



**A Mixed Methods Study  
of Telepathic Interspecies Communication  
with Therapy Horses (*Equus ferus caballus*)  
and their Recovering  
Wounded Veteran Partners**

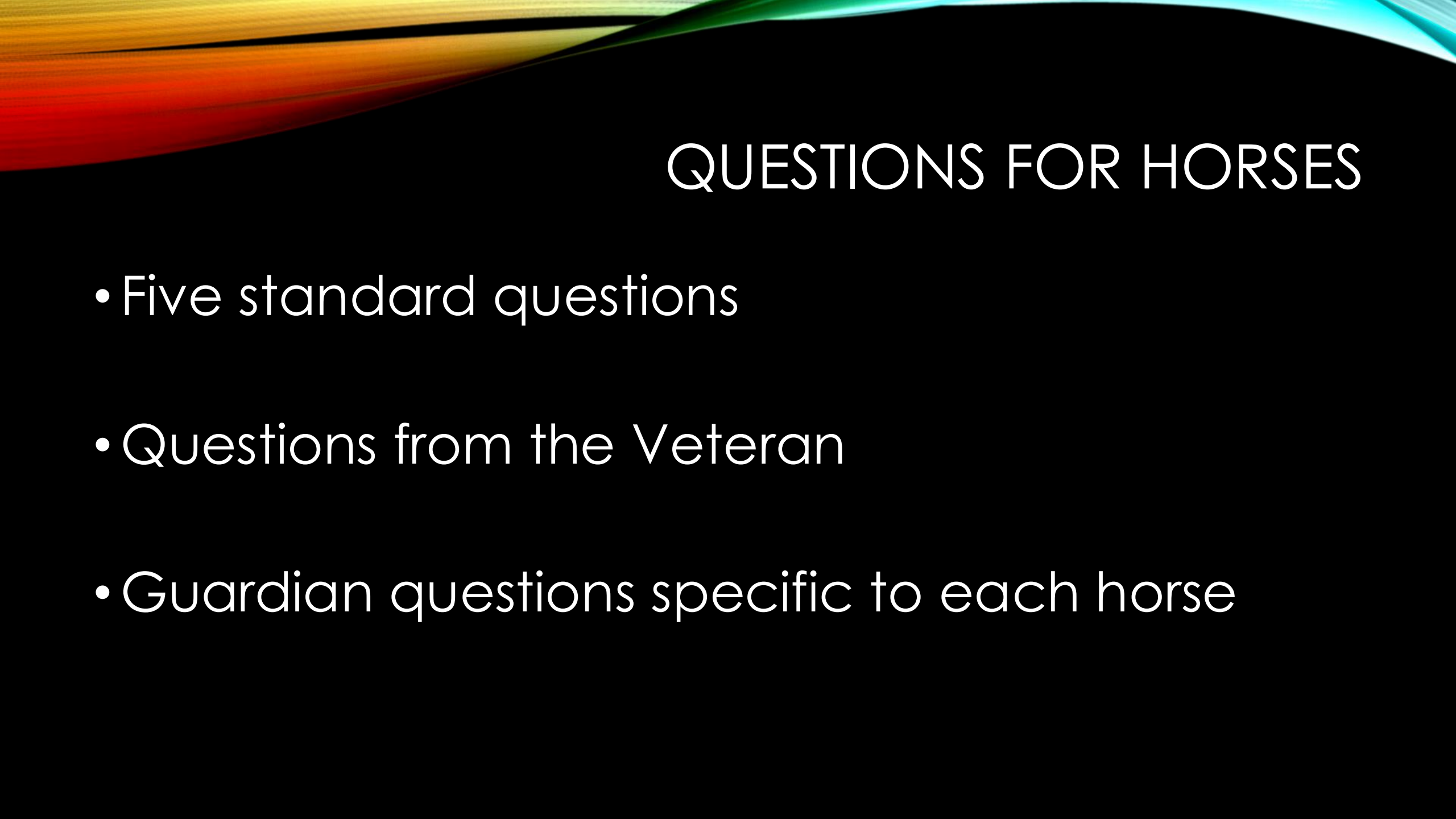
**Deborah L. Erickson, PhD**

# MEET THE HORSES OF RAINIER ACRES RANCH



# RESEARCH TEAM

- 12 horses  
Acorn – Benson – Cartier – Chance – Clyde – Frank – General – Hercules – Red Star – Tiberious – Venus – White Lightning
- 7 veterans  
Alex – Barbara – Celeste – Daniel – James – Marcy - Sebastian
- 2 guardians  
Debbi Fisher & Bob Woelk
- 2 animal communicators  
Wanda Buckner, EdD & Crystal Ashley
- 1 principal researcher  
Deborah Erickson, PhD



# QUESTIONS FOR HORSES

- Five standard questions
- Questions from the Veteran
- Guardian questions specific to each horse



# STANDARD QUESTIONS FOR HORSES

1. Tell me about your therapy with the veterans; what do you do at your job?
2. What do you like and dislike, about your job?
3. What advice would help a new therapy horse to understand or do its job better?
4. What advice would help veterans to understand their horses better?
5. Do you have any mouth pain?

# WHAT DO YOU DO AT YOUR JOB?





WHAT DO YOU LIKE, AND DISLIKE,  
ABOUT YOUR JOB?



# WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR A NEW THERAPY HORSE?





# WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR VETERANS?



# DO YOU HAVE ANY MOUTH PAIN?

All dental examinations were completed by Dr. Heather Wenzell, DVM, of Spinnaker Farm Equine Therapy, Lacey, WA, during the month of December, 2015.

| Horse                   | Horse Response                                                                                                                               | Dental Exam Date<br>12/2/2015 Results |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Benson</b>           | Nope, I'm good.                                                                                                                              | No dental work needed                 |
| <b>Chance</b>           | "No teeth pain, but sometimes the bit bothers me."<br>The communicator asked whether it was rider's use of the bit? She said yes, sometimes. | No dental work needed                 |
| <b>Clyde</b>            | "No, nothing at all right now."                                                                                                              | No dental work needed                 |
| <b>Frank</b>            | "No, no. My teeth are good. Everything is okay."                                                                                             | No dental work needed                 |
| <b>Hercules</b>         | "Nope, I'm good."                                                                                                                            | No dental work needed                 |
| <b>White Lightening</b> | "No, I'm fine."                                                                                                                              | No dental work needed                 |

















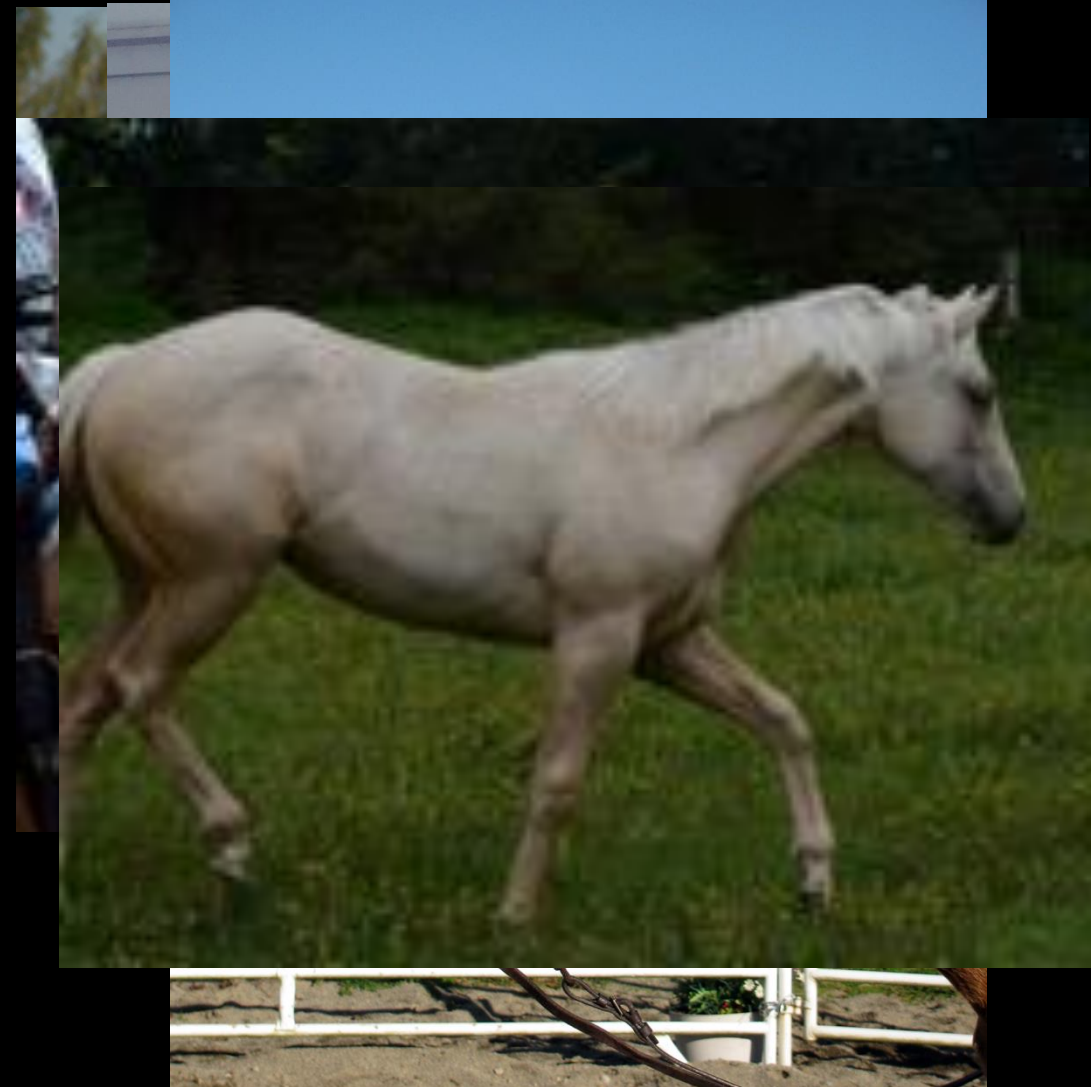






# VETERAN'S QUESTIONS

| Veteran | Horse            |
|---------|------------------|
| Daniel  | Chance           |
| Celeste | Frank            |
| Marcy   | Red Star         |
| James   | Tiberius         |
| Alex    | White Lightening |





# VETERANS' RATING SUMMARY

INFORMATION USEFULNESS SCALE: 1 (LOW) TO 6 (HIGH)

| Veteran   | Horse           | Usefulness Rating |
|-----------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Alex      | White Lightning | 5                 |
| Barbara   | General         | 5.5               |
| Celeste   | Frank           | 6                 |
| Daniel    | Chance          | 5                 |
| James     | Tiberius        | 5                 |
| Marcy     | Red Star        | Unknown           |
| Sebastian | Benson          | 3                 |
|           | Average Rating: | 4.9               |





GUARDIAN DEBBI FISHER

GUARDIAN RATING  
SUMMARY: 5.75





**YOU SHOULD LEAN ON ME:**  
A STUDY OF TELEPATHIC INTERSPECIES COMMUNICATION  
WITH THERAPY HORSES (*EQUUS FERUS CABALLUS*)  
AND THEIR WOUNDED VETERAN PARTNERS

THANK YOU!

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