

Synopsis

"Behavioral Issues in Horses: Why Do They Do That?" is a valuable resource for anyone who has experienced the fear or frustration of their horse exhibiting dangerous/undesirable behaviors. Through personal accounts that are both entertaining and educational, author and horse trainer Nicole Brickner covers the most common behavioral issues horses develop, including bucking, kicking, rearing, biting, bolting, and more. She begins by describing natural horse behavior and why horses behave the way they do, and then explains how we can use this knowledge to work with a horse on a level it can understand. Next, she explores the possible physical, behavioral, and emotional causes of the various behaviors, and explains how the solution to a particular behavior can be very different depending on which of those possible causes is the root of the issue. In this unique approach, the root causes are recognized as originating from either physical (pain, hunger, etc.), behavioral (choice, conditioning, habit), or emotional (fear, anger, instinct) sources. Depending on which of these triggers is causing the issue, the path to resolving the behavior is very different. Finally, Nicole explains how to address the various behaviors, with dozens of stories based on her own experiences that illustrate solutions to each behavior, for each possible root cause. If there are horses in your life, youâ™™ll enjoy the insights and adventures in "Behavioral Issues in Horses: Why Do They Do That?"

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As a past customer of Nicole's starting out two of our young 16+hh horses, it is plain to see how she practices what she has written. And how it works!! I do wish I had read a book like this before

handling horses as I could see how mistakes (and corrections) I have made affected the various horses I have had. She has even helped with a trailer phobia in one of our horses. It is about time someone comes out with an easy to understand book about how anyone can establish a trusting, respectful good relationship with their own horse and how much more enjoyable that bond can be. And you do NOT have to follow (buy into) a specific, famous trainer or buy special training tools in order to do this.

I don't remember the first time I was on a horse. They have always been part of my life. I've read a lot of books about horses, but this is the first time I read one cover to cover, in one sitting. I was pulled in by the Intro, and moved to tears by the Afterward. The heart of the book deals with problems and solutions in a way that make a lot of sense to me. The stories that go along with each section on behaviors are my favorite part. They make the concepts real and show you that where horses are concerned, one size does not fit all. I recommend this book to everyone who has anything to do with horses, or knows someone who does.

Horses are amazing, and it takes an understanding of the horse's perspective to truly appreciate how to develop a strong, trusting, and positive partnership. This is the message I have taken from this interesting, entertaining, and informative book. The author presents common horse behavioral issues in a clear, concise, and organized way. The effective use of real-life stories from the author's extensive experience reinforces the understanding of the application of the strategies applied to correct behavioral issues. I appreciate the kindness and compassion that the author demonstrates as well as the humor that accompanies even the most challenging situations. After reading this book, I am inspired to become more observant of my own behaviors and practices. I have a better understanding of how seemingly little things that I allow or reinforce can easily lead to bigger issues--I could identify with many of the situations the author described. This book is a "must read" for anyone wanting to understand horse behavior in order to establish an enjoyable and positive relationship with their equine partner. Thank you, Nicole Brickner!

I have experienced the frustration of not knowing how to manage bad behavior from my horse. I have excused bad behavior as cute or endearing then I have been confused when bad behavior escalates and frightens me. I have not known if it was caused by me or my horse. Often I have been embarrassed to seek help in understanding some basic issues. My shelves are full of books about horses, horse behavior, horse management, etc. and I have gleaned some bits of information

from each one of them. This book, *Behavioral Issues in Horses: Why Do They Do That?* written by Nicole Brickner, is different. From the touching and heartfelt forward through the afterword there was a consistent message that imparted the value and benefits of understanding the instinctual nature of the horse as it relates to the continually developing relationship between horse and human. Nicole respects horses and understands their nature and motivations. I might venture that she loves horses and wants to help others understand the responsibility that horse ownership entails and the incredibly powerful relationship that we can experience when we develop a thoughtful, positive leadership role with our horses. While not a "how to" book, the author communicates her message by providing many practical examples of understanding and then managing behavioral issues. The horse stories help the reader view issues from both the horse and owner/rider perspective. I found many stories that I could relate to and learn from... I found some that could have been *My story!* Some stories will make you laugh and some will make you reflect on your own behaviors and how they impact your horse. Some stories may help you have a different perspective on your horse's behavior and motivate you to try something new rather than experiencing ongoing frustration or behavioral escalation by both horse and owner. I'm not great at writing reviews and don't normally take the time to write them but I think this book is a gem! It is very well written. The foundation of information is very practical and based on experience. If you are interested in better understanding your horse, improving your relationship with your horse and improving your horse's performance and consistency this book is well worth your time. Your horse will thank you!

I enjoyed this book from beginning to end. The author clearly has a kind and insightful approach to working with horses, and an engaging writing style as well. My horse is 26 years old now, so we've worked through most of the "issues" he'll have (I hope!), but this book sure brought back some (great?) memories. A joy to read!

Nicole Brickner's book "*Behavioral Issues in Horses: Why Do They Do That?*" is packed with insight into the horse's mind and contains practical advice on correcting behavioral issues that often arise. She tackles so many important and common problems with skill and compassion, never employing harsh or cruel techniques. This book is a great resource, and it contains many anecdotal stories about specific horses and their issues, which she was able to correct. These stories are fun to read, and they make the information so much easier to understand. It is very clear that the author handles horses with the utmost respect and keeps the horse's well-being at the center of her work and yet

she is able to correct difficult and sometimes dangerous behavior for all sorts of horses and riders.
Bravo!

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