

Presenter's name: Carlos Ganzabal

Degree, affiliation: mSC Equine Assisted Learning. Asociación Proyecto Caballo, Accompanying the equine world in its transition

Curriculum vitae:

Dynamic and experienced service provider with a passion and curiosity to explore common links between humans and equines. Excited to share insights and collaborate with EAS. He is an entrepreneur of iPoney Outdoors Spaces in the north of Spain, delivering EAL Lessons and creating spaces where humans and equines can be their best selves. Actively collaborating with HETI in the ethics Taskforce since 2018. Part of the team of Asociación Proyecto Caballo, working for a sustainable environment in the equine world. Founder member of AINISE, Proud member of the EEAFN Network to share experiences and trainings. By bringing these abstracts on positive associations with humans we would love to share a dynamic tool that would benefit the equine culture.

Category: Short paper

Topic: Horse Related Topics: Human – horse Interactions and Communication

Authors:

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Title: EXPLORING THE CONCEPT OF POSITIVE ASSOCIATION TO THE HUMAN (PA) AS A DYNAMIC TOOL

Keyword 1: Positive Association

Keyword 2: Horse Human communication

Keyword 3: Mutual wellbeing

Abstract:

It examines PA from both a psychological/scientific standpoint and an inter-species interpersonal perspective, emphasizing statistical correlations and constructive, empathetic relationships. Positive Association is defined as the promotion of beneficial and healthy interactions when variables move in the same direction, fostering mutual support, effective communication, and collaboration. The understanding of equine needs involves quality time spent together, emphasizing free participation, respectful dialogue, and unconditional communication. Reciprocal activities are encouraged in an atmosphere of openness to each other's needs, fostering empathetic relationships. Building trust is viewed as a co-creative, correlational process progressing through expressions of affect and value, requiring an understanding of individual needs, a holistic view of the environment, safety, active listening, and respectful communication. Considerations for PA include awareness of body sovereignty, touch, emotional states, safety zones, curiosity levels, coherence, and the role of the human companion as a bridge between the needs of both individuals. The paper focuses on the distinction between well-being and quality of life. Goals include working from the horse's optimal level to provide safe relationships, empathy through

human-animal connections. Challenges to implementing PA include cognitive dissonance, emotional involvement, speciesism, resistance to change in professional training, identifying equine quality of life, limited development opportunities, safety vs. freedom, economic sustainability, and social and cultural pressures. Opportunities lie in social change, the green economy. In conclusion, this presentation aims to disseminate the value of Positive Human-Animal Partnership, addressing challenges and presenting opportunities for its implementation. By embracing a holistic approach, leading to a positive transformation in human-equine relationships.