

The Body Language of Horses

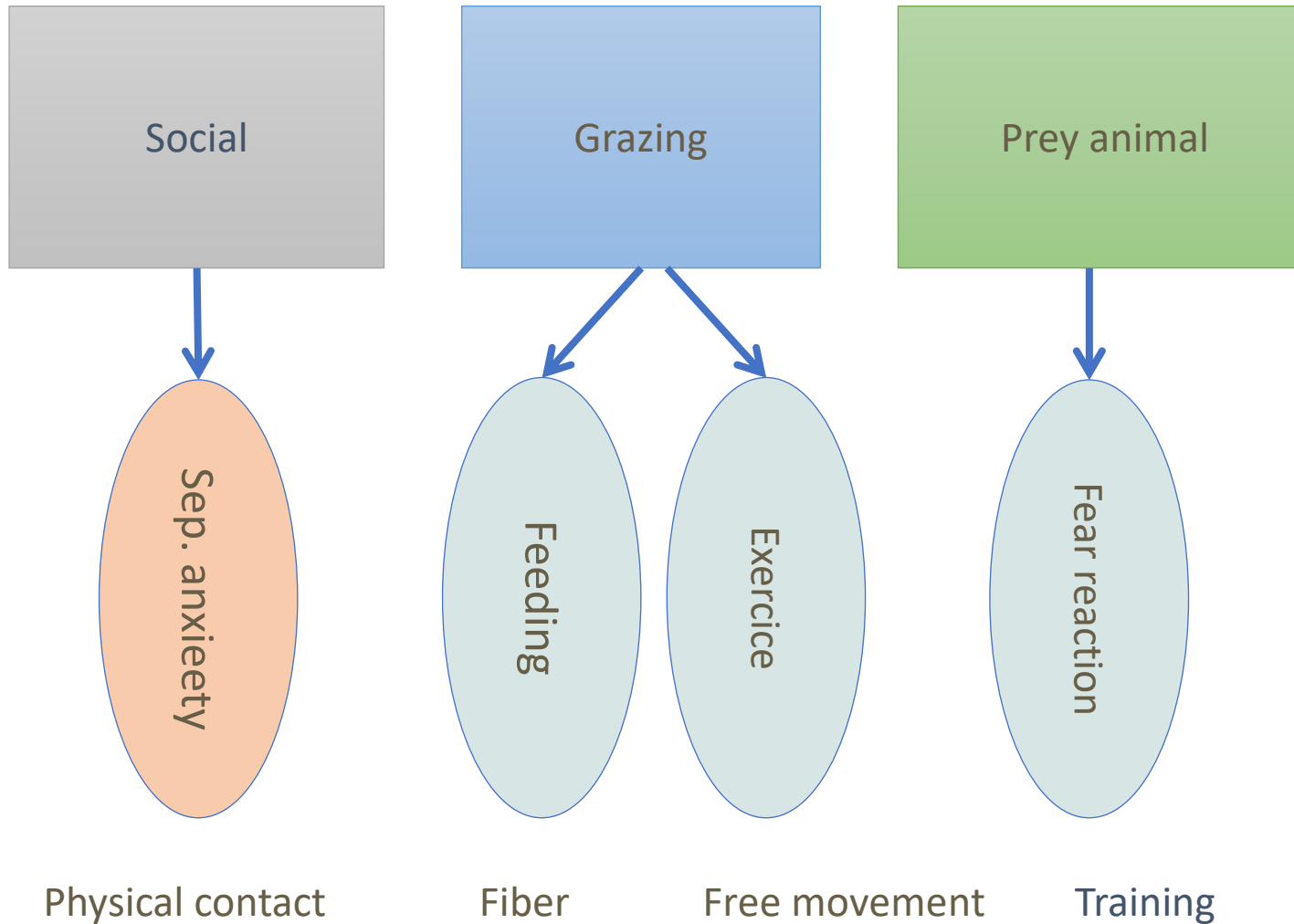


The horse is a grazing, social prey animal

- Several things make a horse unique in the animal kingdom.
- Horses are strongly social.
 - They are herd animals, which are at a higher comfort level when they maintain a visual contact with other horses.
- Horses are herbivores. They eat plants.
- Horses are considered prey species within the animal kingdom.
- Horses are capable of strong pairbond relationships.



