



Wildwood Farm CLIPS & CLOPS Oak Harbor

September 2023

YOUR NEIGH-BORHOOD HULLABALOO

CREATED & EDITED BY HEATHER CARDER

How Horses Respond to Human Indication

April 25, 2023 University of Turku

A new study shows that horses living in big enclosures and in groups of at least three horses are better at following directional indications from humans than horses kept in individual paddocks. The results also indicate that familiarity to the human providing the indications does not matter for the horses.

Wild horses live in complex social groups and can move an average distance of 6-10 miles in a day, and cover areas up to 25 miles in one summer. In contrast, domestic horses are kept in enclosures and groups varying in size and even in individual stalls or small paddocks.

Horses living in bigger fields or pastures are more active -- they are free to move according to their needs -- and, for example, to look for shade or shelter against wind and rain. When living in a group, horses can fulfil their social needs, interact

in complex ways with many individuals, and have enough space to avoid unwanted interactions.

"It has been observed in earlier studies that horses with access to a pasture with other horses showed better learning performance and were less aggressive towards humans than horses kept in individual stables. Therefore, we wanted to explore whether horses' social and physical environment affect their responsiveness to human indications," says the lead author of the study, Doctoral Researcher Océane Liehrmann from the Department of Biology at the University of Turku, Finland.

The international research team from the University of Turku and the University of Helsinki in Finland, and the National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment INRAE in France, observed and analyzed horses' response to human indications according to the horses' living environment. In addition, the researchers studied whether the horse reacted differently when the

indications were given by the familiar owner or a stranger. The researchers recruited 57 privately owned leisure horses from the Turku region in Finland to perform the behavioral tests.

Horses living in groups and large paddocks followed human indications more closely

In the research situation, the human informant -- either the owner or the researcher -- was standing between two buckets, with a piece of carrot hidden in each of them. The horses were led by an assistant to stand in front of the human informant. In the research situation, the human informant -- either the owner or the researcher -- was standing between two buckets, with a piece of carrot hidden in each of them. The horses were led by an assistant to stand in front of the human informant. The human informant would then move toward one of the buckets and gaze and point towards it to indicate that the horse should go to that bucket. The horse was then released and had the choice of going to the pointed bucket or the opposite one.

Continued on page 11

WHAT'S TRENDING NOW

SOLE HARDENER By Huföl

The sole hardener oil is a highly effective care product that protects and strengthens sensitive hoof soles. It provides excellent protection against hoof dermis inflammation and promotes the stability of the sole, which is essential for a functioning hoof mechanism and ideal movement. By rubbing in the oil daily, the horn substance is thickened and protected, resulting in better performance results in horses with sensitive hoof soles. The oil is also well suited to facilitate the transition from shoeing to barefoot.

The sole hardener contains, among other things, ylang ylang, which restores a lot of moisture to the skin. In combination with the other oils, it accelerates the growth of the hoof.

Our sole hardener oil is a product specially developed for the care of horses' hooves. It is a 100% natural oil enriched with valuable ingredients that only contribute to the good of the horse. This oil helps the hooves to gain more firmness and elasticity and thus ensures that they stay healthy for longer.



Air Our sole hardener can be combined with other of our products if:

- You want to switch to barefoot
- Your horse has chronic laminitis
- Your horse has broken/weak hooves

In the case of a sensitive sole, our sole hardener should be used daily for at least 8 weeks, after which it depends on the horse and the condition of the hoof whether it can be slowly reduced.

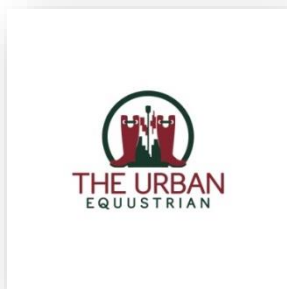
In the case of laminitis, the use of at least 3 months daily, in combination with the laminitis hoof oil, is recommended.

When switching to barefoot, the application of our sole hardener should begin with the oils, if possible 2 weeks before removing the horseshoes. The oil should then be used daily for at least 8 weeks – then if necessary.

www.hufoel.at



Our Store is currently open by Appointment



Shop Online!
www.thenoblehorsevintage.com

New Items for September



horse people when they find each other at a party



Client: You mind trimming the neighbor's horse also? He's pretty old, shouldn't give you any trouble.

