

Applied Animal Behavior

Human Relations

Science by definition is: 1. the study and theoretical explanation of natural phenomena; 2. a systemic activity requiring study and method, and 3. knowledge especially that acquired through experience. Through my knowledge and experience in working with horses from a young age, I have observed a natural phenomenon. I have received my Masters in Animal Science studying the effects of nutrition on the behavior of horses. Through the process of learning the scientific method in my research, I have grown to have a great desire to do further scientific research in animal behavior and apply it to people.

What I like about science is that it is the pursuit of truth, and in the world we live in today, I think America is in need of truth more than ever. I can develop a theory, form a hypothesis, tell a myth, write a fable, or have a religious belief. However, until it becomes testable, observable and repeatable this idea I have formed lands somewhere in between a truth and a lie. My mind now works in absolutes; I see things in black and white, truth and lies, light and dark, peace and chaos, good and evil. You see darkness can only dwell in the absence of light, lies only form when truth ceases to exist, chaos comes when peace leaves, and evil flourishes when good is no longer present. What I have come to realize is there has been a common theme throughout all of history where lies are formed and truth is spoken.

You see in the center of a lie is the letter "I," focusing on yourself. In the center of truth is the letter "U," focusing on someone else. When the lie of "I" is pushed to the absolute extreme it will take a life for the betterment of self. When the truth of "U" is pushed to the absolute extreme it will give its life for the betterment of others. The lie of "I" was at the center of Hitler, Stalin, Saddam Hussein, Columbine, 9-11, and most truly horrible things I can think of. The truth of "U" can be found in the center of Washington, Lincoln, Jefferson, Mother Teresa, and most good and noble things I can think of. A bad seed does not produce good fruit and a good seed planted and watered will always produce good fruit. America was founded on a good seed. America was founded on truth; people willing to sacrifice their lives for the betterment of others, or "U." However, somewhere along the line the mentality of America rapidly began to shift. In the generation preceding mine, bad seeds began creeping into our society and the lie of "I" is now at an all time high in America. These bad seeds have produced an increasing number of people willing to sacrifice the life of another for the betterment of self, or "I." This can be as extreme as murder, or financially or emotionally destroying someone so that "I" can become bigger, better, and more powerful. I don't think this is where our founding fathers saw our country going. I don't think this is why they were willing to give their lives for us, "U," so that we can destroy it with the lie of "I."

As previously stated I have observed a natural phenomenon found in a group of horses. When observing a herd of horses, although there might be chaos at times, the vast majority of the time a herd of horses enjoys peace and contentment. When looking at groups of people and our society as a whole, I see more chaos than peace and contentment. I think the root of this can be found in the lie of "I" creeping into our society and in the absence of the truth of "U" spoken. I think there are numerous principles found in a group of horses that could be applied to our society to help people live their lives in peace and contentment instead of turmoil and chaos.

I see many similarities when looking at a herd of horses and looking at a "herd" of people. I see things that are consistent in all herds of horses and I see things that are consistent

in all herds of people. It doesn't matter if it is a stud with a group of mares during breeding season, just the broodmare bunch, yearlings, weanlings, geldings on a ranch, or a mixture of all ages and sexes. It doesn't matter if it is a small family, big family, the herd you are a part of at work, play, church, county, country, or world, we are all part of a herd in one way or another.

I have developed and tested (horses) a hypothesis that both humans and horses have driving factors and everything that a horse or a human does is controlled by these driving factors. We have three primary driving factors and two underlying driving factors that fuel the three primary ones. The three primary driving factors are self-preservation, comfort and companionship, and the two underlying are confidence and energy (Black et al., 2008).

The interesting thing is I look at horses and the herds in which they live and I see that their driving factors are in order and they experience peace and contentment in their herds. However, when I look at the herds of people I do not see the same peace and contentment in a uniform pattern. What I do see is peace and contentment in the herds of people that follow the same basic principle that are naturally instilled into horses.

I have hypothesized that horses have three primary driving factors; self-preservation, comfort and companionship. Horses also have two underlying driving factors that drive the three primary driving factors; confidence and energy.

Self-preservation

- 1) Horses only fall into their self-preservation for correction, protection and survival.
 - America as a society is beginning to live their entire lives in their self-preservation (self-centered). This would bring chaos into a herd of horses and it is bringing chaos to America.
- 2) If one animal falls into their self-preservation it will bring self-preservation into the entire herd.
 - If one person is self-centered looking after only the interest of themselves, it will force everyone they come in contact with into their self-preservation. If the people they come in contact with do not go into their self-preservation to protect themselves, then the person in their self-preservation will consume the best interest of everyone they encounter through deception and trickery. Or the mere fact of this person being in a bad mood from being in their self-preservation will pull everyone they come in contact with into a bad mood.
- 3) Whenever there are two horses in their self-preservation there will be a disagreement and often a fight. After the fight or disagreement both animals fall out of their self-preservation and experience peace and contentment through the comfort and companionship of the herd.
 - There is a time for everything. There is a time to fall into our self-preservation and fight; to fight till the death. There is a time to protect the safety of the herd and to correct misbehavior of individuals in the herd. However, after the fight or disagreement horses fall out of their self-preservation and enjoy the comfort, companionship and safety that the herd has to offer.
- 4) A horse does not experience peace in their self-preservation and does not stay in their self-preservation.
 - Depression in America is at an all time high and rapidly increasing. A horse does not experience peace in their self-preservation and neither does a person. To experience peace a

person must get out of self-centeredness and focus on the needs of someone else. A good cure for depression is to quit focusing on yourself and do something for someone else.