Behavioural needs



Social behaviour

- As little aggression as possible



Social behaviour

- More aggression in stabled horses than feral ones
- Most aggression related to resources



Feeding



Feeding

- A preliminary study on the effects of head and neck position during feeding on the alignment of the cervical vertebrae in horses. (E. Speaight, N. Routledge, S. Charlton and C. Cunliffe)
- Vaihtelu!



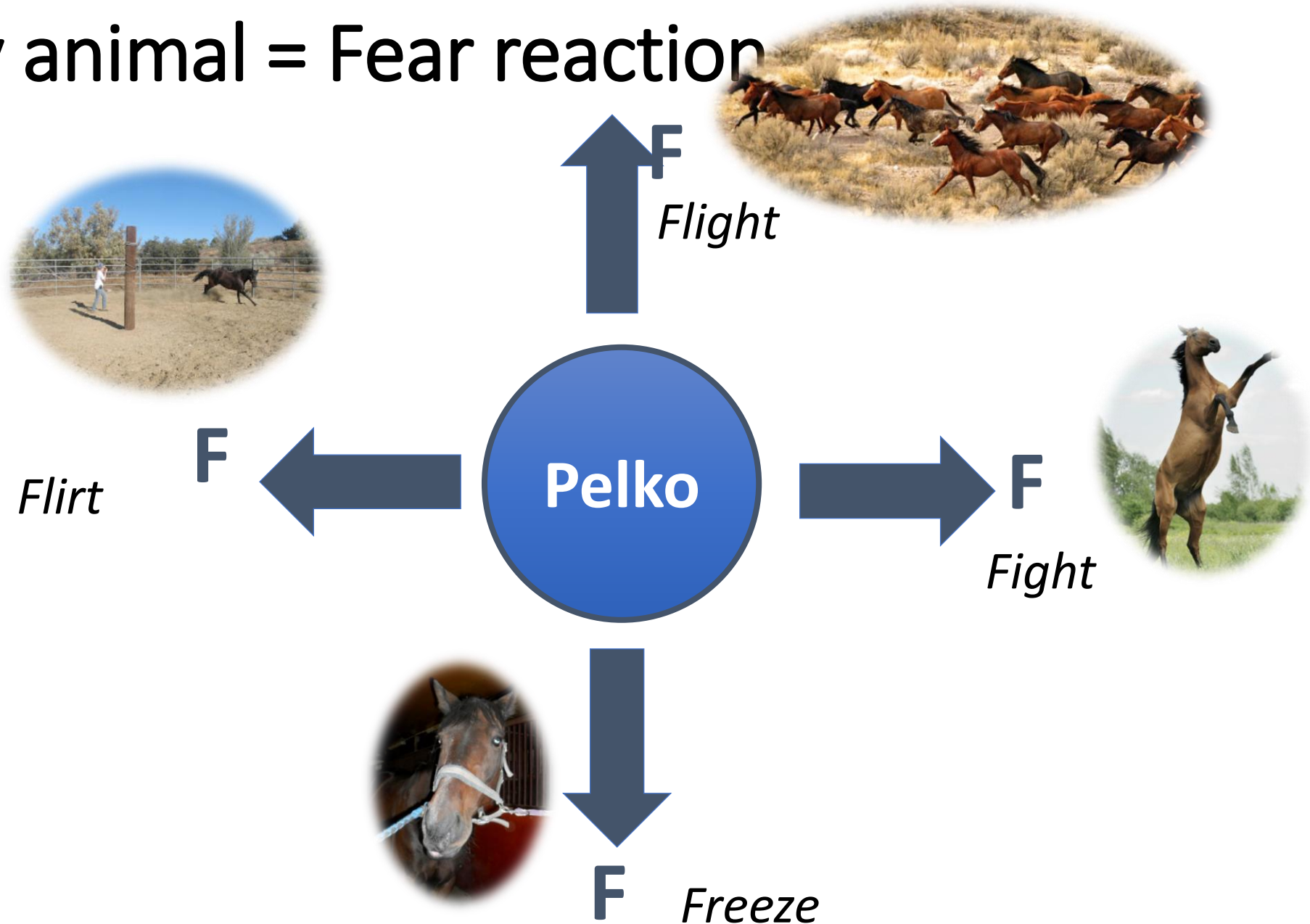


Exercise

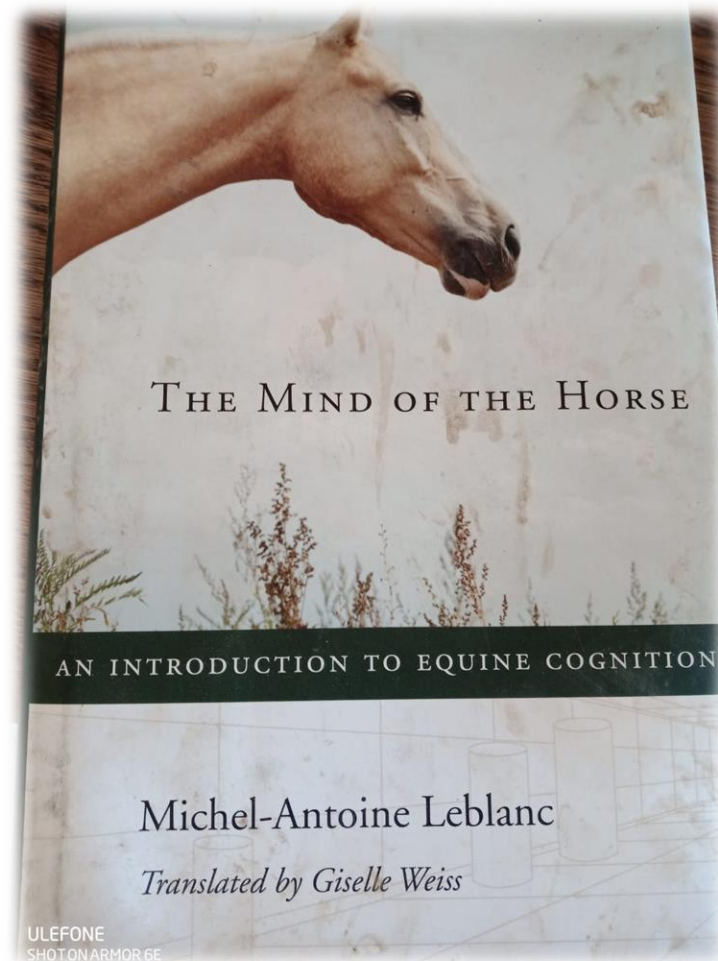
- Can walk up to 20 km to find water
- In pasture about 10 km/day



