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Bite and kick injuries in horses: Prevalence, risk factors and prevention

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Keywords: horse; kick; bite; injury; risk factors

Summary

Reasons for performing study: **Studies on the prevalence and predisposing factors of bite and kick injuries in horses have not been reported in a population-based data sample.**

Objectives: **To investigate the prevalence of bite and kick injuries in horses and associated risk factors in a representative sample of horses in Switzerland.**

Methods: **A questionnaire on the incidence of disease and injury, which included the frequency of bite and kick injuries and their association with breed, housing, use and feeding regime, was sent to 2559 horse owners randomly selected throughout Switzerland.**

Results: **The data of 2912 horses with 897 disorders diagnosed by a veterinarian were analysed. There were 231 injuries, 50 (21.6%) caused by a bite or kick from another horse; this number corresponded to 5.6% of all diseases and injuries and concerned only 1.7% of all the horses evaluated. Warmblood, Thoroughbred and Arabian horses had a 4.3 times higher risk of bite or kick injuries than horses of other breeds. Eighteen per cent of injuries were associated with a change in housing management and occurred regardless of whether horses were kept in groups permanently or sporadically.**

Conclusions and potential relevance: **A stable group hierarchy and a housing system that provides adequate space and is adapted to horse-specific behaviour are important factors in prevention and kick and bite injuries.**

Introduction

In addition to exercise-associated injuries, kick and bite injuries occur frequently in horses (J.M. Knubben, unpublished data). In a retrospective study of 1181 injuries, Derungs *et al*. (2004) determined that a kick from another horse was the most common cause. Of 256 horses with kick injuries, 120 (47.2%) had a bone fracture, which necessitated euthanasia in 34 (13.3%) of cases (Derungs *et al*. 2004). In another study, the cause of radius or tibial fracture was a kick from another horse in 17 of 23 injured horses (Derungs *et al*. 2001). Although bite and kick injuries can occur at anytime with potential horse-to-horse contact, pasture was found to be the most common situation for this type of injury (Derungs *et al*. 2004); there was no information on whether the horses were kept permanently on pasture as a group or during the day only. In addition to chasing, rearing and mounting, kicking and biting are signs of normal equine behaviour and are part of aggressive, threatening, submissive and avoidance behaviour in order to maintain a long-lasting dominance (van Dierendonck *et al*. 1995; McDonnell and Haviland 1995; McGreevy 2004). Not all kick injuries are due to aggression: some occur accidentally with exuberant behaviour.

Horses are herd animals and react to threat with flight. Alert, alarm and flight may occur simultaneously (Waring 2003), and life in a herd is regulated by a complex social hierarchy and variety of behaviours. This social organisation and the ability to flee immediately at high speed are survival strategies that ensure long-term survival with respect to reproduction, finding food and safety from predators (Miller 2001).

Whenever possible, horses try to avoid direct conflict by establishing a long-lasting dominance hierarchy; behavioural signals, such as threatening gestures, are ritualised behaviour that ensures safe communication from a distance. On the other hand, aggressive confrontations deplete energy reserves, pose health risks and separate individuals from the safety of the herd. They are often attributable to insecurity and poorly established relationships (Mills and Nankervis 1999). Aggressive injurious behaviour seldom occurs in herds of free-ranging horses because the potential victim usually has ample space to avoid the aggressor (Mills and Nankervis 1999; Waring 2003). In free-ranging Przewalski horses, threatening behaviour occurred more often than physical fighting; when fighting did occur, biting was seen more often than kicking (Keiper and Receveur 1992).

Biting is associated mainly with offensive behaviour, whereas kicking with the hindlimbs was used predominantly for defence (Wells and von Goldschmidt-Rothschild 1979; Waring 2003). Aggressive behaviour is commonly associated with competitive situations during foraging and reproductive activities, and its frequency and intensity depend on herd stability (Arnold and Grassia 1982; Houpt and Keiper 1982; Houpt 1991; van Dierendonck *et al*. 2004; Grogan and McDonnell 2005). In free-ranging herds, kicks often result in no or minimal injury, because horses are unshod. The physical properties of hoof horn are greatly different from those of a steel horseshoe, which produces

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much higher peak forces and, therefore, poses a greater risk of injury (Piskoty *et al*. 2005).

The aim of this study was to determine the frequency of bite and kick injuries in a horse population and to identify the associated risk factors; and thereby to identify measures of prevention to minimise such injuries.

Materials and methods

Data collection

Of 16,067 Swiss horse farms with a total of 72,394 horses (Anon 2003), 2559 farms with 11,631 horses (horses, ponies, donkeys, mules and hinnies) were chosen at random. The farms were distributed evenly throughout the cantons and language regions of Switzerland. Questionnaires (Table 1; www.evj.co.uk/suppinfo) were sent to horse owners or managers between December 2003 and March 2004. A questionnaire was completed for each horse and included questions about breed, age, gender, stabling, socialisation with other horses, use, exercise and feeding regimes, health status, preventive health management programs and ongoing diseases. Some owners had died or had sold their horses, which left a total of 2456 farms with 10,073 equids. There were 3117 completed questionnaires, which yielded a compliance rate of 30.9%. After exclusion of questionnaires completed for donkeys, mules and hinnies, the data from 2912 horses and ponies were analysed.

Owners were asked to report only on diseases and injuries that had occurred in the previous 12 months and had been diagnosed by a veterinarian. For horses with injuries, owners were asked to describe how and why the injury occurred. More emphasis was placed on bite and kick injuries than on injuries incurred during training, competition or transport, or after running into a fence or self-mutilation.

Definitions

For the analyses, the husbandry systems under which the horses were kept were grouped into 2 main housing systems, similar to other studies (Bachmann and Stauffacher 2002; Bachmann *et al*. 2003). Tie stalls, individual box stalls and individual box stalls with access to a paddock were classified as *individual housing*. Group housing in both, subdivided (*structured*) and open stalls (*unstructured*), was classified as *group housing*. In many cases, horses were kept in an individual box stall for some of the time, mostly at night, but at other times had access to pasture or paddock with other horses. However, only horses kept permanently in a group with at least one other horse were classified as belonging to *permanent group housing*. *Change in housing system* up to 4 weeks before injury included change in herd composition or in housing management.

