# Horse handling and training series

## Part 1: Lunging – Answers

1. Provide two reasons why it is the horse handler’s responsibility to have an understanding of natural horse behaviour.

To develop management and training that improves the welfare of the horse and the safety of the handler.

1. In one sentence, explain what is meant by the term ‘anthropomorphism’.

Anthropomorphism is the assumption that animals have the same needs/characteristics of humans.

1. Provide an issue that anthropomorphism can lead to.

Anthropomorphism can lead to welfare issues if we provide horses with what we think they need, rather than what they actually need.

1. Horses have a strong flight response. In two sentences, explain the difference between a flight and a fight response.

Animals with a flight response will try to run away from anything they identify as danger or a threat, and will only fight if they cannot run away. Animals with a fight response will try to fight anything that is threatening them before considering running away.

1. Provide the three basic concepts of training.

Routine, habit, and consistency.

1. Provide three reasons a handler would lunge a horse prior to riding it.

* To remove excess energy.
* To assess mood.
* To assess soundness.
* To increase horse and handler safety.
* To assess the education level of the horse.
* To ensure the horse has the fundamental foundations of education.

1. Provide a list of what can be achieved through lunging.

* Removal of excess energy.
* Enhance respect for the handler.
* Enhance safety for the horse and handler.
* Increase the balance, coordination, muscle condition, and focus of the horse.
* Assessment of the horse’s mood, education level, and soundness.
* Transfer the weight from the front end to the back end.
* Enhance the horse’s responsiveness to aids.
* Increase the horse’s education.