“HEY, [insert name].

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO ENGAGE IN THIS CONVERSATION WITH ME, I APPRECIATE THE EFFORT AND THOUGHT YOU ARE PUTTING IN TO THIS! I’M REALLY CURIOUS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR INPUT AS I’M ALWAYS LOOKING TO IMPROVE AND APPRECIATE THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING I AM MISSING.

BELOW IS WHERE MY THINKING IS AND I WOULD LOVE TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS ON WHAT I HAVE TO OFFER SO THAT TOGETHER WE CAN CONTINUE TO LEARN AND DO WHAT’S BEST FOR OUR HORSES/LEARNERS!

I ALSO APPRECIATE THAT PERSONALLY I AM STILL WORKING THROUGH THE LANGUAGE OF OUR SCIENCE AND WHAT WE DO MYSELF SO I MIGHT BE WRONG IN SOME OF MY WHAT I HAVE TO SAY! I DON’T WANT TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION I THINK I KNOW EVERYTHING RATHER I’M SUPER KEEN TO STAY IN CONVERSATION WITH YOU UNTIL WE BOTH DEVELOP A UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF EACH OTHERS CONTRIBUTIONS.

ONCE AGAIN OF COURSE THE GOAL IS ALWAYS TO DO WHAT’S BEST FOR OUR LEARNERS/HORSES!

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FROM MY UNDERSTANDING OF THE SCIENCE The reason that a ~~current~~ behavior is not punished when you apply a R+ trained cue, is that the ~~current~~ behavior is not decreased. My horse will be WHAT I LABEL AS happy to stand in the future no matter how many time’s I cue to move with a R+ trained cue. OF COURSE. EACH ANIMAL IS AN INDIVIDUAL AND WE USE THE INDIVIDUAL ANIMALS BEHAVIOR TO GUIDE OUR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT IS REINFORCING AND/OR PUNISHING TO THEM.

WHEN I SAY CUE THIS IS WHAT I MEAN = (Insert definition of cue)

*Because if my horse is standing, and I apply a R+ trained walk cue, that R+ trained cue is marking and reinforcing standing (IF THE BEHAVIOR OF STANDING IS MAINTAINED AND/OR INCREASE IN FREQUENCY IN THE FUTURE). ~~The prediction is that standing will maintain or increase.~~ My HYPOTHESIS IS THAT MY horse is WHAT I WOULD LABEL AS happy (finds it WHAT I WOULD LABEL AS emotionally appetitive) to stand still because it has a history of reinforcement.

WHEN I SAY MARKING THIS IS WHAT I MEAN =* (Insert definition of marking)

*If I ask my horse to move with a R- trained cue, that R- cue is punishing standing. The prediction is that standing still will decrease. My HYPOTHESIS IS THAT MY horse is not so WHAT I WOULD LABEL AS happy (finds it WHAT I WOULD LABEL AS emotionally aversive) to stand still because standing still has a history of punishment.*

*~~We don’t see this play out because~~ We don’t INTENTIONALLY apply ~~a~~ R- trained cue’s AND SO RARELY SEE THIS IF AT ALL IN OUR TRAINING. ~~aversively enough or often enough to extinguish the standing still behavior. But it is the same path that leads to decreasing or extinguishing the behavior. That is, if every time our horse stood still, we applied an R- cue, (or pressured it to move), it would give up trying to stand still and just keep moving. Standing still would decrease.~~*

If every time our horse tried to stand still ~~and~~ we applied an R+ trained cue to move, WE MIGHT HYPOTHESISE ~~it would still continue to offer standing still~~ standing still would maintain or increase.”

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I HOPE EVERYTHING I HAVE ADDED MAKES SENSE, PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT ANY OF IT AND I CAN’T WAIT TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS.

BEST REGARDS
LYNDSEY