## PROGRAMME

0830 Registration and coffee

0900 Welcome and introduction to the course – **L Preshaw**
- Briefly explain purpose of course
  - To help delegates safely and effectively deal with challenging equine patients during consults/treatments
  - To improve awareness of the key factors that can impact on a horse's behaviour and lead to the development of challenging behaviour
  - To help delegates understand how to utilise the least intrusive, minimally aversive approach to modifying a horse's behaviour
- Round robin of delegates
  - Introduce yourself
  - What aspects of your job do you find challenging from a horse behaviour perspective?
  - Have there been any situations where you have struggled to treat/work with a horse because of its behaviour?
  - What do you want to get out of today?

0930 Introduction to horse behaviour – **L Preshaw**
- Ethological needs of horses
- Effects of domestication on our ability to meet horses' ethological needs
- Managing challenging behaviour by modifying the horse's environment, management and diet - case studies
- The problems with using labels to describe behaviour

1000 Introduction to learning theory – **G Pearson**
- Horse and human equipment
- Operant conditioning
- Classical conditioning
- Shaping
- How unwanted ridden behaviours can develop as a result of learnt responses

1100 How painful conditions can affect equine behaviour – **A Batson**
- The nociceptive system's response to acute and chronic pain and its effect on behaviour
- Holistic behaviour assessment – approaches to investigating painful causes of challenging behaviour (ridden and in-hand)
- Case studies

1200 *Lunch*

1245 Practical application of positive and negative reinforcement – **G Pearson**
- Practical demonstration
- Practice session for delegates

1345 Using learning theory in the practice – **G Pearson**
- Comparison of behaviour modification techniques and traditional methods of restraint
- Gradual habituation

- Flooding
- Negative and positive reinforcement
- Counter-conditioning
- Stimulus blending
- Approach conditioning
- Overshadowing
- How to spot the potentially dangerous horse before you get hurt

1445 Dealing with common unwanted learnt behaviours and approaches to performing LIMA compliant clinical examinations – **G Pearson**

- Practical demonstration
- Practice session for delegates

1615 Case study discussions and delegate Q&A – **G Pearson, L Preshaw & A Batson**
To include:

- Horses that become over-aroused by food – recognising the problem and approaches to managing it
- Managing your own success during a consult – issues with clients who want to use a clicker for everything and horses that become over-aroused with food

1645 Wrap up

- Re-visit learning outcomes, plus:
  - How to utilise the least intrusive, minimally aversive approach to modifying a horse's behaviour
  - Importance of directing clients to appropriate sources of follow-up support (e.g. when client wants to use a clicker for everything or horse becomes over-aroused with food) – trainers and behaviourists
  - Summary of the role of equine behaviour consultants, and how the behaviour consultant and vet can work together to address behaviour problems
  - Highlight appropriate courses and sources of information for delegates interested in further developing their knowledge of equine behaviour modification and offering behaviour consults as one of their practice's services

1700 Tea and end of course