- 5) If a mare is in their self-preservation they neglect the nutritional needs of their foal.
 - Due to the fact that parents in America have not learned to get out of their self preservation to provide emotional nourishment to their children, America's children have left the herd to go look for this nourishment in drugs, alcohol, and harmful activities.

Comfort

- 1) In order to have comfort (food, water, nutrients) horses must work for it (grazing).
 - This is the natural design for horses and this is the natural design for people. When horses or people go against the natural design to gain comfort problems begin to surface.
- 2) If horses do not work for their comfort it will eventually lead to discomfort (cribbing, wind sucking, weaving, teeth problems, hoof problems, colic, founder, etc.). Ex. Confined horses vs. free-grazing ranch horses
 - People that do not work for their comfort will suffer physical, emotional and financial problems. Some of the most depressed people in America are people that did not have to work for their comfort; their comfort was handed to them. This leads to psychologically and emotionally unstable horses and people.
- 3) Mares lead by example teaching their offspring how to work for their comfort.
 - The mare is the primary source of provision for her offspring at birth, however before weaning the mare provides less and less for her offspring. At the time of weaning the mares' offspring are able to provide for themselves through working for their food; if not confined by humans. A lot of children in America are not even thinking about growing up and providing for themselves until they graduate from college.
- 4) Foals grow up working for their comfort, when not confined by humans.
 - If parents taught their children how to grow up working for their comfort it wouldn't be such a shock when they leave home. This would also teach children from a young age that their energy is not just used to fuel their self-preservation, but for working for their comfort. Because many kids do not have to physically work for their comfort, *all* their energy is being used for self-preservation and the results can be seen in America's youth.

Companionship

- 1) Horses get out of their self-preservation to experience the comfort and protection of the herd.
 - If a person never learns to get out of their self-preservation (self-centeredness), they will never experience true companionship in this life.
- 2) Horses can not experience the comfort of companionship if they are in their self-preservation.
 - People always living in their self-preservation will have relationship after relationship fall apart because two creatures cannot spend time next to each other with one being driven by companionship and one being driven by self-preservation. Eventually one creature will pull the other creature out of their driving factor and into their own.

- 3) If horses do not have the companionship of the herd they have a higher risk of getting eaten by predators.
 - A marriage with two people that have never learned to get out of their self-preservation will either lead to a divorce or constant fighting. Either scenario has the potential of keeping the parents in their self-preservation and neglecting the emotional needs of their offspring. Thus teaching the offspring to live their life in their self-preservation, or if not provided by their parents, they will go looking for comfort and companionship somewhere else.
- 4) The younger the horse, the more companionship they need to ensure their safety and survival.
 - America's children are suffering from drug abuse, pregnancies, and harmful behaviors at a young and younger age.

Confidence

- 1) When ever confidence is lost self-preservation kicks in.
 - Many kids that grow up without receiving the nutritional (emotional) nourishment of their parents have low self esteem driving them into their self-preservation.
- 2) Foals have security in the herd and as long as they are with the mother and the herd they do not need to fall into their self-preservation.
 - A young colt or child pushed into their self-preservation does not want to be in their self-preservation and is in constant search of comfort and companionship.
- 3) Foals have confidence in their mothers and in the herd. If they lose confidence they know they can run to the comfort and companionship of the mother and the herd.
 - If a child does not have this they will run somewhere else and in our society there is a lion waiting around every corner, waiting for a helpless prey to leave the herd; one they can devour.
- 4) Studs and mares have confidence in their self-preservation to "fight" off perceived danger. Foals have confidence in their self-preservation to "flight" from perceived danger.
 - In a natural stud bunch (stud, mares, foals) there is a stud that is constantly keeping the herd together and ready to fight off any perceived danger. The stud is willing to fight and die if anyone tries to harm or take his herd from him. They lead the herd and make sure the herd has plenty of nourishment and safety.
 - At one time in America this was the mentality instilled in young men.
 - Mares follow the studs lead, provide for their young, and protect their foal.
 - At one time this was the mentality instilled in young women.
 - Because the studs of America have not done their job this has forced the mares of America to play three roles; provide, protect and nourish. As a result the mares of America are growing tired and the foals are suffering the consequences; they have no place to "flight" from perceived danger.
 - It is hard for a mare to provide (lead to physical nourishment), protect (fight off perceived danger) and nourish (emotional nourishment) all at the same time. The result of this can be found in our children.

Energy

- 1) Energy is the equivalent to motivation and determination, and fuels which ever driving factor the horse is displaying at any given time.
 - What I fear is that our schools and our society as a whole are fueling the next generation's driving factor of self-preservation and failing to teach these children how to operate in their other driving factors. What is worse, these children actually think they will find happiness by living in their self-preservation. However, this is clearly proven wrong through observations of animal behavior and looking at what our society has become.

- 2) If mares do not get out of their self-preservation to nurture their foals, the foals will lack the necessary energy requirements to run from perceived danger and will be subject to the attacks of predators.
 - I am scared for the next generation of America. As more and more parents live their lives in their self-preservation (self-centeredness), more and more of the emotional needs essential for children to survive are being neglected.

- 3) Energy only fuels self-preservation for protection, correction, and survival.
 - There is a time to fall into self-preservation, but creatures will never experience comfort and companionship if they don't learn to fall out of it.

- 4) Energy (motivation and determination) is primarily used in working for comfort not self-preservation.
 - America was not founded by a herd of horses living in their self-preservation, rather by people getting out of their self-preservation to experience comfort and companionship; people willing to give their lives for this comfort and companionship.

God Bless!

Wade Black