


A unique course program to study and open up for an inclusive coexistence with horses and other animals, breaking through the current thinking patterns.

BEING A HORSE *Today*



"A horse as owner of their own life, their own experiences, liberated from the human focus on behavior, a brand new world"

BEING A HORSE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Module 1: An Introduction

The world in the 21st century is full of research and notions regarding horses, donkeys and other animals, but entering the world of the horse -as he or she is- their ethology, agency and animality, requires a deconstruction of what we have come to see as normalized knowledge, seemingly modern thinking, but still fully embedded in anthropocentric viewpoints.

Module 2: Master class in antispeciesist Ethology

Here the question comes up, what is ethology and what is not? How do we end up focussing on behavioral outcomes, confusing ethology with behaviorism? This module is dedicated to recognizing projections in science, stripping away the tendency to identify someone by recognizing species-specific behavior, to create instead space for their subjectivity. An introduction of science where any horse, or donkey, is seen as themselves. Learn how to see a horse from their perspective.

Module 3: The Horse in their own learning

Learning, from an animal cognition perspective, cannot be defined as an exercise or as age-related, but is something that spans a horse's entire life, from birth to death. Cognitive learning is also characterized by not being measurable; it cannot be defined by a specific achievement, or result, related to the learning moment, as it operates as something latent that reveals itself when necessary. It requires for a horse (or any animal) a being preserved in a life of living your own questions.

Module 4: The Horse in the herd

Living together means being in a dynamic map of relations, of inter-emancipations, of mutual privacy. This is what being a social animal means. Being a horse of the world, not a socialized object, but coexisting as social protagonist, building their own coexistence together, day after day, experience after experience, adventure after adventure. Learn to recognize the difference between social and socialized. Learn to be part of that adventurous world, which is what makes it possible to deepen your connection, to a dimension where you did not even think possible.

Module 5: Being a Horse defined as problematic

The growing notions on behavior brought a growing expectation towards horses to make it possible for human to help them fit society. Working with the best intentions towards what is seen as positive behavior, a positive outcome, it has become difficult to accept, or even recognize, an animal standing up for themselves. A horse might have a very different idea of their own experience in mind, risking being labelled "problematic". But society is not a fixed idea, society will change, starting with those that learn how to see someone for who they are, facilitating their own animality, scenarios for shared growth, for evolution in all kinds of coexisting moments. Learn how to prevent problems, not trying to adapt a horse to fit the situation. Learn to look beyond, as looking for the solution often means look far away from the horse.

BEING A HORSE Today



Modulo 6: Being a Horse and a Human today, an inclusive Society

Being a horse today means being exposed to beliefs, traditions and human habits that make life even more challenging, rather than easier. We see ourselves as non-animals, trying to be as humane as possible, but evolving in an inclusive coexistence, means finding back our own animality, the ability to break down our linear focus, to break down our functional approach in interactions, and grow in our own experiencing, preserving other animals in doing the same.

Program Calender

Module 1: September 17th 2023
Module 2: October 15th 2023
Module 3: November 12th 2023
Module 4: December 10th 2023
Module 5: January 7th 2024
Module 6: February 4th 2024

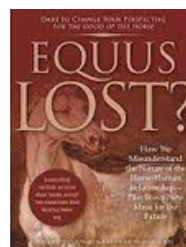
Each module will take place on a Sunday, once a month, from 14pm to 19pm CET.

Program Setting - Online

The course is organised in 6 days / 6 modules being interactive online classes, between September 2023 and February 2024. Being able to experience and to create space for individual experiences is central, even in the online dimension, the maximum number of participants will therefore be no more than six. Participants are invited and facilitated to recognizing topics in their own daily life, to ensure the lessons will be embodied in their own reality.

Teachers

Your guides and teachers in this unique course program are Francesco and José De Giorgio. Authors of the book **Equus Lost?** Articles as the Spontaneous Horse, and the Horse in the Room, and many inspiring interviews as Rediscovering the Horse. They live in Italy, in the Riviera dei Fiori, with their family of 8 horses, 5 pigs, 4 goats, a dog and a rooster among the olive trees. Their life together is adventurous, inspiring and one of profound knowledge and understanding of animals (human included) as owners of their own life.



"Their provocative book takes us into a dimension where shedding many known assumptions, showing a way forward that acknowledges that a horse, when allowed, is driven by their own inner motivation to explore and understand the world around them, including his relationship with humans."

Registration and costs

Contribution per participant is 1.150 Euro. Including all encounters and study-material. All proceedings go to the Sparta Sanctuary in Italy, and the animals living there. It is possible to pay in 3 instalments. Registration closes on July 17th 2023. If we haven't "met" you will be contacted after expressing your interest in joining the course for an intake Online, to be able to get a more informed idea to how the course fits your current learning-desire. Details for payment will be sent after the intake. Registration will be completed once the payment (or first instalment) has been fulfilled.

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