Can we predict troubles during horse clinical examination by a simple test?

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Arrival at clinic
10 healthy horses

Aim: to test the potentiality of weight-scale test (WS Test) to predict stress reactions during manipulations of hospitalized horses

WS Test
Video recorded
Analysed with the Observer (Noldus)

Hooves trimming (10’)
direct observations
Questionnaire to Blacksmith

Dental Check (15’)
direct observations
Questionnaire to Vet

Behaviours scored: Locomotion, body, head and feet movements
6-items questionnaires with a 5-Likert visual analogue scale
Stat: Spearman Correlation

Results: significant correlations have been found between stress related behaviours observed during WS Test (number of trial needed, body movements, head shaking...), poor handling quality during exams and low education level (assessed by blacksmith) and stress related behaviours observed during manipulations (head shaking, scraping the floor...)

Standardized, common and easy behavioural tests should thus be used to predict horses’ handling quality in clinic

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Impact of the temperament of young stallions on their stress reactions when subjected to a standardised veterinary examination

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Aims: to Assess young stallions temperament at clinic to compare temperament trait to troubles during standardised exams

Arrival at clinic (92 stallions from 2 to 3 y.o.)

- Questionnaire to owner (25 items)

Unload from trailer

direct observations

Weigh Scale

direct observations

Blood sampling

direct observations

Lameness examination

- observations
- Short questionnaire to vet

General examination (+ECG)

- observations
- Short questionnaire

Endoscopy

- observations
- Short questionnaire

Radiological exam

- observations
- Short questionnaire

3 months later at Stallions Show

Observations analysis are still in progress

- Horses assessed as ‘Dominant’ caused troubles during blood sampling and electrodes placement
- Horses assessed as ‘Anxious’ went down more suddenly from the trailer
- Horses scored as ‘Excitable’ caused more troubles during ECG and general examination
- In general, fear reactions are correlated to poor quality of exam assessed by vets

Personality assessment of young stallions may be use as a trait in the selection of reproductive stallions (as it is already done in some countries)

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