Individually-housed animals could be kicked or bitten if they had access to a pasture or paddock with other horses some of the time or were placed in situations in which their personal space was invaded, such as in a trailer, barn alleyway or warm-up area.

Competition horses included those that competed in events such as jumping, dressage, driving, 3-day eventing, racing, roping, reining, barrel racing, gaited classes and vaulting. *Pleasure horses* were not used in competitive events or at most in pleasure events.

TABLE 1: Questionnaire sent to horse farms

Refer to www.evj.co.uk/suppinfo for details.

Statistical analysis

Logistic regression was used to identify factors relating to husbandry, use of the horses, treatment of wounds and treatment success in association with bite and kick injuries.

Selection of potential risk factors for the outcome variable was based on their known or suspected causal relationship, supported by literature or by biological reasoning. The exponentials of β-coefficients presented were interpreted as odds ratios (OR), for which a 95% confidence interval (CI 95%) was given. An OR>1 is predisposing and implies a positive association, while an OR<1 is preventive and implies an inverse association.

A backward stepwise method was used in the models to eliminate potential risk factors. The outcome variable in the first model consisted of whether or not a horse had been seen by a veterinarian because of a bite or kick injury. The following variables and 2-way interactions between them were tested as potential risk factors: breed (Warmblood, Thoroughbred and Arabian vs. other breeds), housing of horses (individual vs. permanent group housing) and use of horse (competition vs. pleasure).

In the second model, the occurrence of kick and bite injuries was analysed in relation to other injuries seen by a veterinarian. The following explanatory variables were tested: changes in housing during the 4 weeks preceding the injury (yes/no), did the injury require surgical treatment (yes/no) and complete healing of injury (yes/no).

Microsoft Access 2002[1] was used for data processing, and the SPSS for Windows 13.0[2] for statistical analysis.

Results

Information on housing was available for 2843 of 2912 horses analysed. A total of 1993 (70.1%) horses were housed in individual box stalls and 1639 (83.2%) of these were turned out on pasture or in a paddock with other horses during the day on an irregular basis and depending on the season. It was common for the members of these groups and the number within a group to change. The remaining 850 (29.9%) were kept in groups permanently. Data of 2912 horses with 897 disorders diagnosed by a veterinarian were analysed. The frequency of kick and bite injuries was summarised in Table 2.

Fifty injuries were attributable to a kick (n = 44) or bite (n = 6) from another horse. Twenty-five (56.8% of 44) kick injuries and one bite injury (16.7% of 6) resulted in lameness.

Of the 231 injuries, 181 (78.4%) were associated with factors other than biting or kicking, such as poor footing or a fence (n = 88) (38%), the boxstall (n = 18) (8%), terrain and hacking (n = 30) (13%), training (n = 8) (3.5%), competition (n = 8) (3.5%), transportation (n = 7) (3.0%) or other circumstances, such as a pitchfork injury or unknown events (n = 21) (9.1%).

The breed was known in 49 horses with kick or bite injuries: There were 32 Warmbloods, 2 Thoroughbreds, 2 Arabians and 13 others (e.g. Swiss Franches-Montagnes and different pony breeds, see Table 3). In 2493 horses, without kick or bite injuries,

TABLE 2: Number and percentage of kick and bite injuries

	Horses (n = 2912)	Cases (n = 897)
Health disorder	718 (24.7%)	897
Injury	223 (7.7%)	231 (25.8%)
Kick or bite	50 (1.7%)	50 (5.6%)

data about breed were available. There were 948 (38.0%) Warmbloods, Thoroughbreds or Arabians and 1545 (62.0%) others.

Information about housing was available in 48 of 50 cases: 35 of 48 kick or bite injuries were sustained by horses kept in individual box stalls (Table 3); 30 of these were kept at least part of the time on pasture or in a paddock together with other horses. The other 13 injured horses were from permanent group housing, and 9 of these horses had free access to forage at all times, while 11 were fed grain, and all but one were fed separately for this. Housing was known in 2494 horses without a kick or bite injury: There were 1783 (71.5%) horses from individual stalls and 711 (28.5%) from permanent group housing.

Nineteen of 46 horses with kick or bite injuries were used for competition and 27 for pleasure (Table 3); no relevant information was available for the remaining 4 cases. In 2496 horses without kick or bite injuries, information about use was available; 704 (28.2%) horses were used in competition and 1792 (71.8%) were used for pleasure.

The risk of a kick or bite injury was not significantly affected by the type of housing (individual or permanent group housing) or use (competition or pleasure) of the horse. The risk of a kick or bite injury was more than 4 times higher in Warmblood, Thoroughbred or Arabian horses than in other breeds (Table 3).

In 9 of 50 cases, the kick or bite injury was associated with a change in the housing system (Table 4). Compared with other injuries, the risk of a kick or bite injury was higher after a change in housing (χ^2_1 = 10.3, P = 0.001, OR = 6.3, CI 95% 2.0–19.8). Surgical repair was required in 7 of the kick and bite injuries. In 43 cases, the injuries healed completely. Comparison of bite and kick injuries with other injuries revealed no differences in the proportion of injuries that required surgical repair (χ^2_1 = 0.5, P = 0.478, OR = 0.7, CI 95% 0.3–1.9) and in response to treatment (χ^2_1 = 1.2, P = 0.269, OR = 1.6, CI 95% 0.7–4.1, Table 4).

Discussion

The proportion of bite and kick injuries was low in comparison to other diseases (e.g. colic, respiratory disease, J.M. Knubben, unpublished data).

In 2004, when the data for this study were collected, a relatively large proportion of horses (29.9%) were kept permanently in groups in Switzerland (J.M. Knubben, unpublished data). This was almost twice the number of 16.5% in a previous study in 1997, carried out with a similar questionnaire (Bachmann and Stauffacher 2002). However, approximately 66% of the horses were still kept in individual box or tie stalls in 2004. The relatively high proportion of horses kept permanently in groups in both studies may have been attributable to confounding factors; for example, owners willing to complete a questionnaire may be more supportive of an animal-friendly housing system and interested in the health and well-being of their horses and, therefore, more inclined to use a group housing system. Moreover, the differentiation between the terms individual and group housing may be misleading because, in the former, more than 85% of the horses had restricted access to pasture or a paddock with other horses. Therefore, kick and bite injuries were also a problem in many individual housing systems.

