

# A scientist just like me



**Shirley Ferber**  
**Equine Nutritionist**

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**Hi there! I am Shirley Ferber – An equine nutritionist**



## **Where do I work?**

I am the first equine nutritionist in Israel! I help people learn how to take better care of their horses and donkeys.

## **What did I like doing when I was at school?**

I was always excited to learn about science and animals. I enjoyed reading fantasy books and creating different kinds of art projects.

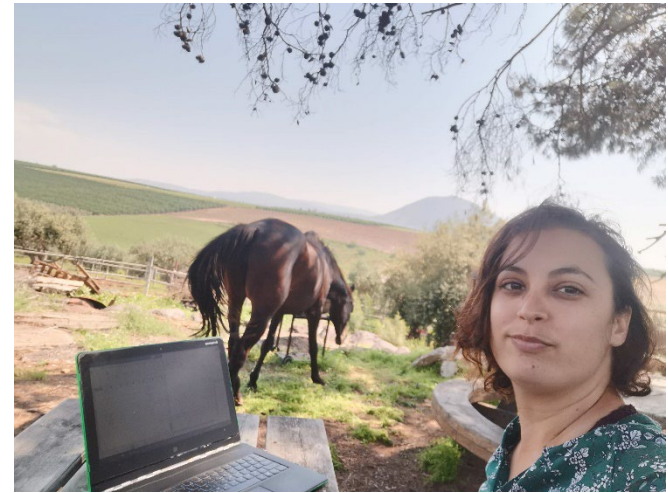
## **What do I like doing in my spare time?**

I love swimming, free-diving and spending time with my horse, dog and cat. I really like reading and watching science fiction and fantasy like The Hobbit and Doctor Who.

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## What do I do as an equine nutritionist?

I observe the behaviour of individual horses and donkeys, their feed, environment and even their poop. I then assess all the information based on scientific methods and create practical advice for the owners to help them improve the health and well-being of their animals.



## How does what I do make the world a better place?

In my job, I get to use science to help people understand the needs and behaviour of their horses and donkeys and manage their feed and environment to keep them healthy and happy. This means I help people to help their animals and be better owners.

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## What I like about my job

The best thing about my job is working with horses and donkeys, and being able to use my scientific knowledge, imagination and creativity to help them feel better. I feel grateful for each animal I get to help. I also love teaching and getting other people excited about science.



## Challenges I have faced

I am neurodivergent and have ADHD, which means my brain works differently than most people's. This made school very hard for me in class and socially. But once I discovered my own way of studying and the wonderful powers of my strange brain, I fell in love with learning and teaching.



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**If you want to be an equine nutritionist, you need:**

- ✿ **to love animals**, care for them and be able to imagine yourself in their hooves or paws
- ✿ **to be curious** about how different things in the world around us affect animals, including us humans
- ✿ **to think differently**, as it helps in finding unique solutions to difficult problems
- ✿ **to ask questions!** There are no wrong questions, and the more you ask, the more you will understand.



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## Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be an equine nutritionist like Shirley Ferber?

**Why? Why not?**



- ✦ What skills and interests do you already have that would help you become an equine nutritionist?
- ✦ What new skills and knowledge would you need to develop?

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## Free supporting resources for equine science

**I bet you didn't know...** articles use cutting-edge science research as a context for learning. Teacher Guides describing the research and activities and investigations for children can be used as classroom presentations. See:

- Why and how scientists measure mammals' whiskers
- Red squirrels adapt to the food they eat
- Some mammals have unusual backbones

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