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Effects of three non-confrontational handling techniques on the behavior of horses during a simulated mildly aversive veterinary procedure

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Highlights

- Three non-confrontational horse handling techniques and control were evaluated.
- Stress/avoidance behavior responses were measured during a mildly aversive stimulus.
- Each handling technique resulted in fewer stress/avoidance responses than control.
- These results support recommendation of non-confrontational handling techniques.

Abstract

In a randomized between-subjects design, we evaluated the effectiveness of each of three non-confrontational handling interventions compared to no intervention control on the behavior of horses during a single-trial simulated mildly aversive health care scenario. These handling interventions included withers scratching (WITHERS, n=12), face and eye rubbing (EYES, n=12),

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