

The horse is a large odd-toed ungulate mammal, one of modern species of the genus *Equus*. Horses have long been among the most economically important domesticated animals and although their importance has declined with mechanization, they are still spread worldwide. The horse is a prominent being in religion, mythology and art; it has played an important role in transportation, agriculture and war and it has served as a source of food, fuel, and clothing, too.

Most horse breeds are able to perform various kinds of work such as carrying humans on their backs or can be harnessed to pull objects such as carts or plows. Moreover, there are some horse breeds specially trained for certain tasks - lighter species of horses for racing or riding, heavier species for farming and other tasks requiring pulling power. Some horses, such as ponies, can be kept as pets. In some societies, horses are still a source of food, both meat and milk; in others it is taboo to consume them. In industrialized countries horses are predominantly kept for leisure and sport, whereas in other parts of the world they are still used as working animals. Both horses and humans have coexisted together for thousand years wherefrom an extensive specialized vocabulary has arisen to describe each horse behavioral and anatomical characteristic with a high degree of precision. Horse is a frequent motive in literature, painting and even vocals.

This thesis is theoretical analysis describing the role of the horse in the course of human history and culture. The text consists of four parts: the first one provides a brief overview of a horse from the biological point of view, the second part introduces an analysis of the work-horses, the third part then describes the horse as a symbol of status and investigates its role in ceremonial events and finally the last part deals with the horse in mythology and religion.