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# Overshadowing: A Silver Lining to a Dark Cloud in Horse Training

Andrew N. McLean

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## Abstract

Overshadowing is a process known in behavioral science that occurs when two stimuli of different strengths are applied simultaneously to a nonhuman animal. Typically, the stronger stimulus overshadows the weaker one, resulting in attenuation of the weaker stimulus. This phenomenon explains ways in which the decreased responsiveness and consequent conflict behaviors (and possibly learned helplessness and wastage) in some performance horses can result from the application of two concurrent aversive stimuli.

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preliminary exploration of the beneficial use of a poorly understood, underutilized—yet promising—phenomenon that warrants further investigation.

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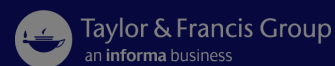
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