

S blížící se návštěvou Gabby Harris v ČR (v prvním týdnu října 2016, termíny seminářů na http://www.treninkjerozhovor.cz/c_cz/769_770/seminare-a-prakticke-lekce_aktualni-seminare-a-prednasky/), jsem jí požádal o několik odpovědí na otázky ohledně její práce, jejího vztahu k ČR a k obsahu seminářů. Anglický originál přikládám níže, do češtiny ho přeložíme během několika dnů.



Franta: *Hello Gabby, because the term of your seminars in Czech is early coming (starting October the 2nd), I would like to ask you for a short interview for their attendees.*

You are coming to Czech Republic for fifth time, and for fourth time you are providing here seminars for public. But Czech Republic is not the only place in the world which you have been visiting as a trainer or animal training lector. Could you let us know at least the most important or interesting localities you have been working with animals including marine mammals and exotics, horse and dogs?

Gabby: I have had the good fortune to meet with and work with some incredible people both locally and in some amazing countries. My first

international consult was to Singapore where I got to interact with an Eastern culture that was very foreign to me. That was probably where I learned to look for things from a different cultures perspective. I have been fortunate to practice that lesson over and over. And in that, learned that any country including my own has any number of cultures. Some other places I have consulted that that were pretty exotic for me include the Philippines, Egypt and Dubai. The species are also so diverse. However those that know me will remember me saying that the principles are always the same. I consulted just yesterday for an aquarium in Cape Town and was most impressed when the stingray keeper who is busy training the animals for a guest interaction with the public spoke of how she wanted the animals to have free choice to Come or go.

Franta: *Czech dog and horse trainers do know you mostly as a personality, who is able to connect the science based training and practical experience with human psychology and soul of the animal and human. Your style of work has for us a “soul dimension”, which (at least for me) makes you specific from other animal training authorities. But, how would you personally characterize your way of animal training?*

Gabby: That is a difficult question. I can only say what motivates me. And it is the goal of ensuring that the communication between animal and human is ethical. I believe this is only possible if we are completely honest in front of the animal. Because I have experienced that we always receive pure honesty from the animal we can learn from them if we choose. To be honest we have to uncover our true motivations in life. And this is sometimes held at a sub conscious level. When we do this we are able to be much more effective in our relationships with the animals.

Franta: After so many visits to Czech Republic you can already compare the animal training in here with the rest of world. Is Czech Republic and Czech trainers specific for you comparing with the rest of world?

Gabby: In my first visit to Czech I was collected from the airport by you. You told me something that was illuminating about the Czech people. You said that I should not ask a Czech person how they are unless I really want to know. In common English practise when a person says how are you the accepted answer is Fine. You warned that the Czech people would tell me the story about how they are. With my goal of assisting and motivating honest communication with animals this tendency is amazing. I find the Czech people to be honest and humble and open. The people I have met are true animal lovers who are eager to do right by the animals with which they work. The rich culture and extraordinary history of your country has created an innovative open minded people. I love working with the incredible Czech people and usually learn so much more than I teach when i visit.

I would also like to commend the passion I note for animal care and training. I also feel certain that under the tutelage of you Franta, you have created some incredible energy around positive reinforcement training. Your innovation and insight makes you, in my mind, a world leader in the field of animal training. I have no doubt that your name will go down in the history books for having made a significant impact to ethical animal communication.

Franta: Thank you ☺ This year we decided to provide in Czech two of your new seminars, both connected with second book your are preparing. These seminars are 1 – Problem solving, which I do understand as more methodological and 2 – Finding your button, which seems to be more about psychology of the trainer and connection between the trainer and the animal. Both of them will be provided in “theoretical” and “practical” version. The theory is coming on Sunday full day, the practical versions with dogs will be on Monday and Wednesday evening. Could you let us know more especially about the practical versions with dogs? What will be the difference between the two topics? Is the Problem solving really “just the methodology” and Find your button “just the psychology”?

Gabby: Again for those that know me you will know that I talk far too much ☺

The two topics do overlap a little and also enhance each other. With problem solving for example- the problem is 99% of the time a result of what we have done. With this said however, the theory will provide a method of problem solving and the practical will implement the method.

With find your button - the problems occur usually because of our buttons. What I mean by button is the triggers that we may have that cause us to be reactive as a result of our personal stressor. For example it may be that we don't have enough self worth. Subconsciously we set up situation with our animals that cause us to fail so we can reinforce that lack of self worth. That obviously is a problem that needs to be solved. ☺

Theoretically we will explore how these triggers limit us in relationship with the animals. Practically there will be exercises that can help to begin to expose the subconscious limits and begin to liberate ourselves from these limits.

Franta: Which one of these two seminars would you more endorse to experienced trainers who already do know your work, experienced trainers who do not know your work and which one to beginners?

Gabby: The problem solving workshop will be more practical and user friendly as it is a method that will be shared. If participants are ready to look within and unpack their limits the finding your button is more for them. People who know my work may find the problem solving the next step. However they are clever so may have worked out this next step on their own or with you. I think the choice of workshops depends on where people want to enhance their personal skills.

Franta: Do you have any message for us in Czech?

Gabby: I feel so incredibly honoured to be invited back to Czech. To be there for Franta's second book launch is such an enormous honour. To be learning from this animal loving nation is a joy I look forward to. If people from Czech have not travelled they will not know how fortunate you are to live in a place where there is so much respect for animals. I feel so lucky to be visiting and experiencing this respectful culture. So overarching message is thank you thank you thank you.

Franta: Many thanks, looking forward to see you in three weeks!