Approximately 25% of all the reported diseases were attributable to injuries, although the cause of the trauma was not known in all cases. Injuries not caused by a kick or a bite from another horse were associated mainly with running into fences or obstacles, poor footing, uncontrolled exuberance and self-trauma.

However, the causes of these injuries were not always identified and, therefore, kick or bite injuries cannot be ruled out. More than half of the kick and bite injuries were associated with lameness, although the anatomical location of the lesion was rarely reported. In a study of a semi-feral pony herd, the rump and barrel were the regions most commonly injured by kicks and bites (Grogan and McDonnell 2005).

Circumstances of injuries

Based on our data, the circumstances for bite and kick injuries can be divided into 3 categories:

1) *Horses kept in individual box stalls but allowed access to pasture:* Co-mingling with other horses often does not follow a strict schedule and may be seasonal. Furthermore, the group composition often changes. Establishment of dominance is frequently less pronounced than in permanent group housing and needs to be re-established each time a horse is removed from or added to the group. The group composition is often determined by human decisions and horses are placed in a barn and not by the compatibility of the horses in the group, which makes establishment of a stable hierarchy difficult (Fürst *et al.* 2006). A well-established dominance hierarchy within a herd is considered a prerequisite for a low incidence of injuries (Mills and Nankervis 1999; McGreevy 2004).

TABLE 3: Potential risk factors for kick or bite injuries in horses

		No injury	Kick, bite	Total	OR	CI	95%	χ^2_1	P Value
Breed	Warmblood, Thoroughbred, Arabian	948 (96.3%)	36 (3.7%)	984	4.3	2.2	8.5	21.3	P<0.001
	Other	1545 (99.2%)	13 (0.8%)	1558	Reference				
Housing	Individual	1783 (98.1%)	35 (1.9%)	1818	1.5	0.8	3.1	1.304	P = 0.239
System	Permanent Group	711 (98.2%)	13 (1.8%)	724	Reference				
Use	Competition	704 (97.4%)	19 (2.6%)	723	1.2	0.6	2.7	0.251	P = 0.616
	Pleasure	1792 (98.5%)	27 (1.5%)	1819	Reference				

TABLE 4: Number and percentage of kick and bite injuries (n = 50) and other injuries (n = 181) in relation to housing changes, surgical repair and outcome

Cause of injury	Change in housing system up to 4 weeks before injury	Surgical repair	Complete healing of injury
Kick or bite	9 (18.0%)	7 (14.0%)	43 (86.0%)
Other	5 (2.8%)	29 (16.0%)	118 (65.2%)

2) *Horses kept permanently in groups:* Although there is usually an established dominance hierarchy, it may be difficult for individual herd members to distance themselves from others because of limited space. So-called social partners are tolerated within an individual 'flight zone', whereas close herd mates are allowed within the 'personal space' (Mills and Nankervis 1999). In a herd of Highland ponies with well defined threat hierarchies, most dominant herd members threatened certain individual ponies more often than others (Clutton-Brock *et al*. 1976; Roberts and Browning 1998). Most horses also spent more time next to particular individuals, which they also tended to groom more frequently. There was no apparent association (or disassociation) between threat and proximity relations.

Because subdominant horses may not be able to respond to body signals displayed by more dominant horses, both parties may resort to kicking and biting. Many horse owners are unaware of the dangers of *cul-de-sacs*, corners and narrow passageways and a lack of choice for entry into different areas of the stable.

3) *Horses kept mostly in individual box stalls:* These are less accustomed to contact with other horses or are placed in situations in which their personal space is invaded, for example in a trailer, barn alleyway or warm-up area. In a study at 2 Texas slaughter plants, Grandin *et al*. (1999) described kick and bite injuries that resulted from fighting during transport of the horses. A minimum of 30% of all horses examined had visible bite marks on their bodies. Damage caused by kicking was often not visible on horses, but was apparent as bruises on the carcasses. Twenty-five percent of all carcasses had bruises, and kicks or bites were responsible for 51% of these.

Feeding management

The effect of feeding management, such as the feeding of hay or grain to horses in permanent group housing separately or as a group could not be assessed because of the low number of horses. However, it is well known that fighting among herd members is often associated with limited food and water (Arnold and Grassia 1982; Houpt and Keiper 1982; Houpt 1991). In addition to group make-up and the design of the housing system, the method of feeding plays a substantial role in the risk of bite and kick injuries (Fürst *et al*. 2006).

Housing and breed

In the present study, the type of housing system (individual or group) and the use of the horse (pleasure or competition) did not greatly influence the risk of a kick or bite injury. The breed factor, on the other hand, constituted a significant risk as Thoroughbred and Warmblood horses were 4.3 times more likely to suffer a kick or bite injury than other breeds. Thoroughbreds and Arabians have been previously identified as more common victims of kick and bite injuries than horses of other breeds (Derungs *et al*. 2004). Warmbloods, Arabians and Thoroughbreds are the most common horses in Switzerland (38.5%) followed by different pony breeds (26%), Swiss Franches-Montagnes horses (26%) and others (9% e.g. American Quarterhorse, Standardbred, Lusitano, Andalusian, J.M. Knubben, unpublished data). Breed-specific differences with respect to certain behaviours, aggressiveness and personal space have been described by several authors (Schäfer 1991; Fraser 1992; Burger *et al*. 2003).

In comparison with other injuries, bites and kicks were more often preceded by changes in the housing environment, such as changes in the group composition or structural changes. Therefore, group housing may not always be the best option for boarding stables or sales barns with frequent changes in group composition. Introduction of a new horse into a stable group must be done gradually and cautiously (Kurtz *et al*. 2000). Stability of herd structure, housing management and design of the housing facilities appear to play an important role in the prevention of bite and kick injuries.

In conclusion, bite and kick injuries are greatly affected by housing management regimes. This is true for individual housing systems with temporary group housing but also for permanent group housing. Preventive measures include establishment of a consistent group of horses, large turn-out area and large enough barns or sheds with designs that provide individual feeding spaces and allow subdominant horses to avoid dominant herd mates. Sudden changes in housing and pasture management should be avoided, and differences in character and temperament between individual horses or horses of different breeds considered.

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Manufacturers' addresses

[1]Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, Washington, USA.
[2]SPSS, Chicago, Illinois, USA.

