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

Peeters Marie¹, Verwilghen Denis², Serteyn Didier² and Vandenheede Marc¹
¹Veterinary Ethology and Animal Welfare  ²Department of Clinical Sciences, Equine Clinic
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine – University of Liege – Belgium

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

Results:
- 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 of young stallions is related to troubles during exams and could be used as a trait in the selection procedure (as it is already done in some countries)

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