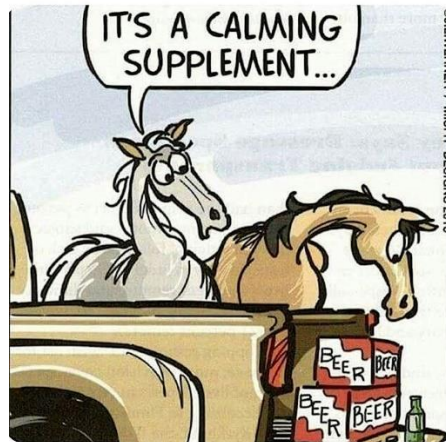
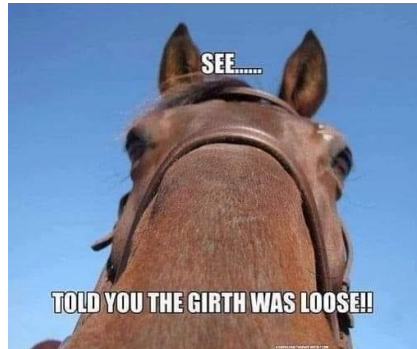
Neighbor's horse:



When a horsewoman reaches a certain age they start collecting miniatures, this is called 'Mini-pause'



geldings when they get turned out with the mares

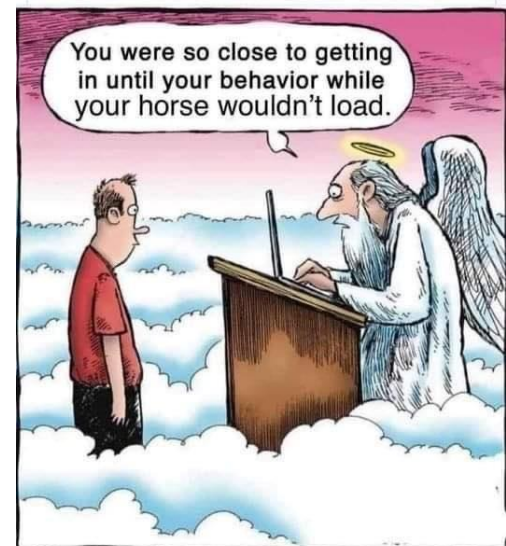


Purchaser: "I'm looking for something bombproof."

Seller: "Ok; are we talking 1815 bombproof, or 2022?"



Her parents will never see another vacation!!!

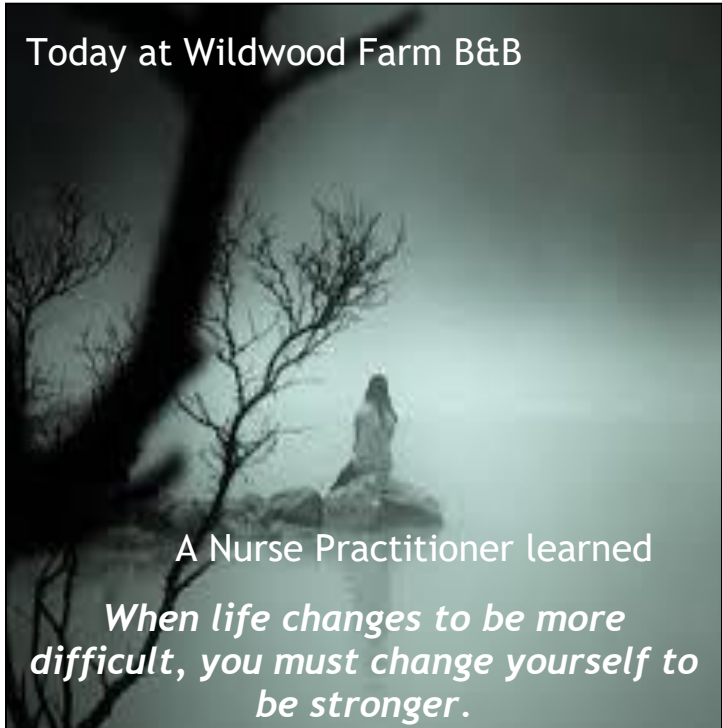


WILDWOOD FARM B&B



This is your moment.

Today at Wildwood Farm B&B



A Nurse Practitioner learned

When life changes to be more difficult, you must change yourself to be stronger.

Immerse yourself in the equestrian world at Wildwood Farm B&B located on beautiful Whidbey Island.

Our ranch has a long history of igniting the spark between horses and humans, whether you want a small introduction or total immersion.

Come experience the power of possibility with these magnificent creatures and explore the abundance of silent repose.

www.wildwoodfarmbandb.com

WILDWOOD FARM HAS IT ALL!

