

**LEARNING BEHAVIOUR OF HORSE [*Equus ferus caballus*  
Linnaeus 1758] IN NEPAL CAVALRY BARRACK,  
SINGHADURBAR, KATHMANDU**



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**Batch: 2068/069**

**A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the  
requirements for the award of the degree of Master of  
Science in Zoology with special paper [Ecology]**

**Submitted to  
Central Department of Zoology  
Institute of Science and Technology  
Tribhuvan University  
Kirtipur, Kathmandu  
Nepal**

**September, 2015**

## RECOMMENDATIONS

This is to recommend that the thesis entitled “LEARNING BEHAVIOUR OF HORSE [*Equus ferus caballus* Linnaeus 1758] IN NEPAL CAVALRY BARRACK, SINGHADURBAR, KATHMANDU” has been carried out by Kamal K.C. for the partial fulfillment of Master’s Degree of Science in Zoology with special paper [Ecology]. This is his original work and has been carried out under my supervision. To the best of my knowledge, this thesis work has not been submitted for any other degree to any institutions.

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## LETTER OF APPROVAL

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**CERTIFICATE OF ACCEPTANCE**

This thesis work submitted by Kamal KC entitled “LEARNING BEHAVIOUR OF HORSE [*Equus ferus caballus* Linnaeus 1758] IN NEPAL CAVALRY BARRACK, SINGHADURBAR, KATHMANDU” has been accepted as a partial fulfilment for the requirements of Master’s Degree of Science in Zoology with special paper Ecology.

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## DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the work presented in this thesis has been done by myself, and has not been submitted elsewhere for the award of any degree. All sources of information have been specifically acknowledged by references to the authors or institutions.

Date: 9/29/2015

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Kamal K.C.

## **Acknowledgements**

I express my sincere honour and special thanks to my supervisor, Professor Dr. Nanda Bahadur Singh for his guidance, encouragement and brilliant insight throughout this research work.

I am highly obliged to Professor Dr. Ranjan Gupta, head of Central Department of Zoology, T.U for her kind support, suggestions and encouragement. I express my sincere thanks to my respected professors of Central Department of Zoology, TU.

I would like to thanks to staffs of NCB for granting me permission to carry out this research work. I express my thanks to the chief of Army Staff General Gaurav Shumsher J.B. Rana, Adjutant General Rajendra Bikram Shah, Director of Public Relation, Brigadier General Jagadish Chandra Pokhrel, Commanding Officer, NCB Lieutenant Colonel Kiran K.C, DPR Major Tilak K.C, Major Rabi K.C, Janddar Jagadish Ghising for their cooperation.

I am thankful to trainers of horses at cavalry during my data collection, Rebant Basnet, Ram Sharan Neupane, Sanjay Tamang, Nabaraj Lama, Jagat Pandit Chhetry and Uddav Khatiwada.

My special thanks go to Sergeant Madan Kumar Pandey for regular help in my dissertation, Sabita Gurung for her support in GIS Mapping of the study area. My special thanks are due to Ms. Sabitri Basnet who made the effort in typing formatting and printing of the text.

I am grateful to my mother for encouragement and support through out the course of study and I would like to dedicate this dissertation to my loving mother.

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# Abstract

Scientists and equestrians continually seek to achieve a clearer understanding of *Equus* learning behaviour and its implications for training. Behavioural and learning processes in the horse are likely to influence not only *Equus* athletic success but also the usefulness of the horse as a domesticated species. However, given the status and commercial importance of the animal, *Equus* learning behaviour has received only limited investigation. Indeed this experimental research on learning behavior of horse colts studies on different behaviors of horse colt during learning stage. Learning ability index (LAI) is selected as major statistical tool for the comparison of learning ability of different age groups of colts.

Learning behavior of *Equus ferus caballus* was studied at NCB (Nepal Cavalry Barrack) by the direct observation, field survey and questionnaire method. Field research was conducted mainly from June 2014 to August 2014 to explore the learning behavior of colt.

The total populations of horses in NCB were 101 among them 50 were gelds, 6 colts, 13 stallions, 4 fillies and 28 mares. Expert trainers give training to horses having age below 4 years and above 2 years. Horse school in NCB is rectangular having height 3m, length 60 m and breadth 20m. On the ground of horse school there is sand, wooden dust and horse dung up to 15cm height. Each horse is controlled by single trainer. Training is given every day until they do not complete their training.

This research includes the learning behavior of six colts in NCB. During training colts show different behavior like fighting, flighting, kicking and biting. Trainers of horse teach to horse by repeating every event for many days and they reward to horse if it does nice and punishes if it does mistake (fighting and biting). They reward by giving food. Every trainer takes stick to punish them. Learning ability test does not show any significant difference among six colts due to the less difference in their age group. Punishment and reward given to the colt don't effect for their learning.

The major recommendations of this study are to use scientific technology and tools in NCB for the training of horses. Horse breeding and training should be improved for the local people, horse club and horse school for the improvement of horse sports. It may help in the development of country in the field of sports.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

| <b>Abbreviated form</b> | <b>Details of abbreviations</b>                     |
|-------------------------|---|
| cm                      | Centimeter  |
| CUCVM                   | Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine   |
| ICZN                    | International commission on Zoological Nomenclature |
| JC                      | Jockey Club   |
| m                       | Meter   |
| m <sup>2</sup>          | Meter Square  |
| LAI                     | Learning Ability Index                              |
| NCB                     | Nepal Cavalry Barrack                               |
| USEF                    | United States Equestrian Federation                 |
| UC                      | University of California                            |
| VCE                     | Vivo Colostate Education                            |