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Haltung, Nutzung und Gesundheit von Pferden in der Schweiz

- 2003/04 -

Eine Umfrage unter Pferdehalterinnen und Pferdehaltern

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1 Allgemeine Angaben / Haltungssystem

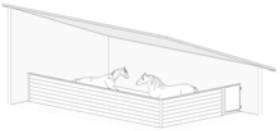
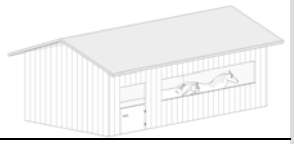
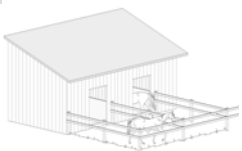
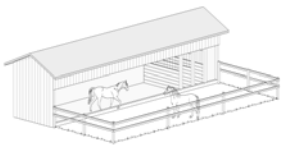
Name des Pferdes, Ponys, Esels, ...:	✍ ...
Rasse:	
Geschlecht (St, W, H):	
Alter in Jahren, wenn unbekannt bitte schätzen (ca. ... Jahre):	

Wieviele Pferde, Ponys, Esel, Maultiere, Maulesel... sind im Bestand ?
(bitte nicht nur die eigenen Tiere erwähnen)

Anzahl der Tiere:

Bezeichnung der Aufstallungsform	Einstreu:	Lichtverhältnisse bei Arbeiten im Stall (tagsüber):	Fenster / Türhälften
Buchstaben **A** - **H** gemäss Bezeichnung *(siehe unten)*	**A** = kein Einstreu **B** = Stroh (lange Faser) **C** = Stroh (Häcksel) **D** = Hobelspäne **E** = Sägemehl **F** = anderes *(bitte angeben)* ✍..... ✍.....	**A** = Lampen eingeschaltet **B** = keine Lampen eingeschaltet **C** = Lampen je nach Jahreszeit / Witterung eingeschaltet	**A** = mindestens 1 Fenster oder Tor immer offen **B** = Fenster oder Tor je nach Aussentemperatur offen **C** = Fenster oder Tor immer geschlossen

Bezeichnung der verschiedenen Aufstallungformen / Haltungssysteme

Einzelhaltung		Gruppenhaltung	
		Gruppenhaltung = mindestens zwei Pferde	
	**A** **Stände** mit oder ohne Abtrennung zu Nachbarpferden	**E** **Innenboxen** kein frei zugänglicher Auslauf	
	**B** **Innenboxen** keine offenen Fenster oder Türhälften nach aussen	**F** **Aussenboxen** kein frei zugänglicher Auslauf	
	**C** **Aussenboxen ohne Auslauf** Offenes Fenster oder Türhälften nach aussen	**G** **Aussenboxen mit Auslauf** ständig frei zugänglicher Auslauf	
	**D** **Aussenboxen mit Auslauf** immer (auch im Winter) Zugang zu einem direkt angeschlossenen Auslauf	**H** **Mehrraum - Gruppen- Laufställe** strukturiert (z.B. Brunnen, Fressstände ...)	

2 Sozialkontakt

Im Stallgebäude bzw. Haltungssystem, in welchem das Pferd steht, befinden sich ...

A = andere Pferde, Ponys, Esel ..., ohne Sicht-, Schnupper-, und freien Körperkontakt
B = andere Pferde, Ponys, Esel ..., mit Sichtkontakt
C = andere Pferde, Ponys, Esel ..., mit Sicht- und Schnupperkontakt
D = andere Pferde, Ponys, Esel ..., mit Sicht-, Schnupper-, und freiem Körperkontakt
E = sonstige Tiere
✍ .....
F = keine anderen Tiere

3 Pferdenutzung

Nutzungsart		Nutzungshäufigkeit		Nutzungs - intensität	Teilnahme an Pferdesportveranstaltungen, Turnieren	
Reiten, Fahren oder ähnliches	andere Nutzung oder keine Nutzung	durchschnittlich wie oft ?	durchschnitt - liche Dauer der Arbeitseinsätze	Ändert sich die Nutzungs- intensität im Jahres - verlauf ?	Häufigkeit der Teilnahmen	Art der Veranstaltung
A = mehrheitlich Ausbildung oder Training *(Training öfter als 2 mal / Woche)* **B** = mehrheitlich leichte Ausritte/ Ausfahrten **C** = mehrheitlich strenge Ausritte/ Ausfahrten **D** = mehrheitlich Reitschulbetrieb	**A** = Arbeitspferd (z.B.Forstwirtschaft) **B** = Militärpferd **C** = Zucht **D** = Aufzucht **E** = Fleischproduktion **F** = keine Nutzung (z.B. "Gnadenbrot") **G** = anderes *(bitte unten notieren)*	**A** = weniger als 1 mal / Woche **B** = ca. 1 mal / Woche **C** = ca. 2 mal / Woche **D** = ca. 3 mal / Woche **E** = ca. 4 mal / Woche **F** = ca. 5 mal / Woche **G** = ca. 6 mal / Woche **H** = täglich 1 mal **I** = täglich 2 mal **K** = täglich öfter als 2 mal	**A** = weniger als 30 Minuten **B** = weniger als 1 Stunde **C** = 1 - 2 Stunden **D** = über 2 Stunden **E** = über 4 Stunden **F** = über 6 Stunden	**A** = Nein **B** = Ja	(durch-schnittliche Anzahl Starts pro Jahr) ✍ ...	**A** = Springen **B** = Dressur **C** = Fahren **D** = Concours Complet **E** = Endurance **F** = Galopprennen **G** = Trabrennen **H** = Western **I** = Gangarten **K** = Gymkhanas **L** = Patrouillenritte **M** = Voltige **N** = andere *(bitte unten notieren)* ✍ ... *Mehrfachnennungen möglich*

Bemerkungen zu Sozialkontakt / Pferdenutzung: ✍ ...

4 Pferdefütterung

4.1 Tagesration an Raufutter und Art des Raufutters

Art des **Raufutters** ankreuzen ☒ und Menge eintragen (mehrere Antworten möglich)

☐ Heu	kg	☐ Grassilage / Haylage	kg
☐ Stroh		☐ Gras	
☐ anderes	✍ ...		