PACIFIC NORTHWEST
PNWA
Riding Academy



“Your horse is a mirror to your soul. Sometimes you might not like what you see. Sometimes you will.”

-Buck Brannaman



“I smile when I catch God watching me through the eyes of a horse.”

-Kevin Weatherby



WWW.PNWRiding.com

PACIFIC NORTHWEST
RIDING ACADEMY

A WYOMING MYTH

By David Romtvedt

In January of 1966 an old Crow woman, tired of her age and the palsied chattering of her body, walked from Powder River all the way up Crazy Woman Creek into the Bighorns. She thought she would be as the original Crazy Woman, another Indian dying alone in the snow. But when she reached the spot where Crazy Woman had died, the old woman slipped out of her skin and dropped to the ground.

Young again, the old woman turned to walk away and stumbled. Confused, she only then realized there was a smell in the air, the smell of horse, and the smell was she. Inhaling deeply, she could smell both herself and her fallen skin — the old Crow woman ready to die and the beautiful young roan mare.

She galloped back to Powder River where her granddaughter was sitting in their cabin staring at a portable radio and listening to President Johnson announce the resumption of bombing of North Vietnam. The old-woman-young-horse whinnied and banged on the door with her hoof. The granddaughter opened the door and seeing only a horse in the yard closed the door again. Then opened it. Strange horse, not theirs, not one of the white rancher's. The horse ran in circles, its tail arched high, great clouds of breath steaming from its nostrils.

The horse stopped and stared at the granddaughter who didn't know what to say. And it was cold so she closed the door and sat down again in front of the radio. Again the old-woman-young-horse banged at the door. Opening it, the granddaughter shooed the horse, now making a nuisance of itself, away. She didn't recognize her grandmother's eyes in the face of the horse.

A third time the horse banged at the door, battering it with both hooves. Annoyed, the granddaughter filled a bucket with water, opened the door and flung the water on the horse. Immediately coated with ice, the horse turned and galloped back up Crazy Woman Creek. As carefully as possible, she picked up her old woman skin in her teeth and draped it across her frozen back where it slowly melted the ice and slid into place — the stooped shoulders, liver-spotted hands, frostbitten ears and nose.

The old woman limped home, a little frozen blood where her horse's teeth had bitten through the skin of her ankle. She opened the door, walked in, and sat down next to her granddaughter. Only then, sliding her feet on the floor, did she notice the blood and bend down to see what was wrong. And only then did the granddaughter turn off the radio and ask her what had happened.

Nutrition Corner

FEEDING SCHEDULE FOR HORSES

The horse's digestive system is designed to allow small quantities of food to pass through continually during the day. This means that the horse is a continuous grazer. Horses were not designed to consume large quantities of food at a single feeding. Therefore, good feeding management requires that feedings be spaced throughout the day. Numerous small feedings are better than one large one. Horses should be fed a minimum of twice a day. Three or four times a day would be better.

Feed horses according to their work schedule. If a horse is worked in the morning, feed it one-third of the concentrate and a small portion of hay in the morning and a larger portion of hay with the grain at the noon feeding. If no exercise is induced in the evening, the nighttime feeding of concentrate and forage can offered at the same time.

Horses are creatures of habit and need to be fed at a consistent time each day, with a consistent quality of feed. Horses come to expect to be fed at set times each day. If too much variation in time or quality of feed exists, it can lead to digestive disturbances. Erratic schedules will annoy horses, and they may develop stall vices such as kicking, raking their teeth on the stall, or cribbing. Digestive disorders can occur due to an overly hungry horse bolting its feed. It is important to remember to set times for feeding and feed at those times 365 days a year.

When doing feed changes, it is best to do these gradually whenever possible, particularly with feed concentrates. Forage changes are much easier for a horse to navigate, but concentrates should be changed gradually over 1-2 weeks.

WILDWOOD FARM AND TRIPLE CROWN FEEDS.

Our partnership with Triple Crown began in 2014 through a promotion with the USEF encouraging farm members to compare their current feeding programs with Triple Crown products. We have found the TC products to be superior over other products primarily because of the EquiMix technology and the research support of a leading edge team including independent representatives of Equine Universities, Medical clinics and top level riders and trainers

Meet MICKEY FINN

The fabulous Mickey Finn came to Wildwood Farm in the spring of 2010, a gift from a friend and trainer in Issaquah who wanted to find a more relaxed semi-retirement home for him in his golden years.

