstration
- Practice session for delegates

1645 Wrap up and final discussion
1700 Tea and end of course

Pricing:
BEVA Member: £250
BEVA Member – Concessionary: £250
BEVA Member – Retired: £250
BEVA Member – Nurse: £250
BEVA Member – Student: £250
BEVA Non-Member: £300
BEVA Non-Member – Nurse: £300
Non-Member – Student: £300