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Introduction

A - Space: an encounter between horse and man

Physical space is the operational terrain of living things: if we act upon this space, it bears the mark of our will, it becomes ours, because we have modified it.

Yet there is not one space, but spaces corresponding to different species, different individuals of a species, and the various sensory inputs of any given individual.

Moreover, a species does not live alone in a given zone, but in community with a number of other organisms, who are also exchanging signals. Men and horses thus find themselves sharing the same ecological niche. It needed only an interaction between the two species for there to exist, in their respective universes, a common element, mathematicians would speak of 'intersection of two sets'.

Man, thanks to his stage of evolution, possesses the capacity to penetrate the relationship of cause and effect existing between signals given off by horses and their behaviour, and the horse, being made suitable for domestication by an enlarging of the selectivity of its releaser signals, these two have been able to communicate with one another and establish commensal, and even symbiotic, relationships.

B - Their respective personal space

Man structures his space into concentric zones, which have been studied by the anthropologists Ed. Hall and R. Summer.

Surrounding his internal space, he perceives an intimate zone (up to 45cm.), a personal zone (from 45cm. to 1.35m.), a social distance (up to 3.70m.), and beyond that a public distance; these various zones being structured gradually, in that order, along with the growth of the child. Man also possesses an imaginary space encompassing everything.

The horse too, in an equivalent fashion structures its interior space, then a personal space (the virtual dynamic space extending out to 1.5m. at rest), then an "interindividual" zone between any two individuals (covering up to about 6m. radius), a social space, which is occupied by the whole group, and finally the

exterior space which includes the rest of the home range.

C - Intersection of their respective spaces

Given that horses and men construct their territories in a centrifugal manner, progressing from their internal zone out to their furthest exterior, the interaction between the two on the other hand is developed in the other direction, in a