4.2 Tagesration an Kraftfutter und Art des Kraftfutters

Art und Menge des **Kraftfutters** (z.B. Hafer, Gerste, ..., evt. Futtermischung) eintragen

✍ ... (..... kg)

4.3 Futterzusätze

Welche Futterzusätze werden regelmässig eingesetzt ?

A = Salzleckstein
B = Mineralleckstein
C = andere Futterzusätze (z.B. Vitamine, ...)

☐ falls **C,** bitte Hauptinhaltsstoff, Menge und Hersteller angeben

✍ ...

4.4 Fütterungshandhabung

				nur bei Gruppenhaltung ausfüllen	
Ist die Fütterung abhängig von der Nutzungsintensität ?	Wie oft pro Tag wird **Raufutter** gefüttert ?	Wie oft pro Tag wird **Kraftfutter** gefüttert ?	Geschätzte Dauer der Futteraufnahme pro 24 Stunden *(Raufutter + Kraftfutter + Weide)*	Bei Fütterung von **Raufutter** sind die Pferde ...	Bei Fütterung von **Kraftfutter** sind die Pferde ...
A = Ja **B** = Nein, obwohl sich die Nutzungsintensität ändert **C** = Nein, da sich die Nutzungsintensität nicht ändert	Angabe wie oft (**1**x, **2**x, **3**x ...) oder: **A** = unbeschränkt	Angabe wie oft (**0**x, **1**x, **2**x, ...)	Angabe in Stunden ✍....	**A** = separiert und / oder angebunden **B** = frei, Futtervorlage erfolgt in Fressständen oder ähnlichem **C** = frei, keine Fressstände oder ähnliches vorhanden	**A** = separiert und / oder angebunden **B** = frei, Futtervorlage erfolgt in Fressständen oder ähnlichem **C** = frei, keine Fressstände oder ähnliches
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Bemerkungen zur Fütterung: ✍ ...

5 Bewegung

Bitte beachten: Sommerhalbjahr / Winterhalbjahr

Wie erhält das Pferd Weidegang ?		Wie lange dauert durchschnittlich ein Weidegang ?	Erhält das Pferd anderweitige freie Bewegung ? (Freilassen in Reithalle, grossem Allwetterplatz ...)		Erhält das Pferd anderweitige Bewegung ? (Führmaschine, Spazierengehen, ...)
A = täglich **B** = witterungs - abhängig **C** = nie	**A** = in Gruppen **B** = einzeln **C** = unterschiedlich	✍ ... Stunden	**A** = täglich **B** = witterungsabhängig / gelegentlich **C** = nie	**A** = in Gruppen **B** = einzeln **C** = unterschiedlich	**A** = täglich **B** = witterungsabhängig / gelegentlich **C** = nie

Vegetationsperiode (SOMMERHALBJAHR)

vegetationsfreie Periode (WINTERHALBJAHR)

6 Gesundheitsvorsorge

Wird das Pferd entwurmt ?	Wird das Pferd geimpft ?	Werden dem Pferd die Zähne kontrolliert ?
A = Ja, 1 mal / Jahr **B** = Ja, 2 mal / Jahr **C** = Ja, 3 mal / Jahr **D** = Ja, 4 mal / Jahr **E** = Ja, öfter als 4 mal / Jahr **F** = Ja, aber nicht jedes Jahr **G** = Nein, nie	**A** = Ja, 1 mal / Jahr **B** = Ja, 2 mal / Jahr **C** = Ja, aber nicht jedes Jahr **D** = Nein, nie	**A** = Ja, mindestens 1 mal / Jahr **B** = Ja, aber nicht jedes Jahr **C** = Nein, nie

Welche Person führt die Kontrolle der Zähne durch ?	Welche Art der Hufpflege wird bei diesem Pferd angewendet ?
A = ein Tierarzt **B** = eine Person mit spezifischer Qualifikation **C** = eine Person ohne spezifische Qualifikation	**A** = unbeschlagen (alle 4 Hufe) **B** = Hufeisen (genagelt) **C** = permanenter Hufschutz, Kunststoff (genagelt) **D** = permanenter Hufschutz, Kunststoff (geklebt) **E** = temporärer Hufschutz (Hufschuhe)

Bemerkungen zur Bewegung / Gesundheitsvorsorge: ✍ ...

7 Pferdegesundheit

Wurde das Pferd wegen einer Erkrankung / Verletzung in den letzten 12 Monaten dem Tierarzt vorgestellt ?

J = Ja **N** = Nein	wenn ja , handelt es sich dabei um eine ...				
	Erkrankung der **Verdauungs - organe** ?	Erkrankung der **Atmungs - organe** ?	**Verletzung ? *** (z.B. Wunden, Knochenbrüche, Hautverletzungen ...)	**Lahmheit ?**	**andere Erkrankung ?**
	A = Kolik **B** = Zahnproblem **C** = Abmagerung **D** = Durchfall **E** = *(bitte unten notieren)* ✍ ...	**F** = Husten, COPD (Dämpfigkeit) **G** = akute Bronchitis **H** = anderes *(bitte unten notieren)*	**I** = Schlagverletzung **K** = Bissverletzung **L** = Verletzung auf Weide/Auslauf (kein Schlag oder Biss) **M** = Verletzung im Stall (kein Schlag oder Biss) Transportverletzung **N** = Trainingsverletzung **O** = Wettkampfverletzung **P** = Verletzung im Gelände **Q** = (z.B. beim Ausritt) andere Verletzung **R** = *(bitte unten notieren)* ✍ ...	**S** = als Folge einer Verletzung **T** = nicht als Folge einer Verletzung **U** = chronisch wiederholte langdauernde Lahmheit **V** = akute plötzlich auftretende Lahmheit	**W** = andere Erkrankung *(bitte unten Diagnose notieren)* ✍ ...
Bitte Buchstaben eintragen (**J** oder **N**)	Bitte Buchstabe(n) eintragen (**A** bis **E**)	Bitte Buchstabe(n) eintragen (**F** bis **H**)	Bitte Buchstabe(n) eintragen (**I** bis **R**)	Bitte Buchstaben eintragen **S** oder **T** / **U** oder **V**	Bitte Buchstabe eintragen (**W**)

Wenn die Erkrankung keiner der oben beschriebenen Kategorien zuzuordnen ist, bitte die vom Tierarzt gestellte Diagnose notieren (wenn möglich):

✍ ...

