

Abstract

This thesis focuses on clearing up the concept „stereotypic behaviour of horses“ describing its causes, signs and possible ways of its elimination. Next purpose was to observe group of horses by specific breeders. Data, that may have something to do with stereotypic behaviour of horses (age, sex, use of horses, type of housing etc.), were based on this observation.

Stereotypic behaviour of horses is a taught behaviour, especially visible by domesticated horses. The behaviour is unnatural, repetitive and does not have specific purpose or function. There are many causes of stereotypic behavior, mainly boredom, anxiety, lack of exercise, influence of nutrition or genetic factors.

Based on my own observation of 43 reared horses, 10 of them (23,26%) were behaving stereotypically. The most often type of stereotypic behaviour was weaving (3 horses), wind-sucking (3 horses) and box-walking (2 horses). The other I have observed were raking, clacking lips, swing chain, chewing wood, aggressiveness.

Followed group of horses was divided into 4 subgroups according to their use, 3 subgroups according to their type of housing and 3 subgroups according to their age. The best way of housing is pasture breeding, With this type of housing was stereotypic behaviour visible only by one followed horse. By other types of housing I have not noticed any demonstrable differences in the frequency of stereotypes, Based on my observation I have found out, that the lowest presence of stereotypic behaviour was by the group of horses meant to recreational riding, Most stereotypes showed horses from age of 8 years and elder horses.

Based on these data were suggested corrective measures such as enrichment of stable environment for horses spending more time in boxes. This can be done with toys, operant feeding, modifications of stall construction and improving of the management of stabled horses.