

# My life with horses



## Emma Taylor

*Clocking up the miles driving around the country, Emma Taylor spends her week introducing business people to the advantages of networking with horses*

### Emma Taylor, The Leadership Whisperer, Warwickshire

Emma works with businesses using horses to help leaders and executives develop powerful relationships and communication skills. In her spare time, she enjoys classical riding and dressage in her spare time.

### Monday

Today I'm at The Horse Trust in Buckinghamshire, running a retreat for a group of MDs and CEOs. We have the privilege of working with some of the retired horses from the Army, Mounted Police and Royal Mews who are now residents at the charity, and who bring all their experience and wisdom to the group. Plus there's just time for me to sneak in a cuddle with rescue donkeys Gladys, Nora and Lola.



### Tuesday

Tonight I'm off to deliver a demo in southeast Wales. It's an early start to ensure all the poo stains are removed from dapple-grey Rchi. Luckily, Hermi wouldn't even consider lying in a poo pillow - it's just not lady-like. As usual, the horses blow the audience away with their authenticity, relationship-building and demonstration of leadership in action. Travelling back, Twitter is going crazy with positive comments!



### Thursday

Today I have a feedback session with clients in London. Afterwards, there's just time to take in the Grayson Perry exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery. We manage to get ourselves papped and appear on the NPG's TagWall.

### Friday

Happy first birthday to...us! Almost a year ago I trusted myself, and took a big risk. I had the idea of combining business networking with the power and authenticity that horses create, and Networking Neighs was born. Creating and innovating a new product takes commitment, belief and the willingness to adapt and change. The business continues to change the lives of those who come each month. We celebrate with a giant chocolate horse cake.

### Saturday

Today I'm lucky enough to have a dressage lesson with Andreas Hausberger from the Spanish Riding School. It's an open clinic, so I am subject to feedback from the spectators, too, but luckily they're super-encouraging. Sometimes it's worth being brave, showing up and taking the risk!

### Sunday

I've entered a dressage competition today, so it's time to put into practice everything Rchi and I learnt yesterday. Having concentrated on showing for the past couple of years, my dressage test-riding skills are somewhat rusty. Fortunately, my trainer, Steve Wallace is there to make sure everything is on track. Despite the indoor school being a bit spooky and a few dragon-snorts from Rchi at the start, he is foot perfect and loved looking at himself in the mirrors! I'm really delighted with our start to the season.

### Wednesday

It's a catching up on admin day today. Business partner Jude and I decide to get on with some strategic business planning with a difference - in the field. The horses love to help!

AS TOLD TO JO THORNTON