Mickey was a huge Irish Draft Horse who was as gentle as they come, and whose career spanned over 17 years of competitive show jumping, but once he reached his 20s jumping was becoming a bit harder for him and he was bumped down to beginner/intermediate lessons with small jumps or trot poles. He was also used in summer camps and demonstrations before he found his way to our farm and the riding program here.

Standing 16.2 hands and 1400 lbs he could accommodate the larger riders for lessons and trail riding, and his gentle and sweet character was an instant winner with our students.



One of our fondest memories of Mickey is when he was used in a clinic put on by an ex-police officer who trained horses for police forces across the country. The clinic was on desensitizing horses, and one of our students rode Mickey to try and gain her confidence. Good ol' Mickey carried that student through smoke, sirens, barking dogs, loose tarps, fireworks – you name it, anything they threw at him he kept his cool and carried his rider confidently.

He also had another student who took him to some local dressage shows and won almost every class she entered at first level. Throughout the time Mickey was with us he was a favorite of riders young and old, and never took a dangerous step or action. He was a once in a lifetime horse!

Sadly, Mickey passed away from cancer in 2014, but our memories of this amazing horse carry on.

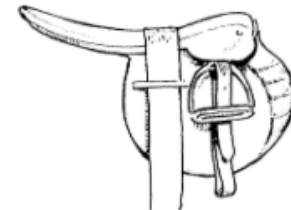
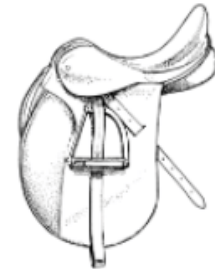
Free Horse Activity Pages

white-oak-stables.com



Parts of the Saddle

W L Y D L F P F Z F C B L A O H W L Z O K N Z F U W S U A F
 U R E H W U P A D B F Z C L T Y N D M J U D O K G L T M D S
 J Q W N R Z G B N L A V M R O F R E V O C D A E R T G W J O
 E I L R A H M B T K I G I B W R U R U X G U G N I S U O H S
 C H I L H P K B K Y D G H V L N E K Q X C L T C U R K N X E
 P T D D X A O W R U G L G Y I U R E T Y C P V P W P D X I A
 S A O V E X S E C I K L X J I B M K N I H I A F Y Y T J J T
 D A K D G P P H N U V M T H Z L L C B K K A C E D Y E O I O
 Y U K N U E X G E A Z P S V E E Q O Y X M F V D H K R M Y U
 S Z R B E Y D O K P D P P M L V I Y D L E J J L Y V Y G O K
 C E W K I E N G L I S H W S T I R R U P L E A T H E R L I C
 G N T D E O R K L G W G U N N A T S S X G N H A T R I T X
 H D R Q T M F V H W V M G G A S H G A R C W Q O W R O R K Q
 S O H I P U I S D D E U J N C D L Q D G R U Z L S I Y T O G
 C H B H J A Z Y Q Z Z S P W S V E W D U Q B R F C K N W G R
 H A G B O G B V H A Y P T L S Z Z G L F U F G Z E S P P I M
 E J J I L K R T M H E A Q E E H X E E G E S Z I X U T G X T
 X Z Z P F E O A O E P R K V R M E R F D P N Z D P K G N Z Y
 T G P T O P S R R P E T K I N N M Y L W W I D R P I H J P W
 P M O H S E N T I O J S T W I S T O A D H Q N E N T H Z P K
 W D S T H B N Q R G C E O H C N O C P K A H U G R G C J C F
 N T C W I S S L M A H I A P Y L I T R B F C S R K O J O W M
 O B B L E P O G G V P T N U O J V K J H H L E L N Y M C N M
 T C L G U L L E T M I I N F L E P L W C O S T I E A J K D H
 W E O J K A L J O B K K Z M N C X X T D U M R Q Y M Q E F X
 T N R S X L M U K A V A G C A E R E X S Z U S N B O R Y X J
 K H A F Q M D E X I Q T A Q Y K Y N Q R J A F R E L U V M M
 Y S T X F M C J M Z A M S U G D D Y X A G H U P R V H C N L
 Y U U Y V P K C S B T F A E N X L X Q U E S Q Z I H A K M V
 B K V F M X W O C M H E A V G N O N K R N V C S G E Q C U B



- | | | | | | |
|-------------|----------|---------------|---------|-----------------|---------------|
| BILLET | BLEVINS | CANTLE | CONCHO | ENGLISH | FENDER |
| GIRTH | GULLET | HOBBLE STRAP | HORN | HOUSING | JOCKEY KEEPER |
| PANEL | KNEEROLL | POMMEL | RIGGING | SWELL | RIGGING DEE |
| SADDLE FLAP | SEAT | STIRRUP | SKIRT | TIE STRAP | TWIST |
| TREAD COVER | WESTERN | <u>LATIGO</u> | FORK | STIRRUP LEATHER | |

Solve this question by filling in the missing letters in bold above.