Prey animal = Fear reaction

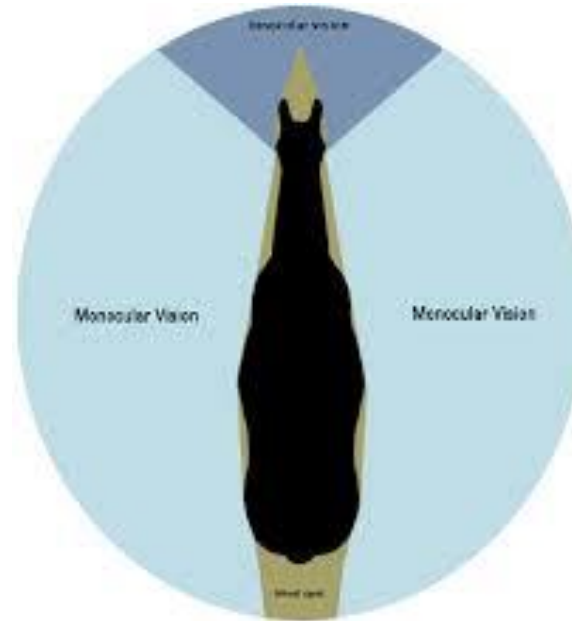


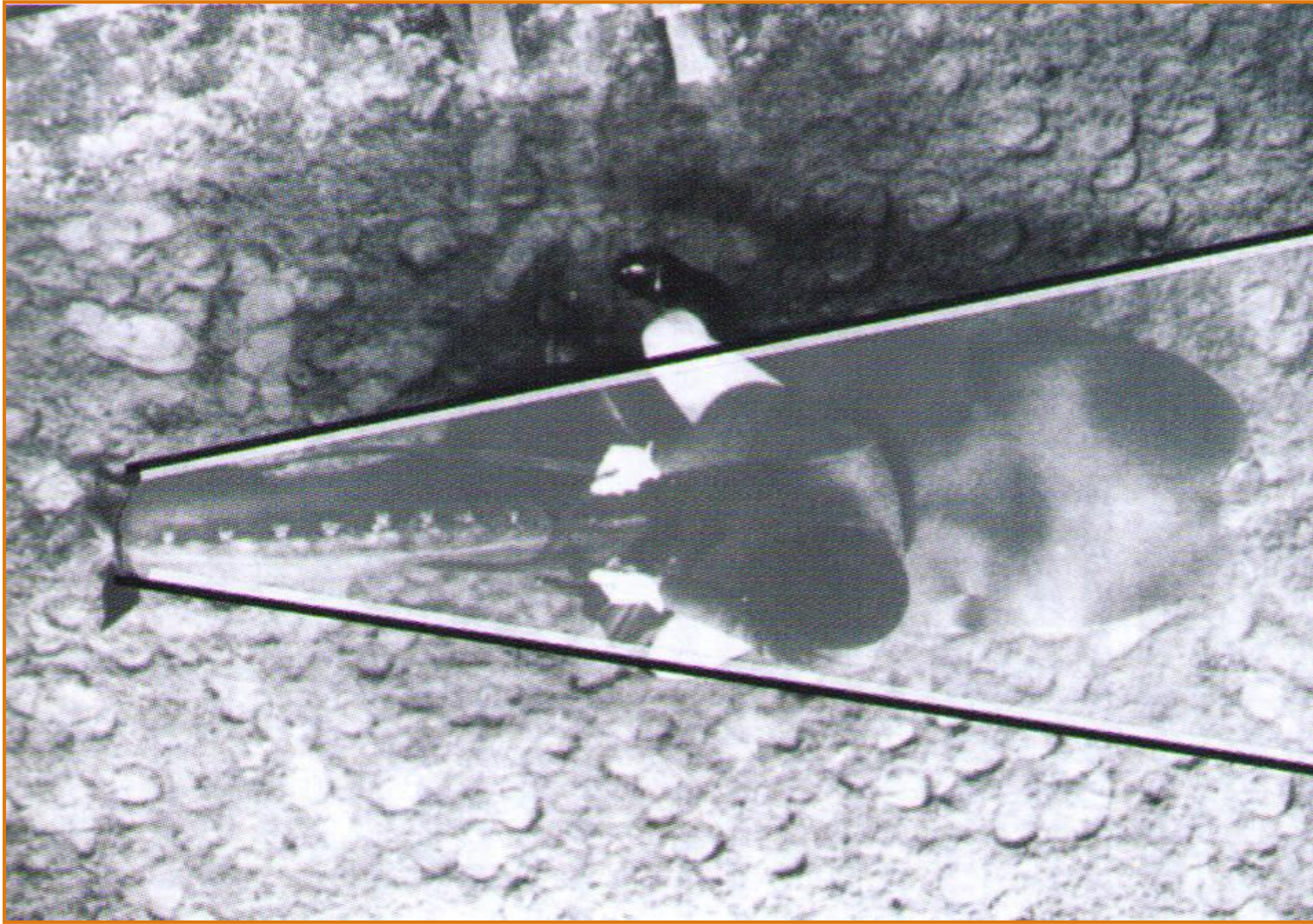
Cognition



