

Calming Signals and Scentwork for Horses

With Rachaël Draaisma and Sarah Schlote

Living in a human world can be demanding for horses. Their welfare has a strong link to the amount of stimulation they can handle, and there are risks involved for horses and humans if the demands exceed their capacities. Assessing the horses' comfort or level of tension on a subtle level is a necessity. It is equally important to work on mutual understanding, fine tuning communication and understanding, and expanding the horse's window of tolerance, so they can live fear-free within their captivity conditions with their curiosity, impulse to explore, and individuality intact.

Join us for this exclusive event featuring Rachaël's ground-breaking work in reading and responding to equine language signs and calming signals, and offering mental stimulation through scentwork. Sarah will provide relevant trauma, neuroscience, somatic, and attachment-based teachings as frameworks to support the integration of calming signals and scentwork into EQUUSOMA® practice. Equuscience™ students are also welcome to attend!

The master class is made up of a 3-day online webinar and a 2-day in-person seminar, with video and photo examples, lecture, demonstrations, and experiential practice. Students may register for the webinar without taking the seminar. Spots are limited for the in-person seminars, and registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

Please note: *This event is not a train-the-trainer. Students may use the material in their explorations with their own equines or in their professional scopes of practice with clients, but this event does not qualify students to train other trainers or professionals in this work.*

Calming Signals Topics:

- What calming signals are and when they are used
- How no, light, or high tension (or activation) relate to the calming signals
- Recognizing when activation/tension are increasing or decreasing
- Using calming signals with horses to improve understanding
- Which calming signals help decrease activation and support relaxation
- How calming signals can inform and enhance various equine scopes of practice and horse ownership



Scentwork Topics:

- The impact of mental stimulation and scentwork on equine neurodevelopment and behaviour
- Different practical exercises and how to optimize them
- Addressing pitfalls and challenges
- The horse-human bond and the shift in roles that occurs in scentwork
- How scentwork can inform and enhance various equine scopes of practice and horse ownership