***** Bemerkungen zur Entstehung bzw. Hergang der **Verletzung** ...:
(betroffene Körperteile, Beteiligung von anderen Pferden, Beteiligung von Menschen ... ?)

✍ ...

8 Spezifische Angaben zur Pferdegesundheit

Bitte führen Sie die unter Kapitel 7 erwähnten Erkrankungen / Verletzungen näher aus

Buchstabe(n) der Erkrankung von Kapitel 7 übernehmen (**A** - **W**)	War im Vorfeld der Erkrankung einer oder mehrere der folgenden Punkte aufgetreten ? *(bis 1 Monat **vor** der Erkrankung)* **A** = Intensivierung der Nutzung **B** = Einschränkung der Nutzung **C** = Änderung der Fütterung **D** = Änderung der Haltung **E** = intensiverer Weidegang als üblich **F** = Bewegungseinschränkung (z.B. Boxenruhe) **G** = irgend eine Form von Belastung (z.B. Transport) **H** = keine der oben genannten Punkte treffen zu **I** = weiss ich nicht Buchstabe(n) eintragen **A** - **I**	Ist während der Erkrankung einer oder mehrere der folgenden Punkte eingetroffen ? **A** = ein operativer Eingriff **B** = ein Klinik - aufenthalt von mindestens 3 Tagen **C** = die gleiche Krankheit bei anderen Pferden im Stall **D** = keine der oben genannten Punkte treffen zu **E** = weiss ich nicht Buchstabe(n) eintragen **A** - **E**	Wurde das Pferd einer Therapie unterzogen ? **A** = Ja, der Tierarzt behandelte das Pferd **B** = Ja, das Pferd wurde in Eigentherapie behandelt **C** = Ja, das Pferd wurde komplementär - medizinisch behandelt **D** = Nein, das Pferd wurde nicht medizinisch behandelt **E** = weiss ich nicht Buchstabe(n) eintragen **A** - **E**	War mit der Erkrankung ein Nutzungsausfall verbunden ? **A** = Nein, die Nutzung war uneingeschränkt möglich **B** = Teilweise, die Nutzung war nur eingeschränkt möglich **C** = Ja, eine Nutzung war zu diesem Zeitpunkt nicht möglich **D** = weiss ich nicht Buchstabe eintragen **A** - **D**	Konnte das Pferd von der Erkrankung geheilt werden ? **A** = Ja, ohne Spät- und Folgeschäden **B** = Teilweise, mit Spät- und Folgeschäden **C** = Nein, das Pferd leidet noch immer an der Erkrankung **D** = weiss ich nicht Buchstabe eintragen **A** - **D**

Bemerkungen zur Pferdegesundheit: ✍ ...

9 Verhaltensauffälligkeiten

Sind Ihnen in den letzten 12 Monate ungewöhnliche Verhalten bei diesem Pferd aufgefallen ?

☐ Ja ☐ Nein

Wenn ja, bitte **blaues** Beiblatt ausfüllen

10 Komplementärmedizin

Haben Sie in den letzten 12 Monaten komplementäre / alternative Therapiemethoden (z.B. Akupunktur, Homöopathie ...) bei diesem Pferd angewendet ?

☐ Ja ☐ Nein

Wenn ja, bitte **rotes** Beiblatt ausfüllen

Haben Sie schon einmal bei einem Pferd komplementäre / alternative Therapiemethoden angewendet ?

☐ Ja ☐ Nein

Könnten Sie sich vorstellen in Zukunft komplementäre / alternative Therapiemethoden bei Pferden anzuwenden ?

☐ Ja ☐ Nein

11 Personalien

Diese Angaben sind freiwillig !

(Erwünscht für allfällige Nachfragen sowie zwingend notwendig für Ihre Teilnahme an der Verlosung einiger hochwertiger Preise unter den Teilnehmern der Umfrage)

Name, Vorname

Adresse, PLZ/Ort:

Tel.-Nr.:

Email:

Ich wünsche nach Abschluss des Projektes eine Zusammenfassung der Ergebnisse

☐ Ja ☐ Nein

(Erwünscht für allfällige Nachfragen zur Pferdegesundheit: Name und Anschrift des behandelnden Tierarztes, bzw. der behandelnden Tierärzte)

Name, Vorname

Adresse, PLZ/Ort:

Tel.-Nr.:

Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Zurich
Politecnico federale di Zurigo

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La santé des chevaux en Suisse en rapport á leurs utilisations et aux conditions d´hébergement

- 2003/04 -

Enquête auprès des propriétaires de chevaux

Johannes Knubben (cand. méd. vét., Doctorant)
Prof. Dr. méd. vét. Jörg Auer (Clinique équine, Faculté de Médecine vétérinaire, Université de Zurich)
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Dr. phil. nat. Markus Stauffacher (Chef de projet, ETH Zurich)

1 Informations générales et système de détention

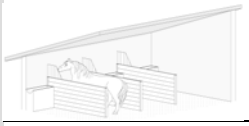
Nom du cheval, poney, âne, ...:	✍ ...
Race:	
Sexe (jument, hongre, étalon):	
Âge (si inconnu, prière de faire une estimation: env. .... années):	

Nombre total d´équidés dans l' écurie:
(prière de mentionner tous les équidés de l' écurie)

Identification du type d'écurie	Litière	Luminosité lors des travaux dans l' écurie pendant la journée	Portes/Fenêtres
lettres **A** - **H** **selon l'illustration** *(voir ci-dessous)*	**A** = pas de litière **B** = paille (normale) **C** = paille (hachée) **D** = copeaux **E** = sciure (de bois) **F**= autres ✍..... ✍.....	**A** = Une lampe est allumée. **B** = Aucune lampe n´est nécessaire. **C** = Une lampe est allumée selon la saison ou les conditions climatiques.	**A** = 1 fenêtre au moins est toujours ouverte. **B** = L´ouverture des fenêtres ou des portes dépend de la température exterieure. **C** = Fenêtres/portes sont toujours fermées.

