

Equestrian Training and Agency

Dear Participant,

Thank you so much for taking the time to complete this survey. I am currently a final year master's student in Equine Behaviour, Performance, and Training at University Centre Sparsholt. As my final thesis, I am undertaking a project focusing on equestrian training, behaviour, learning, and factors that influence training and methods used in the industry. This survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete with 5 key sections for you to answer, covering a range of topics.

This project has been ethically approved by University Centre Sparsholt Ethical Research and Standards Group. All the data collected will remain anonymous in the final write up and will be kept confidential with myself and my project supervisor. By completing this survey, you confirm that you are 18 years of age or older and consent to your answers being used in this study for academic purposes. If you feel that you do not want to complete a question for a particular reason, it can be left blank.

In the event that you wish to have your answers removed from this study after you complete this survey, please email myself and request this removal within 72 hours of survey completion at harrislilly@rocketmail.com quoting the exact time and date of your submission (to enable identification of the correct data). This email can only be used for this purpose and no additional information can be included through email into this study and data collection.

Thank you once again for your time and contribution to this research,

Yours sincerely
Lilly Harris

☐ Option 1

☐ Option 1

Do you consent for your information to be used in this research?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Demographics

Pilot

Pre-fill responses, then click "Get link"

1. What is your age? (yrs)

- ☐ 18-25
- ☐ 26-35
- ☐ 36-45
- ☐ 46-55
- ☐ 56-65
- ☐ 66 +

2. What is your gender?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Non-Binary
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Pre-fill responses, then click "Get link"

3a. How long have you worked with or ridden horses for?

- ☐ <5 yrs
- ☐ 5-10 yrs
- ☐ >10 yrs

3b. Within the time you have been working or riding horses, how often do you work or ride?

- ☐ Daily
- ☐ Weekly
- ☐ Fortnightly
- ☐ Monthly
- ☐ Other

3c. Other option, please state how often you work or ride horses.

Your answer

Pre-fill responses, then click "Get link"

4a. Do you earn over 50% of your income directly within the equine industry?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Pre-fill responses, then click "Get link"

4b. If yes, how would you categorise your main role within the equine industry?
(Select one)

- ☐ Yard Manager
- ☐ Yard Technician
- ☐ Groom
- ☐ Nutritionist
- ☐ Professional Rider (80% or more income coming from riding)
- ☐ Physiotherapist
- ☐ Vet
- ☐ Veterinary Nurse
- ☐ Farrier
- ☐ Dentist
- ☐ Sales Rep
- ☐ Instructor/Coach
- ☐ Saddler
- ☐ Lecturer (FE/HE)

Pre-fill responses, then click "Get link"

- ☐ Sports Massage

- ☐ Behaviourist
- ☐ Horse Trainer
- ☐ Sports Psychologist
- ☐ Charity Organiser/Worker
- ☐ Animal Communicator
- ☐ Other
- ☐ I do not work within the equestrian industry

4c. Do you own horses?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

5. Do you hold British Horse Society (BHS) qualifications?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Pre-fill responses, then click "Get link"

6. If yes, what level of qualifications do you hold? (can select as many as appropriate)

- ☐ BHS Stage 1 Care
- ☐ BHS Stage 1 Riding
- ☐ BHS Stage 1 Complete Horsemanship
- ☐ BHSQ Level 2 Foundation Coach in Complete Horsemanship (Stage 2)
- ☐ BHS Stage 2 Ride
- ☐ BHS Stage 2 Care
- ☐ BHS Stage 2 Lunge
- ☐ BHS Stage 2 Coach
- ☐ BHSQ Level 3 Coach in Complete Horsemanship (Stage 3)
- ☐ BHS Stage 3 Care
- ☐ BHS Stage 3 Lunge
- ☐ BHS Stage 3 Dressage Ride
- ☐ BHS Stage 3 Jump Ride
- ☐ BHS Stage 3 Coach
- ☐ BHSQ Level 4 Senior Eventing/Dressage Coach (Stage 4)
- ☐ BHS Stage 4 Senior Care

Pre-fill responses, then click "Get link"

