

Hestens adfærdsmæssige behov – hvordan bliver deres opfyldelse bedst sikret?

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Behavioural needs

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→ **A horse is still a horse**

Behavioural needs – natural behaviour

- Where do they come from? Which ecological niche have they adapted to?



- Vends, savannahs, tundra
 - Low temperatures at night, high temperatures at day
 - Hard lignified plants
 - Escape into the distance, social group as safety

Behavioural needs – natural behaviour

- Herbivores (16-18h grazing, low energy food)
- Movement (walking)
- Social (small stable groups → family, large anonymous, bachelor)
- Flight



Typical husbandry



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- Group housing: often large dynamic groups

Stability of rank order in a group

Time point 0	3 months	6 months	1 year	2 years
Lorbas	Wotan	Earl	Earl	Earl
Domino	Domino	Atlas	Wotan	Wotan
Caesar	Lorbas	Wotan	Atlas	Atlas
Wotan	Caesar	Domino	Domino	Domino
Atlas	Atlas	Lorbas	Lorbas	Lorbas
Earl	Earl	Caesar	Caesar	Caesar
Whisky	Whisky	Whisky	Whisky	Whisky
Achat	Filou	Filou	Filou	Filou
Filou	Achat	Achat	Achat	Achat
Elliot	Elliot	Elliot	Elliot	Elliot



Typical husbandry



- But large dynamic groups on the rise

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Open stable with functional areas: HIT active stable