Identification des divers types de détention des chevaux

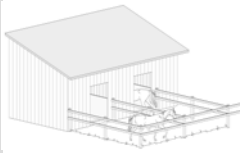
Détention individuelle



A
Stalles
avec ou sans séparation des chevaux voisins

B
Boxe intérieur
pas de fenêtre ou demi-porte qui donne sur l'extérieur

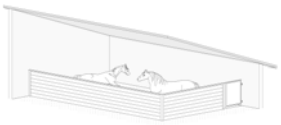
C
Boxe donnant sur l'extérieur
fenêtre ou demi-porte ouverte, qui donne sur l'extérieur



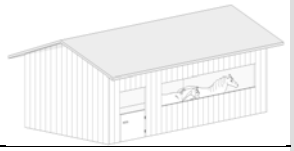
D
Boxe donnant sur l'exterieur avec aire de sortie close, accessible en permanence (y compris en hiver)

Détention en groupe

Au moins deux chevaux qui sont ensemble dans le système

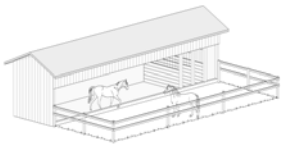


E
Boxe intérieur
sans possibilité de contact avec l'extérieur



F
Boxe extérieur
avec des fenêtres/semi-portes mais sans sortie à l'extérieur

G
Boxe donnant sur l'extérieur avec aire de sortie attenante
accessible en permanence



H
Stabulation libre en groupe, à plusieurs compartiments
subdivisée en plusieurs aires, telles qu' aire d'alimentation et aire de repos

2 Contact social

Dans l'écurie le cheval a des congénères ...

A = ...qu' il ne peut voir, ni sentir et sans contact corporel possible.
B = ...qu' il peut voir, mais ne pas sentir et sans contact corporel possible.
C = ...qu' il peut voir, et sentir mais sans contact corporel possible.
D = ...qu' il peut voir, sentir, avec libre contact corporel.
E = Non, il n' y a pas d'équidés mais d' autres animaux.

✍ .....

F = Non, il n' y a aucun autre animal.

3 Activités faites par l´animal

Type d´activités		Fréquence	Intensité		Participation á des manifestations sportives/competitions	
équitation, attelage, training	autre ou aucun usage	Nombre de scéances	durée moyenne de chaque scéance	Est-ce que l'intensité change pendant l'année?	fréquence	discipline
en majorité: **A** = formation et entrainement *(plus de 2 fois par semaine)* **B=** promenades légères **C** = promenades avec travail **D** = manège	**A** = cheval utilitaire (ex. travail forestier) **B** = cheval militaire **C** = jument poulinière/étalon d' élevage **D** = élevage des poulains/jeunes chevaux **E** = production de viande **F** = aucun usage (ex. retraite) **G** = autre ✍ ...	**A=** moins d´ 1 fois par semaine **B=** env. 1 fois par semaine **C=** env. 2 fois par semaine **D=** env. 3 fois par semaine **E=** env. 4 fois par semaine **F=** env. 5 fois par semaine **G=** env. 6 fois par semaine **H=** chaque jour 1 fois **I =** chaque jour 2 fois **K=** chaque jour plus de 2 fois	**A** = moins de 30 min **B** = moins de 60 min **C** = 1 - 2 heures **D** = plus de 2 heures **E** = plus de 4 heures **F** = plus de 6 heures	**A** = oui **B** = non	(estimation du nombre de participations annuelles) ✍ ...	**A** = obstacle **B** = dressage **C** = attelage **D** = concours complet **E** = endurance **F** = galop **G** = trot **H** = western **I** = allures **K** = gymkhanas **L** = Patrouillenritte **M**= voltige **N**= autre ✍ ... *plusieres options possibles*

Remarques concernant contact social / activités du cheval: ✍ ...

4 Alimentation du cheval

4.1 Ration journalière de fourrage grossier

Genre du **fourrage grossier** et quantité (kg) (plusieures indications possibles)

☐	foin	kg	☐	silage d'herbe / Haylage / enrubanné	kg
☐	paille		☐	herbe	
☐	autre	✍ ...			

4.2 Ration journalière de concentrés

Quantité et type de concentrés (ex. avoine, orge ou bien nom et composition d' un mélange ou aliment complet)

✍ ... (..... kg)

4.3 Suppléments d' alimentation

Quels sont les suppléments régulièrement administrés ?

A = pierre à lecher (sel)
B = Mineraux
C = autres (ex: vitamines...)

☐	si **C**, (prière d' indiquer le nom du produit, le fabricant et les ingrédients)
✍ ...	

4.4 Modalités de distribution des aliments

				á remplir seulement pour une détention en groupe	
Les rations sont-elles adaptées en fonction du travail de l´animal?	Nombre d' affouragements **(fourrage grossier)** par jour	Nombre de rations de **concentré** par jour	Estimation de la durée de la prise de toute nourriture par 24 heures	Lors de la distribution de **fourrage grossier,** les chevaux sont-ils:	Lors de la distribution de **concentré** les chevaux sont-ils:
A = oui **B** = Non. Mais l'intensité de travail est variable. **C** = Non. L'intensité de travail ne change pas.	combien de fois ? (**1**x, **2**x, **3**x,..) ou **A** = illimité	combien de fois ? (**0**x, **1**x, **2**x,..)	heures ✍....	**A** = séparés et/ou attachés **B** = libres, mais les aires d´alimentation sont séparées **C** = libres, et les aires d´alimentation ne sont pas séparées	**A** = séparés et/ou attachés **B** = libres, mais les aires d´alimentation sont séparées **C** = libres, et les aires d´alimentation ne sont pas séparées
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Remarques concernant l'alimentation de l´animal: ✍ ...

