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The BHS Book Of The Natural Horse



Synopsis

See the world from your horse's point of view and understand him better both from the ground and the saddle. Discovering how horses live in the wild and relating that to the way we keep them helps us to understand how much a horse has to adapt to live in our world. This title includes dozens of practical exercises and step-by-step sequences of photographs showing how to train your horse with sympathetic but effective methods. The physical and mental effects of everything we ask our horses to do are explained, giving tremendous insight and offering a range of logical and effective steps that riders and handlers can use to resolve problems or deal with new situations. It is a valuable guide to what makes horses tick and how to develop a winning partnership at a level suitable for all horse owners and riders.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is an ideal manual for any new horse owner or anyone wanting to understand their horse a little better- it covers the nature of horses as animals in terms of evolution, physiology and how they live in natural conditions then goes on to discuss how we keep them and finally training and riding. Each section is a solid balance of well researched content and accessibility with interesting and relevant photographs and illustrations and boxouts and side panels covering relevant topics. The first section on Horse physiology and psychology reminded me of Lucy Rees' classic *The Horse's Mind*, taking a lot of science and making it readable and accessible, using photo sequences to illustrate different types of body language, elements of physiology and one particularly memorable picture showing the

horse's field of view. In the section on keeping horses I really like the way that it doesn't tell the reader what to do. On topics such as stabling and keeping the horse barefoot it just gives you the facts and shows both sides of the argument so that you can make your own informed decision. It's nice to read a book that credits the reader with the intelligence to choose for themselves on these issues. In terms of "Natural" horsemanship practitioners, the training and riding part of the book comes closest to the work of Mark Rashid, which means it is easy to understand, fairly simple to put into action and gets really good results. The book discusses the use of groundwork for building up a relationship and problem solving, lunging, and longlining before moving onto ridden work and covering ways of making your riding more effective and discussing solutions to some common difficulties people have with their horses. Throughout the book I was pleased by the combination of sound research and accessibility. Within its 200 or so pages it really does cover all the things you need to know and it does so in a clear and readable way, without preaching, just setting out the facts and letting you make your own judgement call. It's a great introduction to horse psychology and practical ways of applying it and there is enough depth here that the vast majority of horse owners and riders will find it useful and thought provoking.

It is very good for teaching purposes, and has large clear pictures. All levels can benefit from reading through this book.

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