

TO WHISPER OR NOT TO WHISPER by Samuel P. Brown

Last month we left off with the truth that a horse is **A PREY ANIMAL**. He acts in a certain way. He also learns in a certain way! People tend to blame their horse for what he does or doesn't do. When this blaming of the horse occurs learning on your end has ceased. Actually learning for the horse never stops. You are always teaching him something, either good or bad. Most folks do have the discernment to tell the good habit from the bad, but don't understand how it got there. We've all been to the local jumper show when the horse refuses the jump. Watch carefully how the rider responds. Usually just how God made him or her, like a **PREDATOR**. The person gets angry and upset. Usually starts kicking the horse, whacking him with their crop etc. etc. Well what do you think your horse is thinking about this time? (WOW, what fun this is! Can't wait to do this again.) This is simply a symptom of a much greater problem. Which we will be discussing in later issues not far in the future. However we must first come to the realization that we as humans are **PREDATORS** by nature. We are 180 our horses, complete opposites. We think and act in a certain way. We learn in a certain way. We have the idea that horses think and act the way do. Not so. They even see things much differently than we do. You can't communicate with your horse the same way you do with your fellow humans. Therefore a **CHANGE** in the way we communicate with our horses must occur. Change for the human is very difficult at best. Changing the way we behave around horses is also hard. But if we desire to get along with our friends we need to effect a change. We as humans are masters at the application of pressure. I mean constant pressure. When the desired result is not in sight we apply even more pressure. Then we begin to apply mechanical aids in the application of pressure. A tighter cavason, a more severe bit, why not wrap a chain around his nose or better yet let's put that chain through his mouth. This of course doesn't make for a very happy horse. I'm not against the use of mechanical aids, but simply how they are applied and when they are used. There is a better way. Horses learn best through the release of pressure. This release of pressure must come the moment our horse gives us a try! This is called timing. Not an easy task for a predator. We by nature like to hold on tightly to things. It's truly a gift to have light hands. To be sensitive enough to feel when our horse is giving us that try. This is how they learn best. If you take the time it takes it will take less time. Until next month Keep it safe, keep it natural. Happy Trails, Samuel P. Brown

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