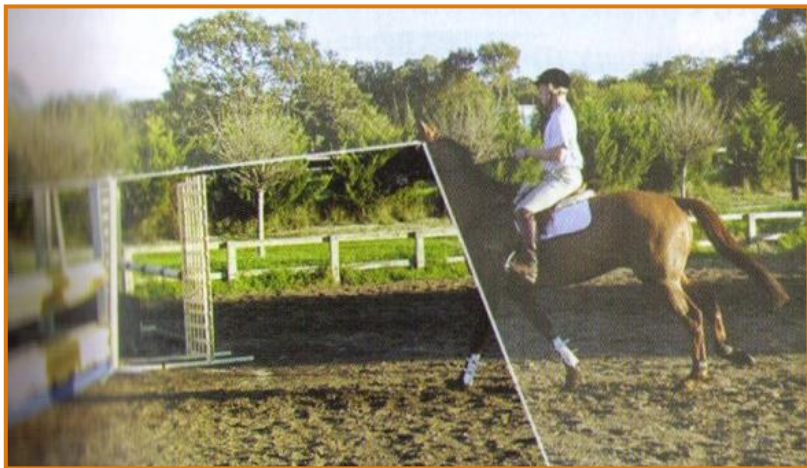
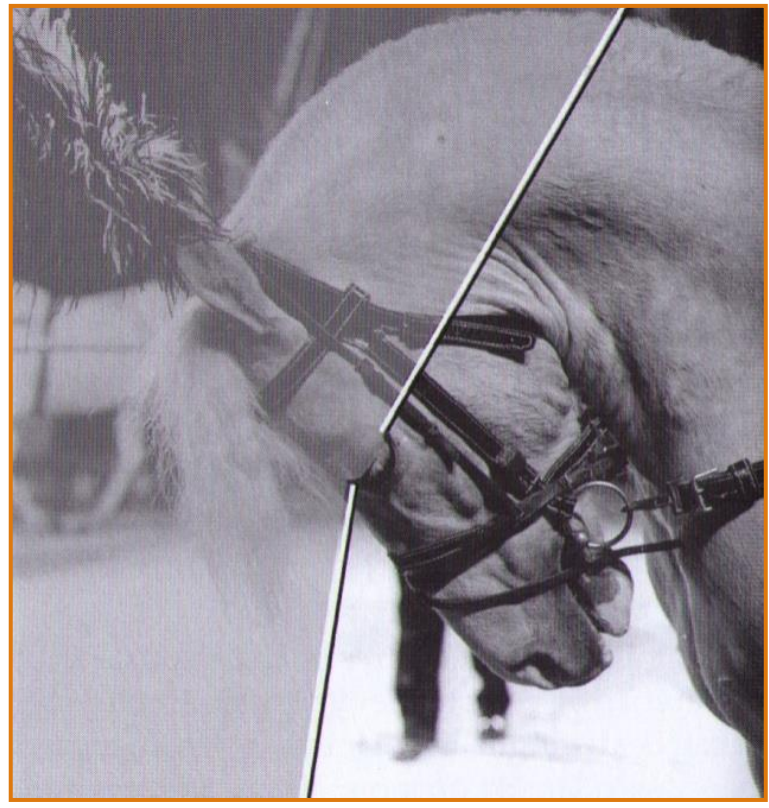
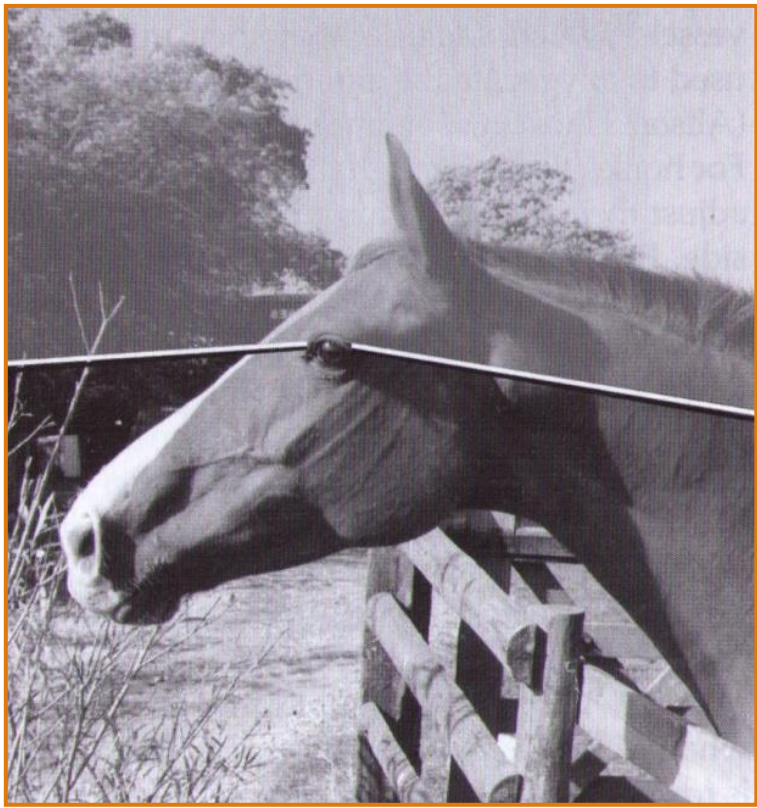
Sight