- ☐ BHS Stage 4 Senior Lunge
- ☐ BHS Stage 4 Senior Ride for Training Eventing/Dressage
- ☐ BHS Stage 4 Senior Coaching Eventing/Dressage
- ☐ Performance Coach BHSI
- ☐ BHS PC BHSI Section 1 Care and Welfare
- ☐ BHS PC BHSI Section 2 Business Management
- ☐ BHS PC BHSI Section 3 Training Horses (Lunge and Ride)
- ☐ BHS PC BHSI Section 4 Coaching
- ☐ Fellow

Pre-fill responses, then click "Get link"

7. What is the highest level of equine qualification you currently hold?

- ☐ I do not have an equine industry qualification
- ☐ PhD
- ☐ Masters
- ☐ Bachelor Equine Science/Veterinary Science
- ☐ Vocational Qualification (e.g. Level 3 Extended Diploma)
- ☐ Trade Qualification (e.g. farrier/dentist)
- ☐ Complementary Health Qualification
- ☐ Pony Club Qualifications/UKCC
- ☐ Other

8. If other, please provide example

Your answer

Pre-fill responses, then click "Get link"

9. Have you ever attended or completed an Equitation Science International Course? And if yes, what type of course was it and who was the course provider? (e.g. ESI)

☐ Yes

☐ No

10. If yes, please provide information here

Your answer

11. What experience do you have in Horse Training?

Your answer

Pre-fill responses, then click "Get link"

12. What level would you classify yourself as?

- ☐ Amateur (Not making financial income from training or riding horses)
- ☐ Semi-Professional (Making 50% financial income from training or riding horses)
- ☐ Professional (Obtaining all of your financial income from training or riding horses)

Horse Training Methods Used in Industry

Pre-fill responses, then click "Get link"

1a. What training methods do you use? (select as many as is appropriate)

- ☐ No, not a specific method
- ☐ Traditional
- ☐ Monty Roberts (Intelligent Horsemanship)
- ☐ Parelli (Natural Horsemanship)
- ☐ Clinton Anderson
- ☐ Klaus Hempfling
- ☐ TRT (Tristan Tucker)
- ☐ Equitation Science
- ☐ Ben Hart
- ☐ Clicker Training
- ☐ Other

1b. If stated other, please elaborate

Your answer

Pre-fill responses, then click "Get link"

2. Why do you use those specific methods, highlighted above?

Your answer

3. Would you be interested in learning about other methods?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe

Comment Option for Question 3 - Elaboration on answers

Your answer

Pre-fill responses, then click "Get link"

4. On a scale of 1-10, how important do you feel Ground Work is in building the horse-human relationship?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Not important at all ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Most important

5. On a scale of 1-10, how important do you feel Riding is in building the horse-human relationship?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Not important at all ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Most important

6. Do you have any strong beliefs about training methods/follow a regime or method rigidly?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Not at all ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Very strict

Pre-fill responses, then click "Get link"

7. Are you aware of the principles of equine learning theory? (rate your awareness on a scale of 1-10)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Not at all/ Do not know what learning theory is	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Completely informed/very knowledgeable

Training Theory

1. What is 'Reinforcement'?

- ☐ The action of providing consequences for a response that increases the likelihood that the behaviour will be repeated
- ☐ The action of providing consequences for a response that reduces the likelihood the behaviour will be repeated
- ☐ Other

Comment for 'Other Option'

Your answer

Pre-fill responses, then click "Get link"

2. What is 'Punishment'?

- ☐ The action of providing consequences for a response that reduces the likelihood the behaviour will be repeated
- ☐ The action of providing consequences for a response that increases the likelihood that the behaviour will be repeated
- ☐ Other

Comment for 'Other' Option

Your answer

3. What is 'Positive Reinforcement'?

- ☐ The addition of an aversive stimulus to lower the frequency of a behaviour
- ☐ The addition of an encouraging stimulus to increase the frequency of a behaviour
- ☐ The process of learning a new behaviour through rewarding successive approximations that are close to the target behaviour desired until the final behaviour is achieved.
- ☐ Other

Pre-fill responses, then click "Get link"

Comment for 'Other' Option

Your answer

4. What is 'Negative Reinforcement'?

- ☐ The process of learning a new behaviour through rewarding successive approximations that are close to the target behaviour desired until the final behaviour is achieved.
- ☐ The addition of an aversive stimulus to lower the frequency of a behaviour
- ☐ The removal of an aversive stimulus to increase the frequency of a behaviour
- ☐ Other