Do ___u ___i___e to ri___ in a___ en___lis___ or ___est___n ___le?

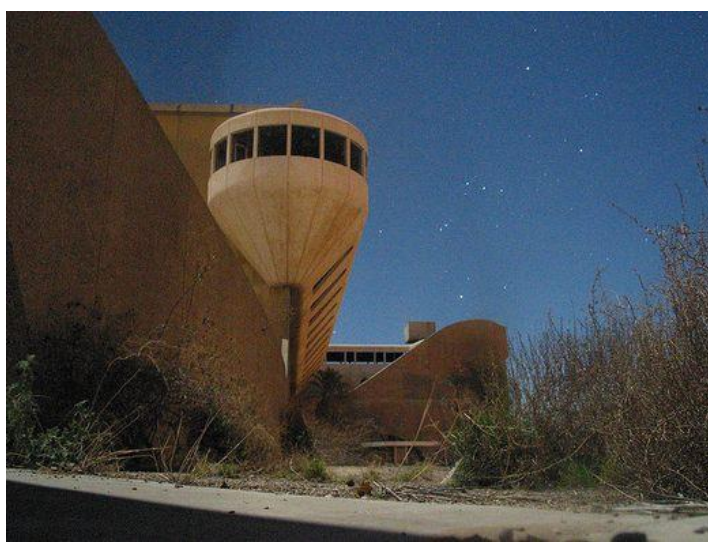
STUCK HORSES – MOST DRAMATIC



Phoenix Trotting Park

Goodyear, Arizona

This abandoned horse racing track was an exercise in hubris from its inception.



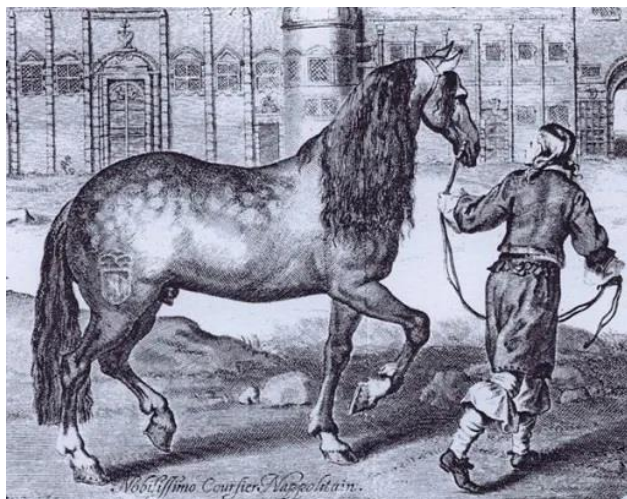
THE PHOENIX TROTTING PARK was a relic of leisure and vice smack in middle of the desert. The horse racing park was built in 1964 and opened the following year to any eager gamblers willing to brave the (unpaved at the time) desert expanse leading to the facility. The massive concrete structure was built in a futurist style with sloping geometric shapes sprouting around the interior and shaping the exterior walls. However, despite its aspirations to be a lasting hub of gambling, the track only remained in operation for two short seasons.

The project's proposed construction budget skyrocketed from three million dollars to ten million by the time it was completed, immediately increasing pressure for the site to attract big attendance numbers. Unfortunately, the track's remote desert location and uncomfortable heat drove away most of the potential customers and the horse races were abandoned. The site was left to deteriorate with only adventurous teens and budget-minded filmmakers making the pilgrimage to the planned track

In 1997, after collecting dust and graffiti for decades, the site suffered the further indignity of an explosion set off for the film *No Code of Conduct* which blew out all of the glass in the facility and left the Phoenix Trotting Park littered with dead pigeons. This gruesome event may have been the most action this hubristic concrete shell ever saw.

Update November 2017: The structure had been demolished..

The Neapolitan



The Neapolitan was an Italian horse breed that developed in the Kingdom of Naples between the late Middle Ages and the Enlightenment (ended 1789). The breed was often featured in Italian literature from the 16th to the 19th century.