5 Mobilité

S.v.p. répondez aux questions autant pour l' été que pour l' hiver

Accès au paturage		Durée moyenne de paturage	Le cheval a-t-il accès à un manège, place d' équitation, grand paddock afin de se mouvoir librement?		A-t'il d'autres possibilités de mouvement en liberté (ex. carrousel, promenades à la main...)
A = quotidiennement **B =** dépendant des conditions climatiques ou de temps en temps **C** = jamais	**A** = en groupe **B** = individuel **C** = variable	✍ ... heures	**A** = quotidiennement **B =** dépendant des conditions climatiques ou de temps en temps **C** = jamais	**A** = en groupe **B** = seul **C** = variable	**A** = quotidiennement **B =** dépendant des conditions climatiques ou de temps en temps **C** = jamais
semestre d'été					
semestre d'hiver					

6 Prévention des maladies

Votre cheval est-il vermifugé regulièrement?	Votre cheval est-il vacciné?	Contrôle dentaire du cheval
A = oui, 1 fois par année **B** = oui, 2 fois par année **C** = oui, 3 fois par année **D** = oui, 4 fois par année **E** = oui, plus de 4 fois par année **F** = oui, mais pas chaque année **G** = non, jamais	**A** = oui, 1 fois par année **B** = oui, 2 fois par année **C** = oui, mais pas chaque année **D** = non, jamais	**A** = oui, au moins 1 fois par année **B** = oui, mais pas tous les ans **C** = non, jamais

Qui effectue le contrôle dentaire?	Comment est-ce que vous prenez soin des sabots de votre cheval?
A =un vétérinaire **B** = une personne avec une qualification spécifique **C** = une personne sans qualification spécifique	**A** = le cheval n´est jamais ferré **B** = fers (cloués) **C** = protection permanente en plastique (clouée) **D** = protection permanente en plastique (collée) **E** = protection temporaire par des souliers

Remarques concernant mobilité / prévention des maladies: ✍ ...

7 santé animale

Avez-vous dû appeler un vétérinaire dans les 12 derniers mois pour une maladie / blessure de votre cheval?

J = oui **N** = non	*si oui s'agissait-il d' une...* *(plusieurs indications possibles)*				
	...maladie de l' **appareil digestif**	...maladie de l' **appareil respiratoire?**	**blessure.... *** (ex. plaie, fracture, coupe...)	**boitrie** (origine et durée)	**autre maladie?**
	A = colique **B =** problème dentaire **C =** amaigrisse-ment **D =** diarrhée **E =** autres (prière de l' indiquer tout en bas) ✍ ...	**F =** toux (COPD, poussif) **G =** bronchite aigue **H =** autres (prière de l' indiquer tout en bas) ✍ ...	**I =** suite à un coup **K =** par morsure **L =** blessure faite en liberté (ni morsure ni coup) **M =** faite dans l' écurie? **N =** faite dans le van? **O =** faite pendant l' entrainement? **P =** faite pendant une compétition? **Q =** faite pendant une **R =** promenade? autres (prière de l' indiquer en bas) ✍ ...	**S =** conséquence d' une blessure **T =** autre qu´une blessure et **U =** chronique, de longue durée **V =** soudaine, aigue	**W =** autre *prière de l'indiquer en bas* ✍ ...
S.v.p. notez la lettre (J ou N)	S.v.p. notez la/les lettre/s (A à E)	S.v.p. notez la/les lettre/s (F à H)	S.v.p. notez la/les lettre/s (I à R)	S.v.p. notez deux lettres: S ou T / U ou V	S.v.p. notez la lettre et le diagnostic

Pouvez vous expliciter le diagnostic vétérinaire concernant les "autres maladies" ci dessous?

✍ ...

***** Remarques concernant l'origine et les conditions dans lesquelles le cheval s'est blessé?
(Quelle partie corporelle? Autres chevaux impliqués? Des personnes impliquées?)

✍ ...

8 Sante (spécifications des maladies)

S.v.p. donnez des détails sur les maladies du paragraphe 7

Indiquez la lettre de la maladie (A - W) du paragr. 7, s.v.p.	Un ou plusieurs des points ci-dessous est il survenu avant la maladie? *(jusqu' a un mois avant)*	Pendant la maladie, un des points ci-dessous est-il survenu ?	Thérapie de la maladie	Avez vous dû renoncer à léxercice habituel?	Est-ce que le cheval a guérit de la maladie/s' est récupéré de la maladie ?
	A = intensification de l´exercice **B** = réduction de l´exercice **C** = changement d' alimentation **D** = changement de l´hébergement **E** = Accès au pâturage nettement augmenté **F** = réduction marquée des déambulationst (ex. boxe) **G** = un stress (ex. transport) **H** = aucun des points proposés **I** = Je ne sais pas	**A** = une intervention chirurgicale **B** = un séjour dans un hôpital d' au moins 3 jours **C** = la même maladie a affecté d' autres chevaux dans l' écurie **D** = aucun des points proposés **E** = Je ne sais pas	**A** = Le vétérinaire était en charge de la therapie **B** = Nous avons fait nous-mêmes la therapie **C** = Le cheval a été traité avec des therapies alternatives **D** = aucun traitement **E** = Je ne sais pas	**A** = Non, le travail était toujours possible sans limitations **B** = Oui, mais un exercice réduit était possible **C** = Oui, aucun exercice n' était possible **D** = Je ne sais pas	**A** = Oui. Sans complications et compromis pour l' usage future **B** = partiel, avec des complications et des compromis pour l'exercice futur **C** = Non. Le cheval souffre toujours de la maladie **D** = Je ne sais pas
	S.v.p. notez la/les lettres	S.v.p. notez la/les lettres	S.v.p. notez la/les lettres	S.v.p. notez la lettre	S.v.p. notez la lettre

Remarques concernant la santé de l´animal: ✍ ...

9 Comportements inhabituels

Avez-vous déjà été frappé par des comportements inhabituels de votre cheval ?

☐ Oui ☐ Non

Si oui, prière de remplir la feuille annexe bleue.

10 Médicine complémentaire

Ce cheval a-t-il suivi une thérapie de médecine complémentaire dans les 12 derniers mois ?
(e.g. acuponcture, homéopathie, osteopathie...)

☐ Oui ☐ Non

Si oui, prière de remplir la feuille annexe rose.

Plus généralement, avez vous déjà utilisé des méthodes complémentaires pour un cheval ?

☐ Oui ☐ Non

Etes vous prêt à utiliser de telles thérapies si l´occasion se présente ?

☐ Oui ☐ Non

11 Données personnelles

Ces indications sont facultatives!

(Mais elles sont nécessaires pour participer au tirage au sort et elles nous permettent de vous contacter pour d´éventuelles questions ultérieures)

Nom, Prénom: _____

Adresse, NPA/Localité: _____

Tél.: _____

Email: _____

Je désire un exemplaire du rapport final de ce projet:

☐ Oui ☐ Non

(Nom, prénom et localité de votre vétérinaire/vos vétérinaires:

(Vous nous permettez ici de contacter le vétérinaire pour des renseignements supplémentaires.)

Nom, Prénom: _____

Adresse, NPA/Localité: _____

Tel.-Nr.: _____