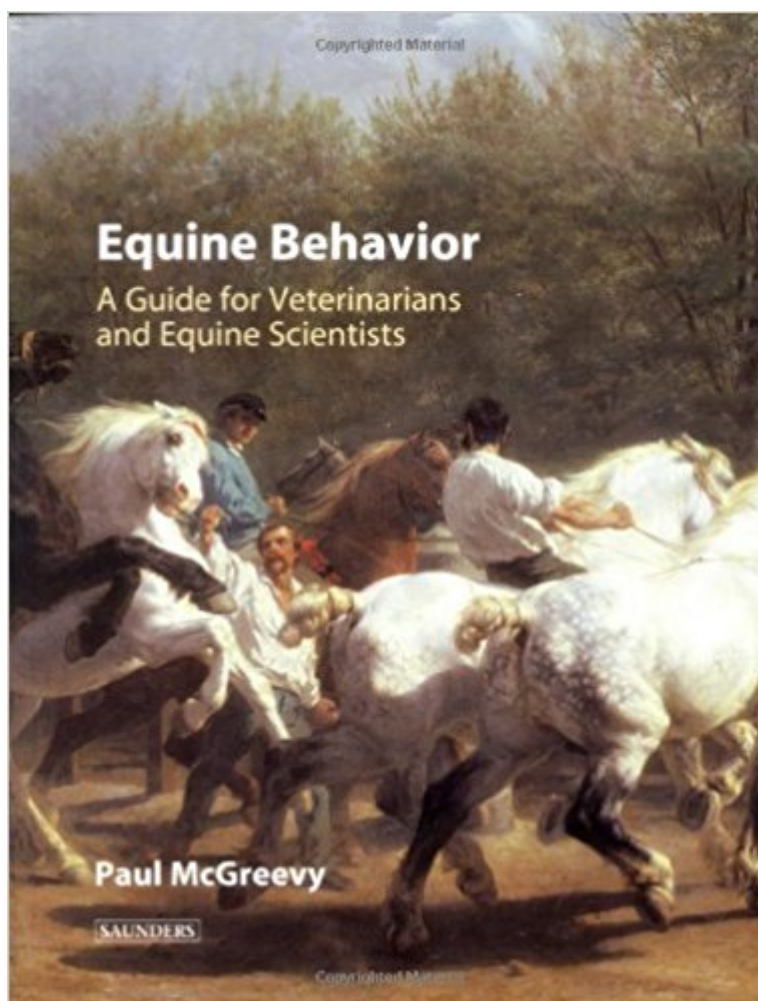


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# Equine Behavior: A Guide For Veterinarians And Equine Scientists



## Synopsis

Equine Behavior: A Guide for Veterinarians and Equine Scientists is the quintessential reference for all who really want to know what makes horses tick. Research in horse behavior has made great strides in recent years. This book examines the truth behind modern trends and ancient traditions. Full of insight, it rounds up the latest findings of practitioners and researchers from all over the world, drawing on both cutting-edge research and best practice. With more than 1,000 references, the book explores equine behavior from first principles, by considering the behavior of free-ranging horses and focusing on ways in which management and training influence the responses of their domestic counterparts. Equine physicians, trainers, handlers and owners all need to be students of equine behavior, because the first sign of a problem is often a change in behavior. So, whether you own, ride, lead, groom, feed or heal horses, what you observe is vital to your understanding. Behavioral problems in the stable and under saddle are a grave concern for equine veterinarians worldwide, because they can lead to poor performance, welfare issues, abuse and, ultimately, wastage. Traditionally, veterinarians gave priority to the physical health of their equine patients. This book is a unique attempt to demonstrate the way science can throw light on how and why problems and unwelcome behaviors arise. It also offers ways to bring about change for the better. Beautifully illustrated with photographs and line diagrams, Equine Behavior: A guide for veterinarians and equine scientists is an essential resource for practising veterinarians, students and enthusiasts with a specific interest in horses, ponies, and donkeys. Professional trainers and handlers, equine scientists and behavior therapists will also find its contents invaluable. Features a practical, hands-on approach to all aspects of equine behavior. Discusses all factors that effect equine behavior. Contrasts normal behavior with abnormal behavior. Reviews all behavioral problems. Lists and reviews the latest drug therapies. Addresses difficult-to-treat clinical problems such as head-shaking, with insights from the leading researcher in this area. Provides a brief clinical evaluation of 'horse-whispering'. Illustrates the key behavioral differences between horses and donkeys.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"With our association with animals there is the ever present tendency by us humans to interpret animal behaviour in a human way, and it is no different with horses. There are many occasions when we see or use human values and interpretations to describe or define the behaviour of our equine companions. More often than not it is done without us recognizing the fact, and to do so is to insult the uniqueness of equines and their behaviour. Observations on equine behaviour have been conducted for centuries and today there is greater inquiry from horse owners for information to understand more fully the behaviour of equines. If you have an inquiring and analytical mind and wish to understand better why and how your horse behaves then Dr Paul McGreevy's book Equine Behaviour is an outstanding reference. Although it is referred to as a guide for veterinarians and equine scientists, do not be put off. It contains a feast of information for the non-scientifically trained reader. There is a glossary of colloquialisms, ethological (what did you say? Hit an English dictionary it is in there) and equestrian terms for the vets and equine scientists, many of which would be only too familiar to equestrians. There are fifteen chapters covering 369 pages and the depth and breadth of the work is outstanding. Following the introductory chapter this reference work covers perception, behaviour and the brain, learning, social behaviour, communication, locomotory behaviour, ingestive behaviour, eliminative behaviour, body care, behaviour of the stallion, behaviour of the mare, training, handling and transport, and miscellaneous unwelcome behaviours, their causes and resolution. The utilization of photographs, line diagrams and tables to illustrate and amplify aspects of behaviour and key points is beautifully done. Furthermore the layout of the book is extremely reader friendly. What separates Dr McGreevy's book from other popular publications in the equine behaviour field is that his work is based on scientific study. Moreover it draws on scientific knowledge from over 1000 references. Dr McGreevy has drawn on the expertise of two contributors to enhance the work - Dr Caroline Hahn from the University of Edinburgh, UK wrote the chapter on behaviour and the brain and Dr McGreevy and Andrew McLean from the Australian Equine