Comment for 'Other' Option

Your answer

5. What is 'Positive Punishment'?

- ☐ Gradual decrease in frequency and severity of a response following repeated sensory stimulus exposure
- ☐ Restraining the animal to remain in the situation which it fears while avoidance responses are prevented, until the animal's apparent resistance ceases.
- ☐ The addition of an aversive stimulus to lower the frequency of a behaviour
- ☐ Other

Comment for 'Other' Option

Your answer

6. What is 'Negative Punishment'?

- ☐ The removal of an encouraging stimulus to lower the frequency of a behaviour
- ☐ Gradual decrease infrequency and severity of a response following repeated sensory stimulus exposure
- ☐ Conditioning an animal to show a behaviour which is counter to the one the trainer wishes to eliminate.
- ☐ Other

Comment for 'Other' Option

Your answer

Pre-fill responses, then click "Get link"

7. What is 'Shaping'?

- ☐ The removal of an aversive stimulus to increase the frequency of a behaviour
- ☐ The process of learning a new behaviour through rewarding successive approximations that are close to the target behaviour desired until the final behaviour is achieved.
- ☐ Restraining the animal to remain in the situation which it fears while avoidance responses are prevented, until the animal's apparent resistance ceases.
- ☐ Other

Comment for 'Other' Option

Your answer

8. What is 'Densensitisation'?

- ☐ The addition of an encouraging stimulus to increase the frequency of a behaviour
- ☐ Gradual decrease infrequency and severity of a response following repeated sensory stimulus exposure
- ☐ Practical methods of gradually decreasing a response to an arousing stimulus following repeated exposure to the stimulus
- ☐ Other

Comment for 'Other' Option

Your answer

9. What is 'Habituation'?

- ☐ Gradual decrease in frequency and severity of a response to a stimulus following repeated sensory stimulus exposure
- ☐ The process of learning a new behaviour through rewarding successive approximations that are close to the target behaviour desired until the final behaviour is achieved.
- ☐ The removal of an encouraging stimulus to lower the frequency of a behaviour
- ☐ Other

Comment for 'Other' Option

Your answer

10. What age would you begin 'breaking in' a horse/pony?

- ☐ <4 yrs
- ☐ 4-6 yrs
- ☐ >7 yrs

Pre-fill responses, then click "Get link"

11. To keep the horse in the field, you use an electric fence around the paddock which is checked every day to avoid the horse jumping the fence. Based on this scenario, what type of reinforcement or punishment is being implemented within this scenario? (can select multiple if required)

- ☐ Negative Punishment
- ☐ Positive Reinforcement
- ☐ Negative Reinforcement
- ☐ Positive Punishment

12. Your horse has just performed a well-executed 10m circle at B during a dressage lesson. You relax the reins, pat, and stroke the horse on the neck, say 'good', retake the reins, apply your leg on and perform the movement again. Based on this scenario, what type of reinforcement or punishment is being implemented within this scenario? (can select multiple if required)

- ☐ Positive Punishment
- ☐ Positive Reinforcement
- ☐ Negative Punishment
- ☐ Negative Reinforcement

13. All the horses within an American barn are receiving their evening meal, while making the rounds with the feed, you notice one has an empty water bucket when you are about to give the horse their feed. When you go in to remove and refill it, the horse kicks out at you. As a response, you firmly and loudly say 'AH AH' to move the horse away from the door, remove the feed bucket about to be given to the horse, shut the door and walk away. Based on this scenario, what type of reinforcement or punishment is being implemented within this scenario? (can select multiple if required)

- ☐ Negative Punishment
- ☐ Negative Reinforcement
- ☐ Positive Punishment
- ☐ Positive Reinforcement

14. You plan to teach your horse to stand at the mounting block in the area before you get on. To teach this on the ground, you walk your horse a few steps in front of the block, then push back on the horses reins in your hand and the other on the chest until they begin moving backward. Every time they take a step stop pushing and continue building on this until the horse is by the block. Once the horse is by the block, give the horse a polo and stand next to the horse for a minute without getting on the block. This is the start of the training process. Based on this scenario, what type of reinforcement or punishment is being implemented within this scenario? (can select multiple if required)

- ☐ Positive Punishment
- ☐ Negative Reinforcement
- ☐ Negative Punishment
- ☐ Positive Reinforcement