Originally, Neapolitan horses were bred for transportation and use in the heavy cavalry. As a result, these early types were rather short, heavy, and coarse in appearance. Following the introduction of firearms, lighter and quicker horses were needed, and the breed received an infusion of Oriental and Spanish blood.

The Neapolitan had a typical baroque appearance, with a deep chest, short back, round hindquarters, and a high-set, crested neck. Its body type made the breed ideal for classical dressage, and Neapolitan stallions were known for performing highly complex “Airs above the Ground” elements. Sadly, the breed’s numbers fell sharply in the 20th century, when it was used to create the Lipizzan and Napolitano breeds. Several Lipizzan foundation sires, such as Conversano, Neapolitano, and Maestoso were Neapolitan stallions. According to some sources, the elegant Neapolitan went extinct by 1950.

Some people still confuse the Neapolitan with its modern descendant, the Napolitano horse. The latter is a rare horse breed that was listed as “critical” by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in 2007. To illustrate the gravity of the situation, only 20 mares and 4 stallions were registered with the Napolitano breed society in 2005.

Cont'd from page 1)

If the horse followed the human's indication and approached the pointed bucket, the informant opened the lid and let the horse have the carrot. If the horse chose the opposite bucket, the informant caught the horse and it did not get a carrot. The experiment was repeated 10 times per horse and the researchers analyzed how many times the horses chose to follow the human indication over the 10 trials.

"Interestingly, horses living in groups of at least three individuals chose the pointed bucket more often than the horses living alone or in dyads. Similarly, horses living in pastures or big fields for at least 8 months per year followed the human indication more often than the horses living in stalls or small paddocks," Liehrmann describes.

In the study, the horses living in big pastures also lived in larger groups, whereas most of the horses living in small paddocks were alone or with just one other horse. Therefore, it was difficult to conclude whether social deprivation or the lack of space and enrichment has the greater impact on the results.

"However, domestic horses living in larger groups may benefit from stronger cognitive stimulation. Indeed, having the choice of interacting with various individuals promotes complex social situations from which the horses can learn and improve their socio-cognitive skills. This may also explain why horses living in groups had better success in the task that involved communication with humans," Liehrmann notes.

Context can impact the significance of familiarity to the human

The researchers also found that the horses' success in the task did not depend on the familiarity of the person giving the indication. The success rate was similar whether the informant was the owner or a stranger. This is inconsistent with the findings from previous experiments based on the same population of horses. In the previous study, Liehrmann and her research group found that familiarity with the handler can affect the horse's behavior in novel situations.

"Our hypothesis is that the context may play a role when investigating the effect of human familiarity in human-animal interactions. In a more stressful environment, animals may rely more on a familiar human than on a stranger, while in a positive context, where animals already feel safe and benefit from a food reward, the identity of the interacting human may matter less," says Liehrmann and continues:

"Overall, our study shows that the living conditions of the horses had an impact on their ability to follow human indications. The living and social environments of horses are a challenge and open to debate in the equestrian world. These results support the idea that offering an appropriate environment to horses by providing access to pasture and the ability to freely interact with their own kind could contribute to the development of their social behavior and extend to interaction with humans."



WILDWOOD FARM Clips & Clops Newsletter

2326 Happy Valley Rd
Oak Harbor WA 98277

THE HORSE IN ANCIENT CHINA



Horses were amongst the most important animals in Ancient Chinese Culture and mythology. Horses have been present from the very beginning of Chinese culture, both on a mythical and symbolic level and they represent speed, perseverance, imagination and symbolize pure male strength – Yang.

Originally the horse was considered the mightiest of all creatures, and it was thought to embody the spirit of the Yellow River, the second largest river flowing in China. During the Tang Dynasty (618-690, 705-907), the “golden age” of Imperial China, horses were particularly praised, not only for their fundamental aid in warfare, but also because of their aesthetic beauty. At this time, fine breeds of horses were imported from the West Asian territories and this resulted in a growing enthusiasm for the depiction of these beautiful animals.

Along with the slender figure of the foreign breeds, the color of a horse was a very important feature, and the emperor’s favorite animals were addressed by their color. A symbol of power, rank and wealth, during this dynasty’s rule the horse became one of the most loved subjects for art and funerary figures, which were crafted with highly naturalistic detail and decorated with multicolor glazes. Also the composition of the saddles and the bridles grew more and more complex and Tang horses are to this day one of the most recognizable subjects of Ancient Chinese art.