- **Hanggi, E. B. and Ingersoll, J.F. (2012).** Lateral vision in horses: A behavioral investigation. *Behavioural Processes*, 91(1), 70-76. DOI: 10.1016/j.beproc.2012.05.009.





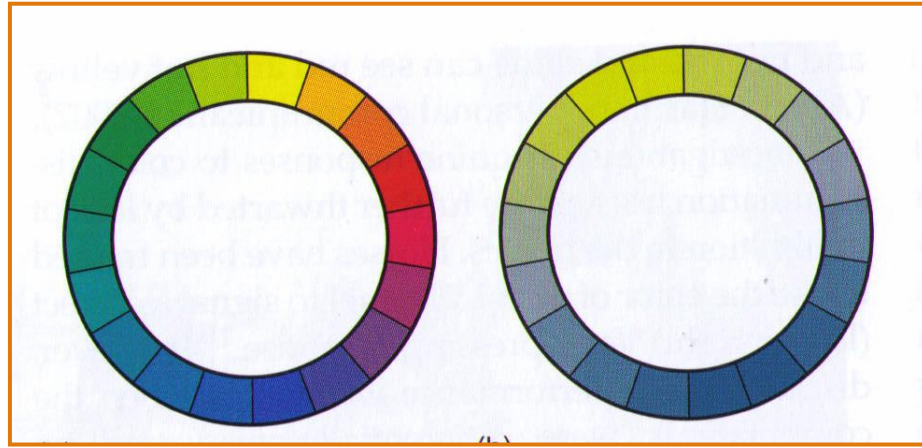
(McGreevy 2004)