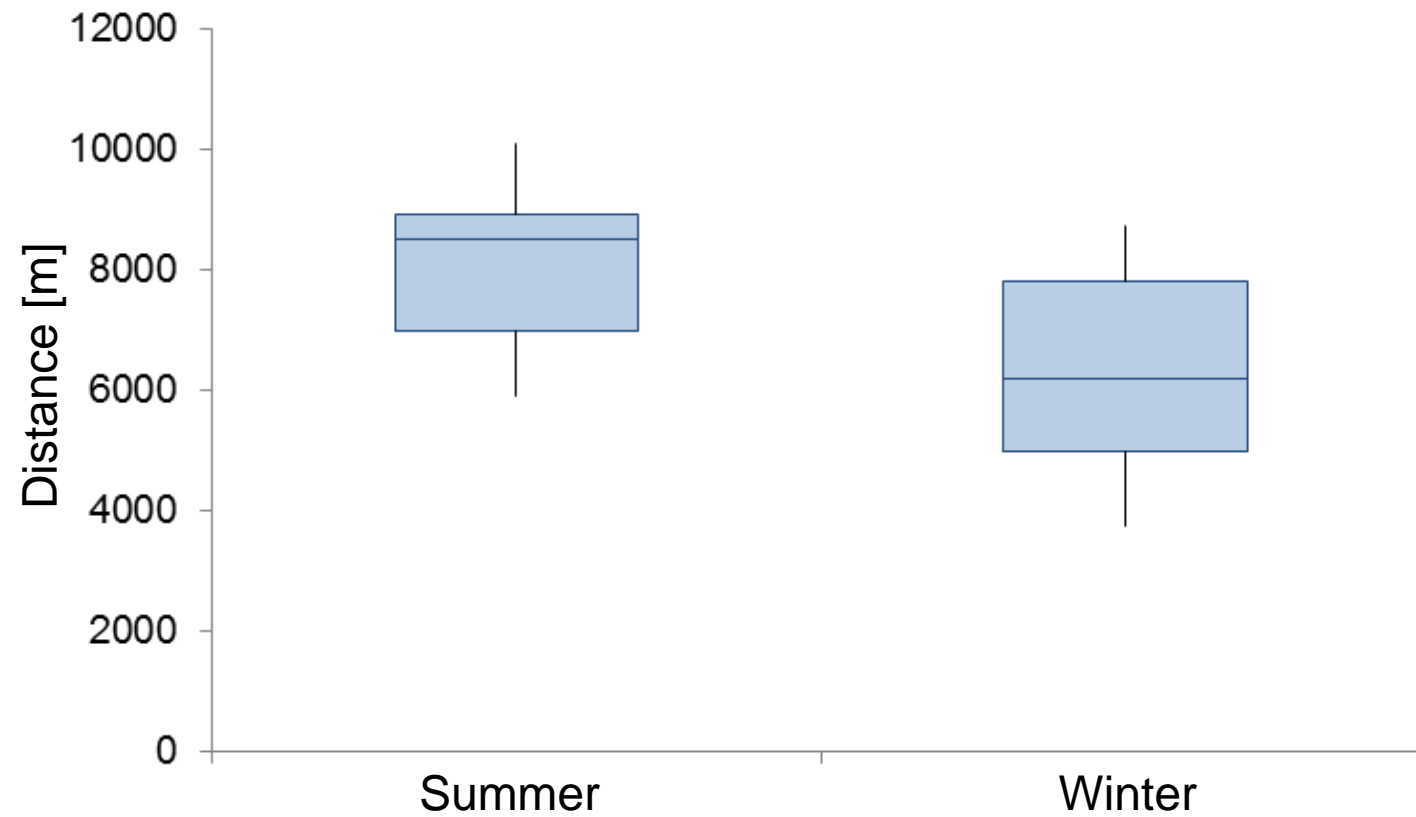


HIT active stable in Northern Germany

- 60 horses in a large dynamic group
- Geldings + mares (2-29 years)
- German Warmbloods, Ponies, Others
- 10.000m² paddock
- In summer pasture for a few hours

