

Crib-biting in horses – characterization of the problem and possibilities for eliminating it

Summary

The study concerned the influence of various factors on the occurrence of crib-biting in horses. The analysis was based on a survey. It took into account factors such as the age, sex and breed of the horses, how they are used and housed, and means of eliminating this stereotypic behaviour. The results of the study indicate the complexity of the problem of crib-biting. Most of the horses analysed had adequate living conditions and their owners had tried to combat this stereotypy by various means. None of the methods used, however, was fully satisfactory, although in a few cases some improvement was achieved. These results suggest that each case of crib-biting should be considered individually. Horse owners should be aware that crib-biting horses are less resistant to stress, which may lead to additional behavioural disorders.

KEY WORDS: horse, crib-biting, stereotypic behaviour, stress