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Poker Face: Discrepancies in behaviour and affective states in horses during stressful handling procedures

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Highlights

- Horse IRT/HRV was compared with compliance and proactivity during handling tests
- Lower HRV was associated with greater right hemispheric dominance
- More proactive horses had possibly greater right hemispheric dominance after tests
- No other physiological indicators of stress correlated with behaviour during testing
- Compliance is generally a poor indicator of stress status during horse handling

ABSTRACT

Correct assessment of stress in horses is important for both horse welfare and handler safety during necessary aversive procedures. Handlers depend on behaviour when judging how well an individual is tolerating stressful procedures such as loading or veterinary intervention. However, evidence suggests that behaviour may not accurately reflect affective states in horses. This may be explained by individual

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