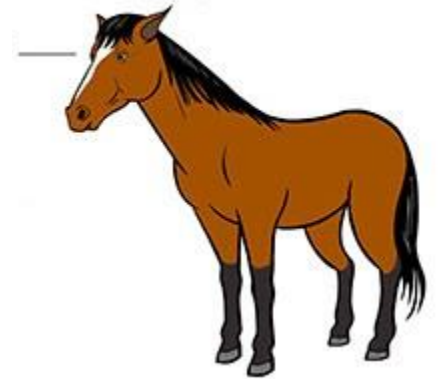
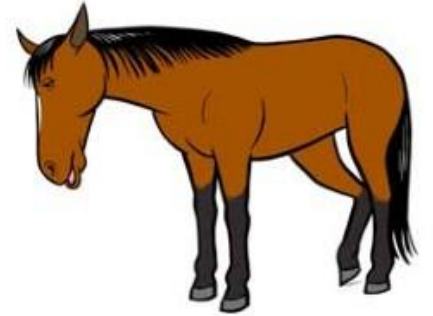
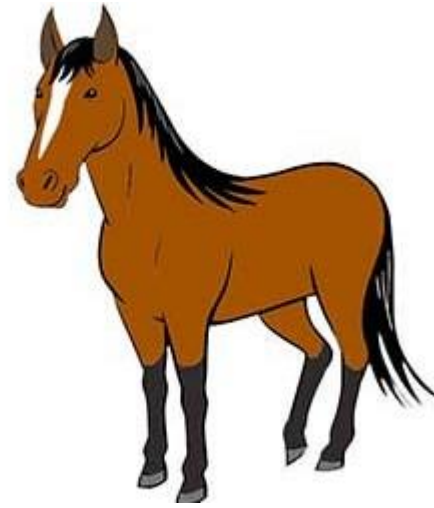
(McGreevy 2004)

Sight

- Dichromatic
- Panoramic view



What His Ears Say



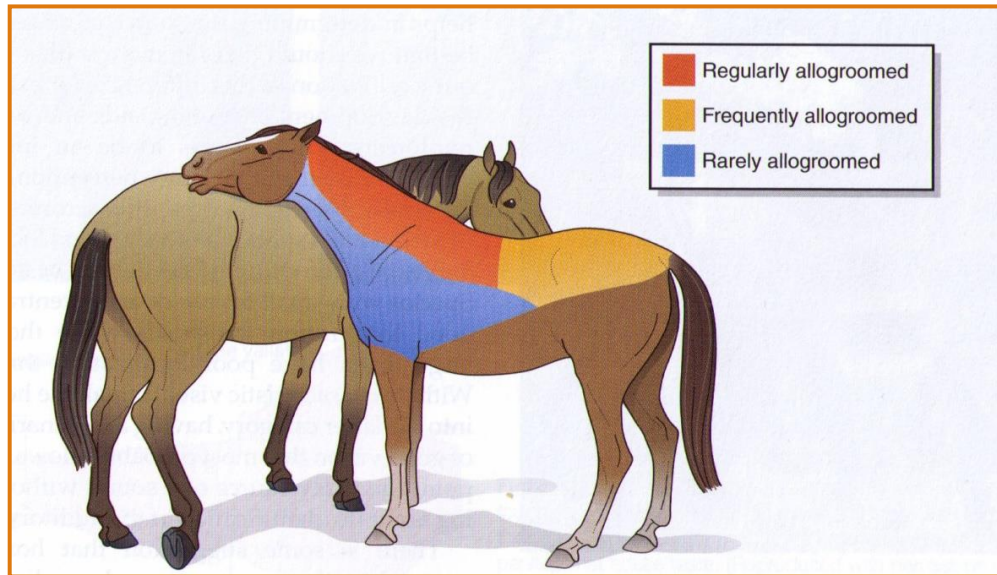
Facial expression



Smell



Touch



(Feh and Mazieres 1993)

Touch

- Scratching the wider reduces heart rate (Thorbergson et al 2016)



Training

- Mainly negative reinforcement

