

TITLE:

Natural communication with the horse and the possibilities of human – horse interaction

AUTHOR:

Bc. Lenka Volfová

DEPARTMENT:

Department of Biology and Environmental Studies (Katedra biologie a environmentálních studií)

SUPERVISOR:

PhDr. Kateřina Jančaříková, Ph.D.

ABSTRACT:

This thesis explores interspecies communication and, specifically, natural communication between the man and the horse. Through comparative research based on a programme developed by Ing. Josef Liška (Liška Solutions) for the assessment of the participant's personality, employing several exercises with a horse from the ground, the thesis aims at introducing ways in which horses can be used for the purposes of personal growth. For the purposes of this thesis, volunteers from three groups were assessed under this programme using the method of direct observation: teachers, business executives and people who work with animals.

The assessment was carried out by marking down points and comments. On the basis of the results obtained, the above three groups were subsequently compared among one another. The research shows that teachers excelled in six out of seven observed personal competencies while, compared to business executives, there is still space for improvement in terms of their energy. The results shown in relation to the observed group of business executives were very close to those of the teachers. The group of people working with animals displayed a different work style; their leadership approach leaned towards a liberal style of leadership. The merit of this thesis lies in the application of an original, little known personality assessment method. It demonstrates that one's personal competencies and style of leadership can be reflected through his communication with a horse, using the method of working with the horse from the ground. This method has great potential for the participants' personal development as they can receive, on the basis of the typology performed and their own experience, recommendations on what

areas they can focus on to improve, among others, their competencies needed in the teaching profession.

KEYWORDS:

Interspecies communication, working with a horse from the ground, natural communication, teacher, styles of leadership, pedagogy, personal growth, horse, personal competence for leadership.