

## Evaluation of the behaviour of horses during training and eventing competitions

### Summary

The aim of the study was to demonstrate how a horse's behaviour during training and stable management correlate with the results achieved in eventing competitions. The study was conducted on 16 horses aged 5–12, between June and October 2016. Horse behaviour in the stable (during feeding, grooming and saddling) and during warm-up, dressage training, show jumping training, and cross training was assessed on a five-point scale. For the statistical analysis, Statistica software was used to calculate Spearman's correlation coefficient. Assessment of horses' behaviour in the stable was significantly lower than during training. The study indicated that behaviour in the stable was weakly but significantly correlated with behaviour during warm-up (0.286) and during cross country training (0.222). Warm-up training was also found to be significantly correlated with dressage training (0.484), show jumping training (0.275) and cross country training (0.287). The study found a significant negative correlation between the overall result obtained during the competition and the behaviour of horses in the stable ( $-0.567$ ). There were no significant correlations between the final results obtained during the competition and the average behaviour score from the entire training or from training in dressage, show jumping or cross country.

**KEY WORDS:** sport horses, behaviour, riding, dressage, cross, show jumping