

You've Probably Heard Pat Parelli Cite This One-Liner "Does Your Horse Want A Divorce?" And Layer It With A Joke Or Two...

Pat is trying to get you to look at your self from your horse's perspective. He's also challenging you to question whether or not your horse is happy with your relationship.

It's not uncommon for us as humans to think, "Hey, if I'm happy, my horse must be happy." However, this isn't necessarily the case. Your horse may be wanting a divorce!

Actually it's not a divorce your horse may be looking for; it's different leadership. Pat and Linda remind us that a horse's primary needs are safety, comfort, and play. Humans however value recognition, rewards, and appreciation. Assuming that horses want what we want is where we begin to make mistakes in leadership.



Be clear, be fair, be firm but no fights. Let me play a bit.

LBE Horse with LBE Human
Naomi from Utah

We can refine this further by acknowledging the differences between people (Humanalities) and the differences between horses (Horsenalities). All people are not the same. Neither are all horses.

As a species, horses interpret behaviors, sights and sounds much differently than humans do. It's important to get that right first. The Parelli program and the Seven Games gets you going in the right direction.

The next layer is to identify the differences between horses, the Horsenalities, and provide leadership that is the most effective with each type. Since people are different also, we're all humans but with different personalities (Humanalities), some leadership strategies will be easier for us than others.

What works for one horse may not work for another. For example, A Left Brain Introvert (LBI) horse may interpret your behavior differently than a Right Brain Extrovert (RBE) horse. That's where you investigate

Avoid pressuring me.

RBI Horse with RBI Human
Molly from West Virginia

Give me clear instructions, let me run for a while, don't hold me back, quick release.

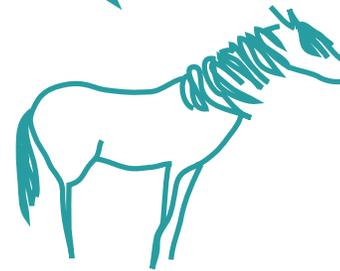
RBI Horse with LBI/RBI Human
Deanna from Washington

Give me consistent leadership, no surprises, don't make me guess what to do.

RBI Horse with RBI Human
Linda from Utah

Go slow, slow, slow, and stay calm.

Cusp LBI/RBI Horse with LBE Human
Betsy from Colorado



the match between you and your horse and ask yourself, "Does my horse want a divorce?"

Let's look at the four Humanalities and the four Horsenalities and some possible pairings. I'll describe the human reaction and Linda will describe why the horse may be unhappy (not responding to the human).

There are endless combinations and the Horsenality-Humanality Match report with over 100 pages of guidelines, do's and don'ts, and specific information will pull up

your exact combination. It provides detailed information about the pros and cons of your specific match. For now, let's just look at a few possibilities, some opposite extremes, and have fun exaggerating them a bit.

LBI HORSE WANTS A DIVORCE FROM RBE HUMAN

Patrick, the RBE human may be thinking: I've purchased the best tack for you and am giving you lots of attention and praise. You've got to love how special I'm treating you. Here's a big hug and bright new halter.

Drop the boring drills, give me a purpose and be provocative.

LBI Horse with LBE Human
Gayle from New Mexico

Don't keep nagging me or I will get upset and buck.

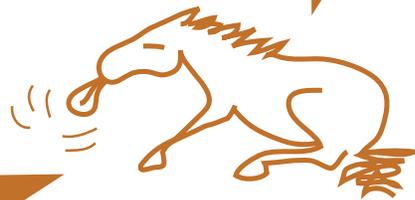
LBI Horse with LBE Human
Oceana from Colorado

Make it interesting and make me feel right.

LBI Horse with LBE/RBE Cusp Human
Jenny from New York

Leave me alone! I don't need no stinking leader.

Intense LBI Horse with LBI Human
Pam from Utah



Patrick, the RBE human may be thinking:

Hey, I'm being very nice to you. I try never to put too much pressure on you or push you past any thresholds. Just stand calmly and comply and all will be well. Let's be gentle and avoid conflict!

Linda, the LBE horse may be thinking:

Forget it. This is no fun. The thrill is gone! Where is the play and excitement? Every time I jump and get playful, you try to calm me down and it's boring me so much that I'm going start looking for trouble. No fun, no go! *I want a divorce...*

Linda, the LBI horse may be thinking:

I'm not motivated by all that bling and glitter or those hugs and kisses. I see no reason for doing something I don't want to do. You're not the boss of me. What's in it for me? *I want a divorce...*

LBE Horse has filed for divorce from RBE Human.

A highlight of the Horsenality/Humanity Match Class that Linda Parelli and I teach together is the activity we created with this same title. "Does your horse want a divorce?" Participants plot their Humanity profile and their horse's Horsenality profile and identify what the horse may not be getting from the relationship and why he may be wanting a divorce.

What people write and the follow up discussions are always revealing. Over and over, participants realize that they often give their horse what they would want, based on their own Humanity preferences, not what the horse wants based on his Horsenality.

This activity helps us look at our behavior from the perspective of the horse. Give it a try!

It's particularly fun to pair up with a friend or family member and compare results and give each other some feedback.

It's especially powerful if you get your Horsenality-Humanity Match reports out and find the sections that provide lots of information about your match. You'll discover things in your report that you may have missed the first time through. 🐾

Captions are from the Humanity booth attendees at the 2015 Colorado Savvy Summit who completed the Horsenality Leadership form question: If my horse could talk, here's what he'd say to avoid wanting a divorce.

Provide safety, consistency, and clear expectations, and be patient.

RBE Horse with LBE Human
Marcy from Utah

Engage me in active games to gain and keep my focus.

RBE Horse with LBE Human
Veronica from Utah