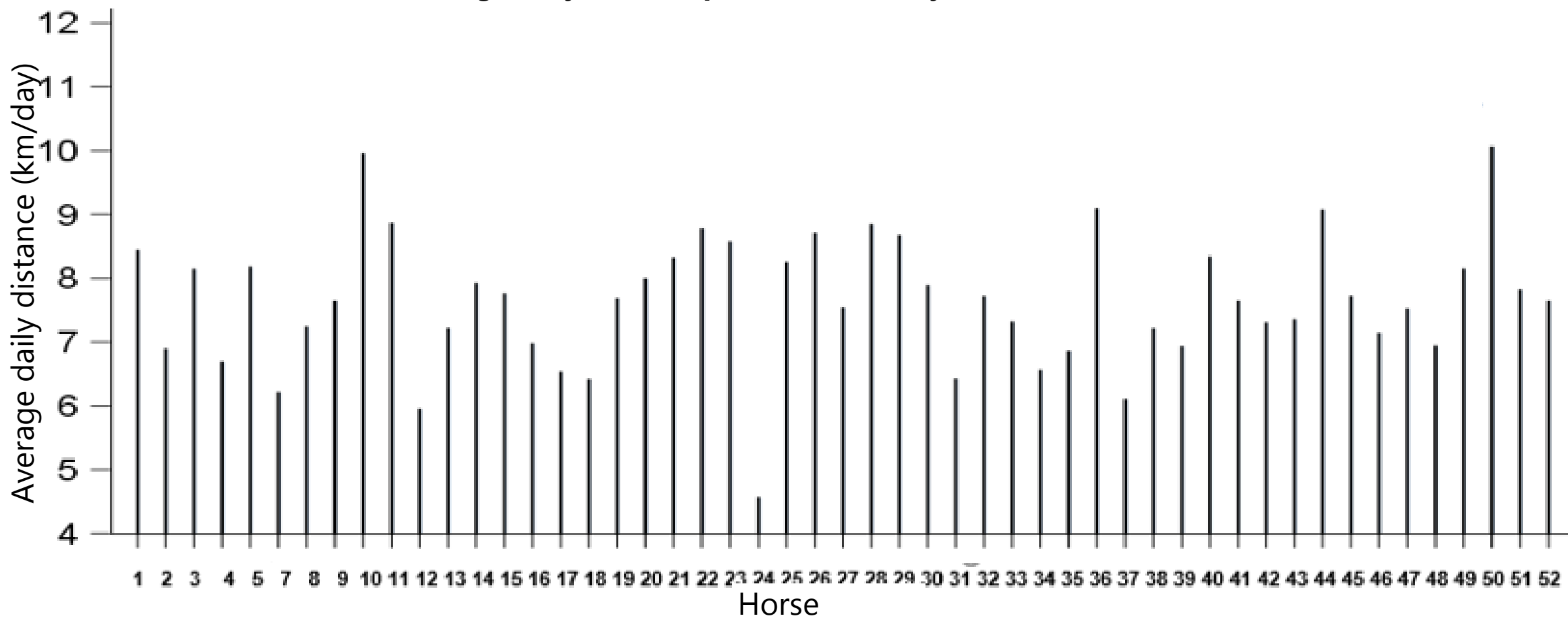


Activity of the horses: seasonal influences



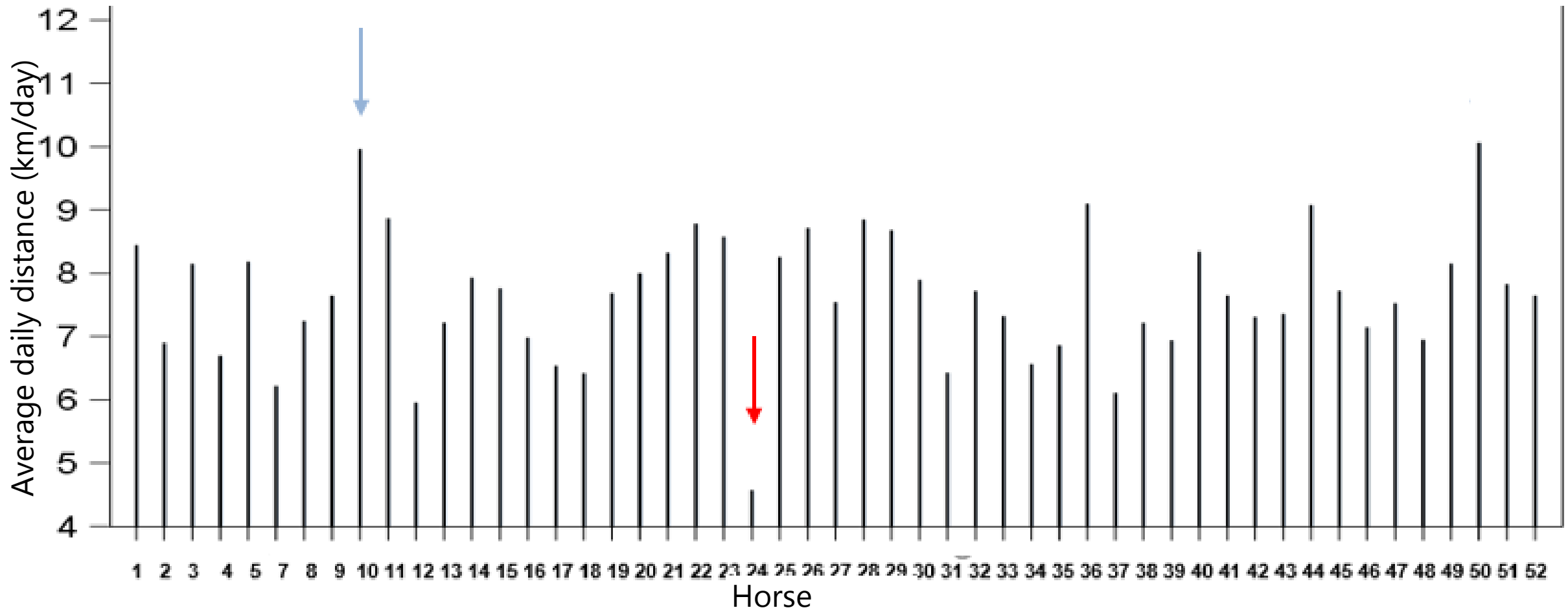
Activity of the horses

