

RESPONSE 15- WHOLE BODY BALANCE

SUMMARY OF OVERALL EXPERIENCE IN LEVEL 1

This proved to be an interesting experience for me as I maneuvered through the various assignments and case studies. Although I am now retired from a life-long career as a Professor of Animal Care I still find it fascinating to review these topics and relive so many memories. I continue to fulfill my life with dogs as a dog groomer and with horses as a judge, a trainer and as a body worker. However exploring new applications has been my latest mission and this one was indeed very practical. I have always enjoyed grooming the dogs as they become very attached and truly our time together provides a mutual connective experience. I often feel that the touch of the hands is particularly calming and the grooming process tends to mimic many of the bowen moves. Indeed even the forced hair dryer is normally enjoyed by most dogs as it tends to activate the parasympathetic system. Who knew?

Anyways it was fun to explore these procedures with other species as with the chickens. I have always been fascinated that such a non-tactile type of animal can accept and enjoys human touch if accustomed to it gradually. I was surprised that it took only a few minutes to make a definite connection and be able to actually complete many of the moves.

The cats of course are a real hoot and they continually try to butt in whether I am doing another dog or cat even if only to share the space. I am a certified Equi-Bow practitioner so the horses were not new for me but each animal and session always present unique results. However I must admit I had to laugh at Regent who processes so readily that he often simply picks up the vibes while I am doing another horse and in this case all it took was being present while mucking his stall one morning and he took up the opportunity to bridge our connection. As well I have noted that the horses will actually process with each other and I have videos of them nudging and yawning, feeding off each other in the field.

The most intriguing case study was Titan, the German Shepherd with the Hypertrophic Osteodystrophy (HOD) that is found in many fast-growing large and giant breeds of dogs. The vet does not feel that he is in any pain or that it will cause any significant issues in the future. However he was supportive of my efforts to address the deformation and agreed that the braces were improving his posture even if only when wearing them. I intend to persevere with Titan and work towards improving his condition.

I must applaud the high quality of the program and the successful development of useful and effective modes of delivery - excellent videos and learning materials as well as practical assignments to support the learning process. The case studies were practical and provided an opportunity to experiment with various species and develop a personal routine and mode of the practice.

So thank you Debi for your attentive efforts to ensure that all the necessary tools and information were available for an efficient learning process and positive experience. I appreciate your quick response to any questions I might have had and the prompt feedback to the submission of Response 5. I intend to immediately carry on into the next level as I am eager to address new issues in other dogs I have lined up.

Looking forward to the next steps.

Catherine Slaney