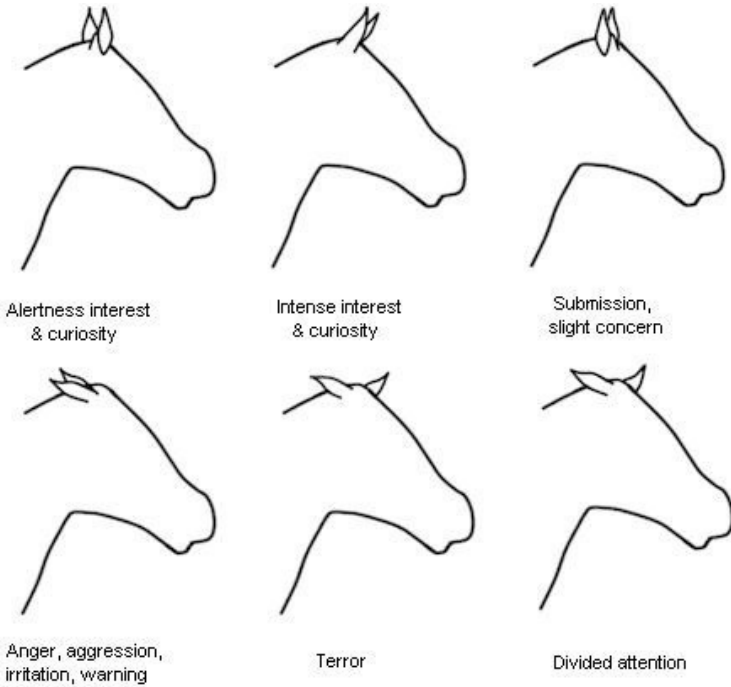


HORSE COMMUNICATION & VISION

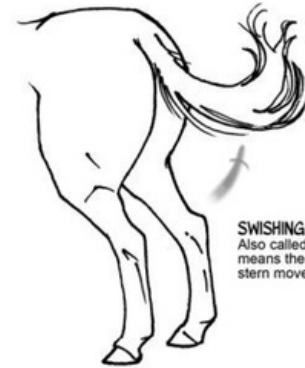


TAIL TALK

Horses are mostly body language communicators, and while plenty of attention is given to the head, let's not ignore the other end. Here's a cheat-sheet about what the tail might be telling you.



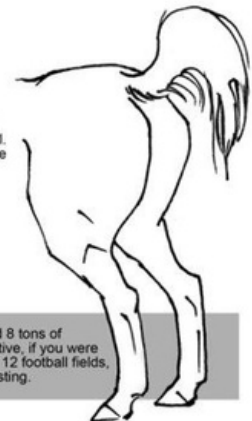
RELAXED
While certain breeds may carry their tails higher or lower than others, this is a typical, relaxed tail.



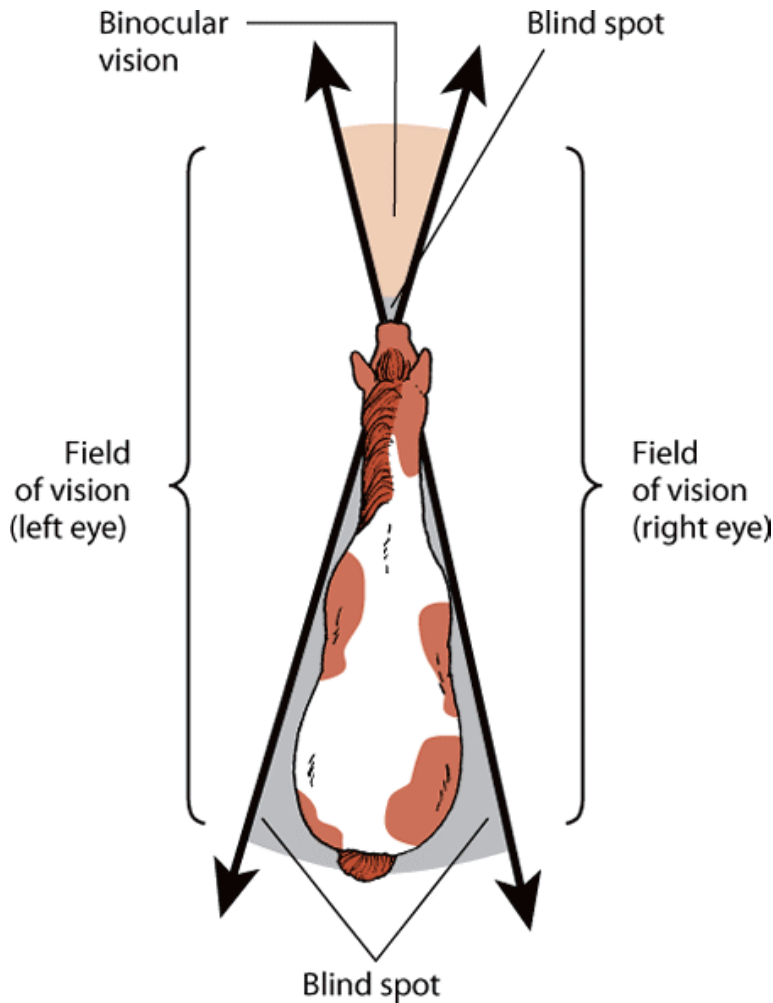
SWISHING
Also called flicking, this stern movement means the horse is irritated. If it becomes a stern movement, the horse is getting cross.



CLAMPED
Watch out for this one. A clamped tail means the horse is tense. This is saying, "I'm about to kick or bolt. Possibly both."



RAISED
This can mean many things. Alertness. Feeling spirited. All of these are symptoms of a raised tail. But mostly, it just means your horse hears the "call of nature."



A 1400 pound horse will create around 8 tons of manure a year. To put that in perspective, if you were to lay that out over an area the size of 12 football fields, your hands would be absolutely disgusting.