

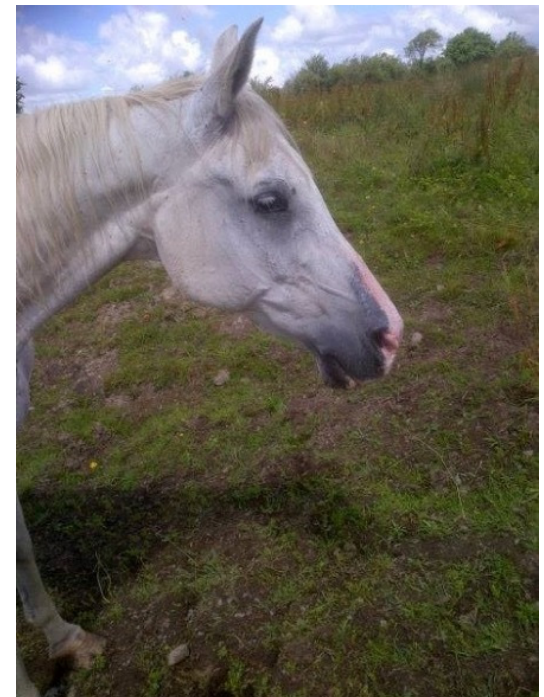
Equine Triads: Horse, Owner and Partner – Who Loves Ya Baby?

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In the beginning.....

- 'Do Horses Lead to Divorces?' asked Horse & Hound (July 2007)
 - 'YES' said my husband.....!!!
- In discussion with Dashper and Wallace
 - Probably – Wallace
 - No – Dashper
- The project was born



The Research

- Questionnaires, Interviews, Discussions
- Multi-introspective
 - Us
 - Our partners



Kate and Ian

- Kate had Charlie before meeting Ian, who is totally non-horsey
- Charlie is in full livery
- Kate earns more than Ian, difference is 'Charlie money'
- Ian sees Charlie as 'Kate time' but would like a little more involvement
- Kate and Ian have no children and no plans for any
- Kate is always rushing and would like more time with Charlie but doesn't want to upset Ian
 - Standing joke about time



Carrienne and Jason

- Carrienne has 3 horses and 1 livery at home
- Carrienne and Jason have 1 young daughter and a child on the way
 - Jason very worried about safety of daughter
- Jason doesn't like the time taken
 - Riding
 - Looking after the horses
- Resentful of moving to the country
- But actually supportive emotionally



Julie and Stephen

- Herd of horses at home – number fluctuates between 9 and 4
 - One is Stephen's – started riding when he met me
- One teenage son – non-horsey
- Stephen hates time spent 'doing horses'
- Stephen worries about money
- Loves the horses but 2 maximum
- Differences of opinion over
 - Riding and tacking up
 - Cost and Time



Initial Findings - Similarities

- All partners are more sympathetic and empathetic than we expected and understood.
- All earn less than we do
- All have an issue with the time taken to some degree
- Communication is key
 - Lacking - arguments



Initial Findings - Differences

- Horses at home v *full* livery
- Amount the partners are/feel *expected* to be involved
- Family time separate
- Number of horses



Discussion

- How honest were they?
 - All said horses come before them
 - Safety of us (and family) came up
 - All want more of our time with them
 - None like the commitment – OK for Ian as little there
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- We shied away from it but is there an element of jealousy? (some comments led to this)



Food for thought

- Made us more sympathetic to them
 - Carrienne now selling a horse
 - Julie more able to have old ones pts and not asking Stephen to ride more
 - Kate riding out more with Ian on his bike
- Made them think more deeply about the horses and their role in family life
 - They accept we are who we are because of the horses (and that we will still have them in the future)



So, will horses lead to divorces?

- If not managed properly – YES
- Family should come first
- As with other aspects give and take are important
- Communicate – talk not argue
- One horse in full livery seems the optimum
 - And no kids!

Note that this is early days and needs more analysis.
The final work will be published next year.



Your thoughts please

- Does this resonate with your partnerships?



Thank you for listening
Any Questions?