15. You are trying to load your horse into a trailer following a one-day event. When you begin trying to load, your horse puts one front foot on the trailer, rears up and runs backwards off the ramp. As response, you give the horse a tug on the headcollar and walk back up the ramp, pulling on the lead rope to move the horse forward. You follow this by having two helpers use a lunge line behind the horse's hind quarters to help move the horse onto the ramp. The horse begins to walk up the ramp into the trailer and starts eating a hay net tied up inside. Based on this scenario, what type of reinforcement or punishment is being implemented within this scenario? (can select multiple if required)

- ☐ Positive Reinforcement
- ☐ Negative Reinforcement
- ☐ Positive Punishment
- ☐ Negative Punishment

16. You begin a 20-minute lunge session, using the words 'walk on' with a medium pitch tone and movement of the lunge whip behind the hindquarters on the floor to move the horse forwards on a circle. Based on this scenario, what type of reinforcement or punishment is being implemented within this scenario? (can select multiple if required)

- ☐ Negative Reinforcement
- ☐ Positive Reinforcement
- ☐ Positive Punishment
- ☐ Negative Punishment

Information Seeking

Pre-fill responses, then click "Get link"

1. What source/s do you use for finding Horse Training information? (select as many as required)

- ☐ Social media e.g. Twitter, Facebook, Instagram
- ☐ Internet
- ☐ Books
- ☐ Academic Journals
- ☐ Magazines
- ☐ TV/Film
- ☐ Other

Comment for 'Other' Option

Your answer

Pre-fill responses, then click "Get link"

2. Who influences your choice of information source as identified above? (select as many as required)

- ☐ Coach Instructor
- ☐ Teachers/lecturer if studying or have studied previously
- ☐ By word of mouth
- ☐ Family and Friends
- ☐ Colleagues in the Industry (if working in equestrian industry)
- ☐ Other

Comment for 'Other' Option

Your answer

3. Why do you use your selected methods above to find horse training information?

Your answer

Pre-fill responses, then click "Get link"

1. Would any of the following be reasons why you would change your horse training method/s?

Rate on a scale of 1-5 (1- Strongly Disagree, 2. Disagree, 3. Neutral, 4. Agree, 5. Strongly Agree)

Behavioural Issues e.g. catching in or turning out issues, biting (the human) in or out of the stable, aggression towards people, aggression towards other horses, not wanting to load, not wanting to be clipped, not standing for the vet or farrier) etc.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Strongly Agree

Conflict Behaviours Development e.g. Buck, Rear, Spook, Napping, Head Tossing, Spinning etc.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Strongly Agree

Pre-fill responses, then click "Get link"

Stereotypic Behaviour Development e.g. Box Walking, Crib Biting, Wind Sucking, Weaving etc.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Strongly Agree

Injury to the Horse developed during training

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Strongly Agree

Injury to the Human developed during training

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Strongly Agree

Pre-fill responses, then click "Get link"

Tack Changes

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Strongly Agree

Discipline Change

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Strongly Agree

Age of the Horse

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Strongly Agree

Pre-fill responses, then click "Get link"

Size of the Horse

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Strongly Agree

If your goals have changed for you training or ridden activites

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Strongly Agree

If you observe poor performance (in the horse)

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Strongly Agree

Pre-fill responses, then click "Get link"

If you observe your horse becoming stressed

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Strongly Agree

Improving Performance (in the horse)

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Strongly Agree

Training a new behaviour or movement

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Strongly Agree

Pre-fill responses, then click "Get link"

You hear a 'negative' report on a current trainer and method

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Strongly Agree

Observation of trainers handling

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Strongly Agree

Peer Observation e.g. one person trains their horse with specific method and it doesnt work for them

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Strongly Agree

Pre-fill responses, then click "Get link"

Anecdotal evidence from another horse owner using a specific method/s

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Strongly Agree

Negative comments on social media or forums about specific trainers or method/s

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Strongly Agree

Complexity of Language used in method explanation

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Strongly Agree

Pre-fill responses, then click "Get link"

Having to acquire additional equipment to use method

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Strongly Agree

Owner confidence in training skill or particular method e.g. anxiety and stress caused by past experiences

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Strongly Agree

If the method has been shown to work or not

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Strongly Agree

Get link

Pre-fill responses, then click "Get link"

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