Average daily distance per horse (km/day) within 7 ½ months



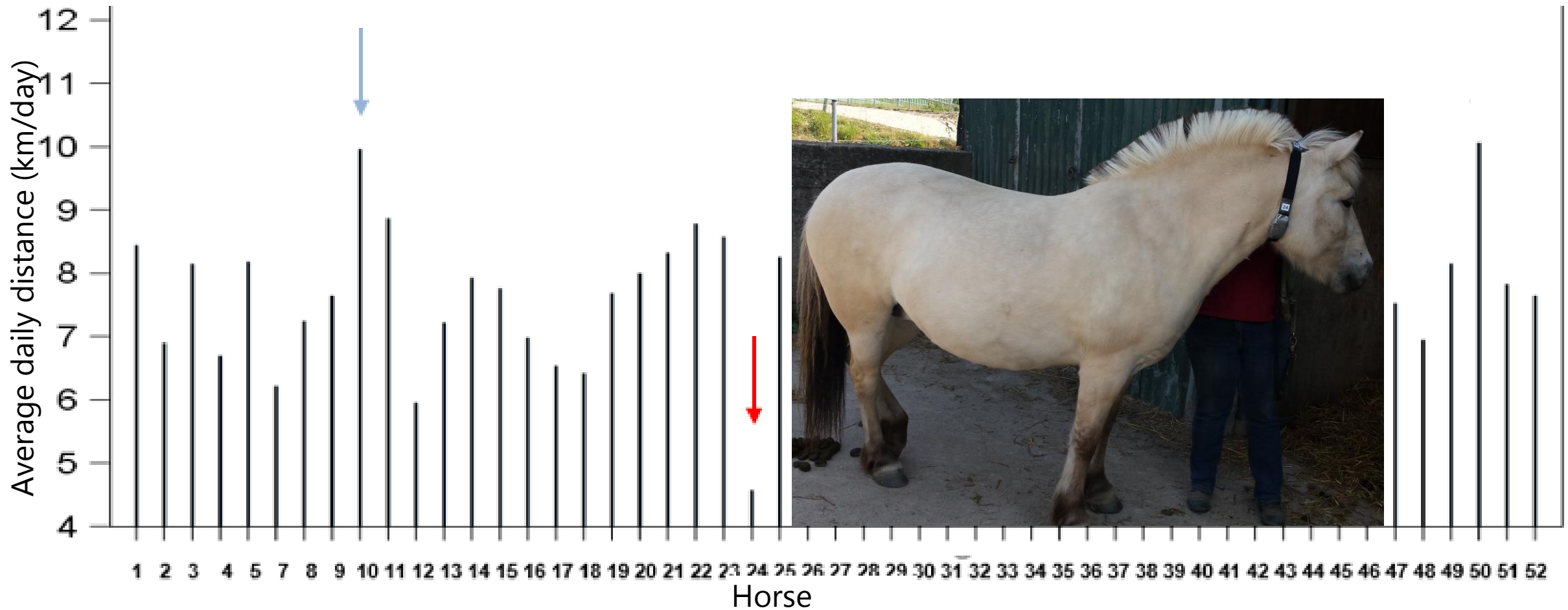
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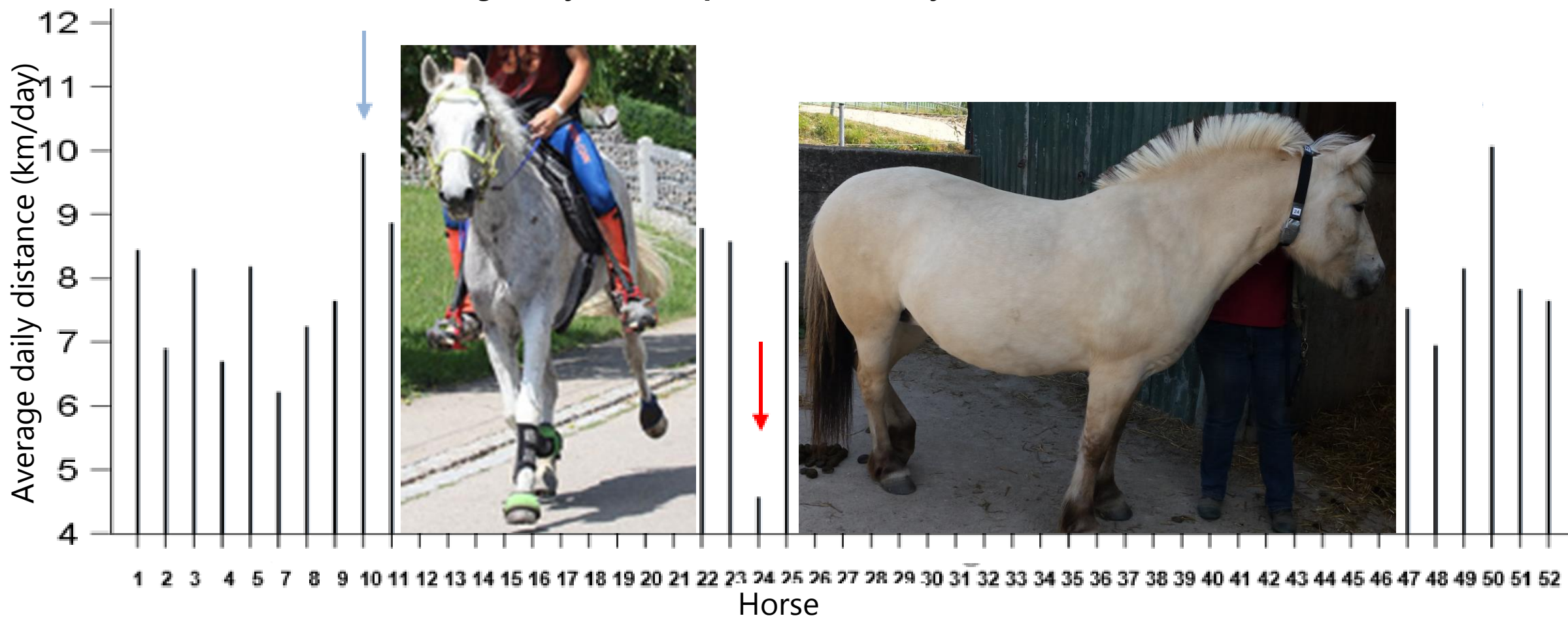
