

# KLAUS FERDINAND HEMPFLING OBSERVING, FEELING, ACTING



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“The leader is never the leader through violence.”

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**The borderline demonstration by Klaus Hempfling, at the beautiful accommodation in Wanroij, was a success. Not only because three horses from our 'ROS' magazine readers were helped, but mostly because of the special atmosphere. Hempfling, who was completely at ease, stood very close to the audience.**

Hempfling began the sunny day speaking, in front of the tribune and chairs at the main arena of the Equestrian Centre Wanroij. Close to the people, close to the horses and it would remain that way. From the first moment he grasped the attention from the people in a very relaxed manner. With practice examples, jokes, a philosophical touch and a whole lot of feeling and knowledge he went to work with the three horses.



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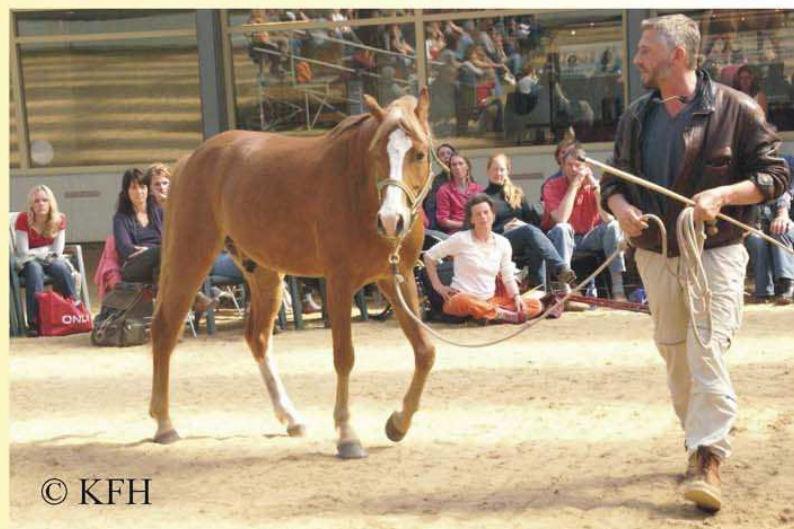


## Without conditions

“You have to start this job without expecting anything in return”, he told those present, “Give only your love, without conditions. Today I'm trying to make clear how we can see the Horse, and not Ourselves. Not our own wishes, not our own dreams. Because we project our dreams on the horse and then we are no longer part of the solution, but part of the problem itself! And that's what we have to work on: ensure that we become part of the solution”.

That means that you have to enter into a dialogue with your horse, a fight without aggression. You have to build friendship from a distance, but eventually the horse has to come closer. So you need to find a way to accomplish this, without questioning 'will it work?' Because what you are doing is nothing special, it's something we all have inside. Hempfling emphasises that “you must be yourself, firmly grounded. In doing so you should not use loose treads, but follow the entire path. You must be successful, there has to be a following step.”

The funny thing is, according to Hempfling, that it sometimes seems to bystanders as if he does nothing, while the horse gets a mass of information to process. He slowly but constantly decreases the distance between them as a result of which there is created no 'infringement' on the territory of the horse. Hempfling: “The most important thing when working with horses is that you first need to feel from within yourself what you should do, what the right path is. The horse is a flight animal, which you should treat with respect. But whatever you do, realize that it will require a lot of patience. Through simple things he learns step by step, that's the basis. Eventually the horse will find himself, back in balance.”





### Eyes Closed

At a certain moment Hempfling asked those present to close their eyes. To sit relaxed, with their shoulders down, “and think about nothing else than what is happening here. It’s warm, cosy, keep your eyes closed so that I can guide you mentally with this horse.” Hempfling then calmly described what he saw in the horse, what he knew, so that everyone could form an image for himself. Afterwards everyone was able to look at the following steps with a fresh view.



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### No Gallop

An important part of working with problem horses is the work in the circle. Hempfling lets the horses move in the walking gait as much as possible and let them trot very little. The first four to eight weeks galloping is fundamentally wrong. The principle is that only when the walk is correct, you can start with the trot. Don’t force the horse to trot, because then he will thwart and that will always result in aggression and a disturbance of the balance. Let the horse go as slowly as he wants. A horse which ever increases his speed will lose the control over itself. The gallop is the reward and is only allowed when everything else is correct.



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