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Communication invitée du thème  
“Les relations entre les humains et les animaux”  
Body size, conformation, athletic ability and  
temperament of horses have likely affected the  
human-horse relationship over time

*La taille du corps, la conformation, les capacités athlétiques et le tempérament des chevaux ont probablement influencé la relation homme-cheval au fil du temps*

**Markku Niskanen**

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## Communication invitée du thème "Les relations entre les humains et les animaux"

### Body size, conformation, athletic ability and temperament of horses have likely affected the human- horse relationship over time

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- 1 Horse management practices –including artificial selection– have affected size, conformation, athletic ability and temperament of horses since these very important animals for numerous human societies were domesticated several millennia ago. These changes must have affected the range of "services" these non-human animals have been able to provide, which in turn must have had at least some effect on the human – horse relationship. Reconstructions of body size, conformation and athletic ability (e.g. stride length, weight carrying and/or pulling ability, etc.) from skeletal dimensions provide some indicators on how past horses compare with current horses and thus how these past horses could have been used and thus viewed in human societies.

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## AUTEUR

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