

As clinicians working in the field, we believe therapeutic interactions with animals have value in the healing process. Horses help people who who have experienced trauma come out of their shells, motivating them to talk while at the same time soothing them. This provides a safe environment to begin to deal with the traumatic things that have happened to them or their families. They develop relationships with the horses and consequently with the clinicians or group facilitators, building a trusting relationship. They build confidence and a positive sense of power in a world where they have historically been powerless. According to Perry “Beginning the recovery process for relational neglect can start with animals.”(Perry, 2006, chapter 3, p. 38). Perry, (2006). *Applying Principles of Neurodevelopment to Clinical Work with Maltreated and Traumatized Children*. In N. Boyd Webb, (Ed.), *Working with Traumatized Youth in Child Welfare* (pg. 38). New York, NY: Gilford Press.