

Instructions for using IPTEK (the ISES Principles Training Evaluation Kit)

This document describes using CowLog and the IPTEK ethogram to observe and code behaviours in horse training videos

You will need:

- Your video file(s) for evaluation, in the MP4 format. Note: you cannot use the CowLog tool with a DVD. If your video material is in this format. You will have to rip the video content from the disk and then convert it to MP4.
- A printout of these instructions.
- A printout page of the file 'An ethogram for Equitation Science's First Principles of Horse Training.pdf'.
- A printout page of the file 'pictogram ethogram quick reference card.pdf'.
- Speakers or a headset to hear any audio on the horse training video.
- The included version of CowLog, requires one of the following devices and systems:
 - Windows 7/8/10, with Chrome v.50+, Firefox v.46+ or Internet Explorer v.11+.
 - Android v4.0+ with Chrome v.47+ (definitely doesn't work in the Android stock / native aka 'Internet').
 - OS X - probably!
 - Linux - probably!
 - This won't work in iOS (iPhone, iPad), because there is no access to the file system, to save the results.

Basic principles to keep in mind for conducting the behaviour coding session:

- Take the time to read the ethogram before you start. Compare the ethogram and the quick reference card. Make sure you understand how the quick reference card might help you to rapidly spot a behaviour (even though the wording and emphasis are slightly different).
- Don't forget that ethogram behaviours with the suffix '.2' (1.2, 2.2, 3.2 etc.) are all to be selected if a behaviour is described or demonstrated that runs contrary to the ethogram. So, if you see an example of a horse being trained to NOT persist with self-carriage, then the appropriate CowLog button to click would be 8.2.
- Don't worry about the duration of a behaviors, we are interested in a frequency count.
- Click the appropriate behaviour button in CowLog for each separate attempt to describe or demonstrate the associated behaviour on the video, even if they occur consecutively.
- When you are coding behaviours, you will need to set yourself up somewhere where you can sit comfortably for an hour or more, able to watch the video, and have both the ethogram and the quick reference card laid out in front of you.
- You can pause and rewind the video if required.
- If you see a behaviour on the video that you think is included in the ethogram, but you can't immediately decide on the behaviour code, then pause the video and take the time to consider, read through the ethogram etc..

Step-by-step guide to logging

1. In Windows Explorer, navigate to the folder containing IPTEK and double-click the subfolder called 'cowlog'.
2. Inside 'cowlog', double-click index.html to run the CowLog software. Cowlog should open as a web page in your default web browser.
3. Click Subject.
4. Type a name. This might be your name, combined with the title of the video that you wish to evaluate. For example 'Bob_Video1' or 'Bob1Video1', or anything that helps you to identify this particular behaviour logging session and the video that it relates to.
5. Enter the date (hint: you can click the black, downward-facing arrow to access a selectable calendar).
6. Enter the time.
7. Click Save.
8. Under Open videofile, click the Choose File button.
9. Select your video file (in the MP4 format).
10. Click Open. The video should now appear (paused) overlaid on the CowLog web page.
11. When you are ready to start logging (make sure that you have the ethogram and the pictogram cheat sheet easily visible!), start video playback using either the controls on the video window, or the Play, Stop and Pause buttons at the top left of CowLog.
12. When you identify an ethogram behaviour in the playing video, click the appropriately numbered button (1.1, 1.2 etc.) on CowLog. Don't worry about the durations of behaviors, we are only logging instances. For example, if the video demonstrates the shaping of responses and movements (attempt behaviour and refine), then you should click the 4.1 button on CowLog. Click 4.1 for each separate attempt to describe or demonstrate the associated behaviour, even if they occur consecutively. For example, the video says: "...behaviours are not fully formed and you should reward early attempts..." CLICK! "...Start with an approximation of a behaviour and then refine..." CLICK! If the video demonstrates that a fully formed behaviour should emerge fully formed and perfect, the first time that you train it (!), then this would contradict Principle 4 and so you should click the button 4.2 (INCORRECTLY describing or demonstrating 4.1).
13. When you reach the end of the video, just click Save Results (there is no need to click Stop or to do anything else at this point). Your browser should indicate that it has saved a file. In some browsers, you may be asked to confirm the action. You might also be asked whether to save or open the file (select save).
14. The output logging data files from your sessions will have the file extension .txt. And they should be found inside the default download folder/directory. For example, in Windows this is likely to be: C:\Users\<your username>\Downloads. In Android, this is likely to be: /storage/sdcard0/Download/.
15. It is these .txt files that are the output from your logging session.