Behaviour Centre, Victoria jointly wrote the chapter on training." Jane Vincent, Australian Horse Industry Research Newsletter, September 2004  
Hoofbeats, October 2004  
"This book is a unique attempt to throw light onto the how and why of problems and unwelcome behaviours, offering solutions and a practical hands-on approach to all aspects of equine handling and management. The easy to read and well laid out format, including excellent illustrations, photo's, tables, graphs and a comprehensive glossary allow any horseperson to understand and benefit from this book."  
"This is a well-researched and well-presented review of current observations and ideas on the subject of equine behaviour. This book does educate and, in my opinion, should be read by anyone working with, or training to work, with horses."  
Deirdre Carson, February 2005

Paul McGreevy qualified as a vet in Sydney and completed a Ph.D. in animal behaviour, specialising in equine behaviour, at Bristol University vet school. He returned to Sydney in Feb. 2000 to take up a position in the equine medicine department. He speaks and writes extensively on equine behaviour and is the author of two small trade books on small animal behaviour aimed at pet owners. He has a good reputation in the equine vet community in the UK and the USA, as well as in Australia. He is in the same department as Professor Reuben Rose and Dr Dave Hodgson, of Manual of Equine Practice fame. Prior to training as a vet, Paul was an experienced riding instructor, based in Sydney.

This book is clearly written for scientists, even though still in a digestible language that makes it quite palatable for the non-scientist. However, as a non-scientist, I do have to look up some terms and reread some passage, which I don't mind. The important thing: Even an experienced trainer can gain incredible insights into equine behavior, learning mechanisms and training approaches. As a scientist, the author does not stick to any particular 'dogma' and thus presents the topic from a refreshingly objective perspective. It's a pleasure reading this book and I plan to reread it again. Even half through the book, I felt that--by reading this book--I had done a favor to all horses I come in contact with and that the knowledge gained enables me to understand them better as a species with their own (sometimes mysterious, now less mysterious) behavior make-up.

This book is an excellent resource for not only veterinarians like myself, but any true professional in the equine industry. It contains fascinating scientific evidence (as much as is available at this time), as to the hows and whys of many equine behaviors. What I found particularly interesting was the case studies done which reveal the true significance to the long term behavior of the animal when

handled extensively as a foal, versus not. Excellent insight for anyone making judgement calls and establishing training protocols for nearly any horse.

It is indeed very academic and scientific, but that's just what I expected. I like to know the "why" of things I learn, and this fills the bill. There are all kinds of wonderful horse trainers out there, but so many of them just tell you what to do and you follow along like a robot. Until you understand equine behavior, you cannot make informed decisions about how to give and get the best from your equine partners! This book offers the reader a scientific explanation for equine behavior and you get to figure out how to behave around your horses with this information.

Nothing I haven't read before or already knew

I've been looking into taking classes to more effectively "get into horses minds" and found this book. It is very "textbook-ish" but is a great resource for all you knowledge seekers looking to learn more about horses and their tendencies. I've trained horses for years and will never stop learning from them, but this book has given me more insight as to why they are the way they are. Great service, shipped fast, excellent condition!

I originally purchased this book as a text book for an equine class and it quickly became one of my favorite resources for evaluating the how's and whys of horse behavior - everything from stallion management to why round pens aren't always the best resource for training. It's science-based but doesn't read like a text book. Excellent!

I can not praise highly enough the contents and form of this textbook. "THE BOOK" on horse behaviour and educated (=humane) treatment of horses I was looking for. This is a well written book stating facts, information and data expertly and critically presented and explained. Evidence-based digested scientific information on horse behaviour, physiology and learning theory essential if you aim to be well informed. In particular, the cases presented, including the solutions with practical advice in an educated approach are invaluable, even if you do not have a similar problem, as I found the descriptions inspiring. This was an interesting read for me, I enjoyed learning from this book and definitely intend to refer to it for the benefit of improving my approach to my pet. I have also recommended the book to people who work or own horses.

I bought this for my twin sister for Christmas. She has 1 gelding and 2 minis, and she is a novice to the whole horse world. In other words, we did not grow up with horses. She just bought her horses, and she is working with a trainer with the large horse. He's challenging, a dominant male horse. So she has had many ups and downs in this new learning process. I thought this book might help her understand her horses better to make a connection and develop a great relationship that is safe for both. She appreciated the professional form this text was written in, including references, etc. She is a PhD student, so this was something important to her. I hope she uses it.

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