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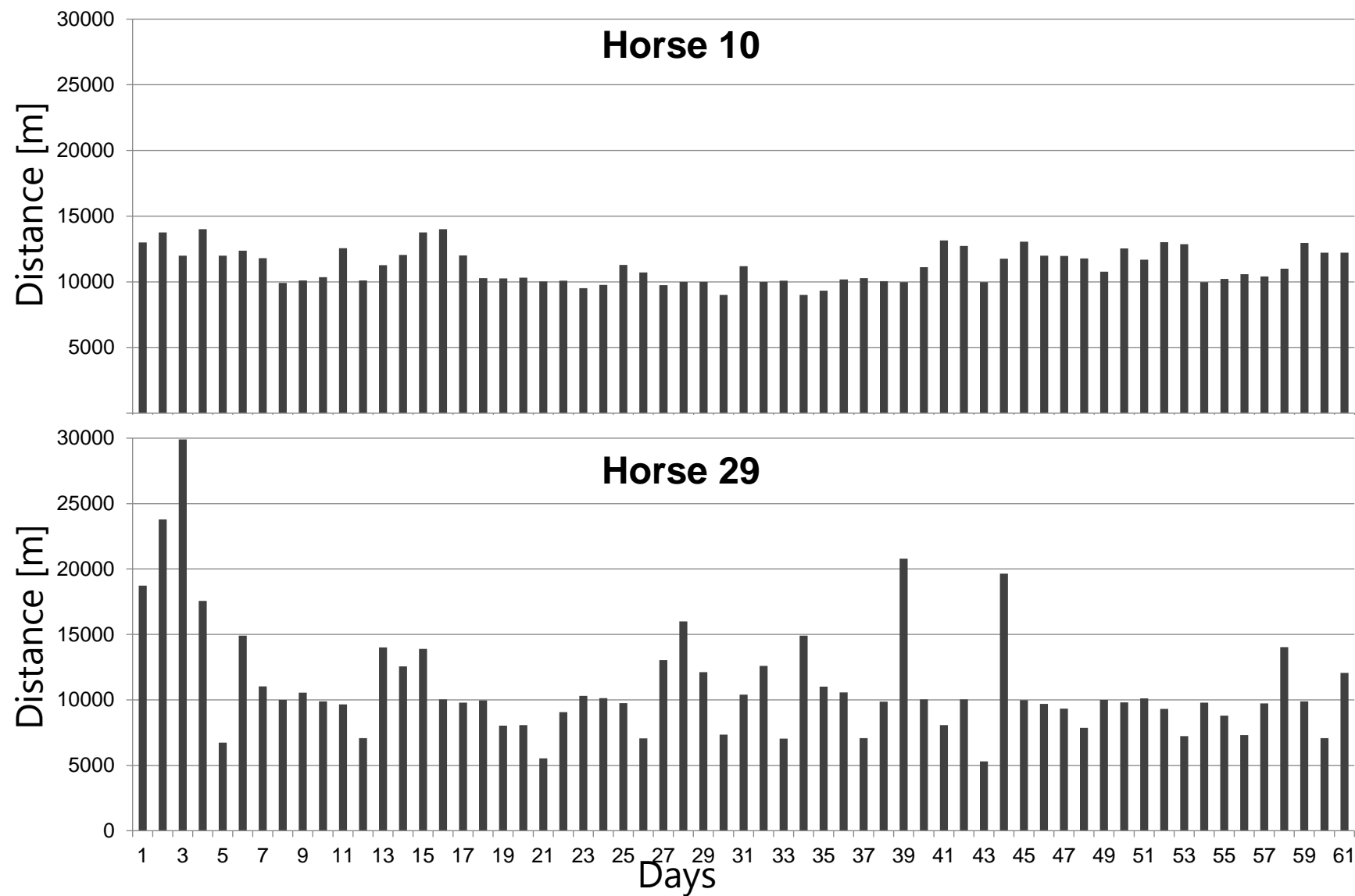


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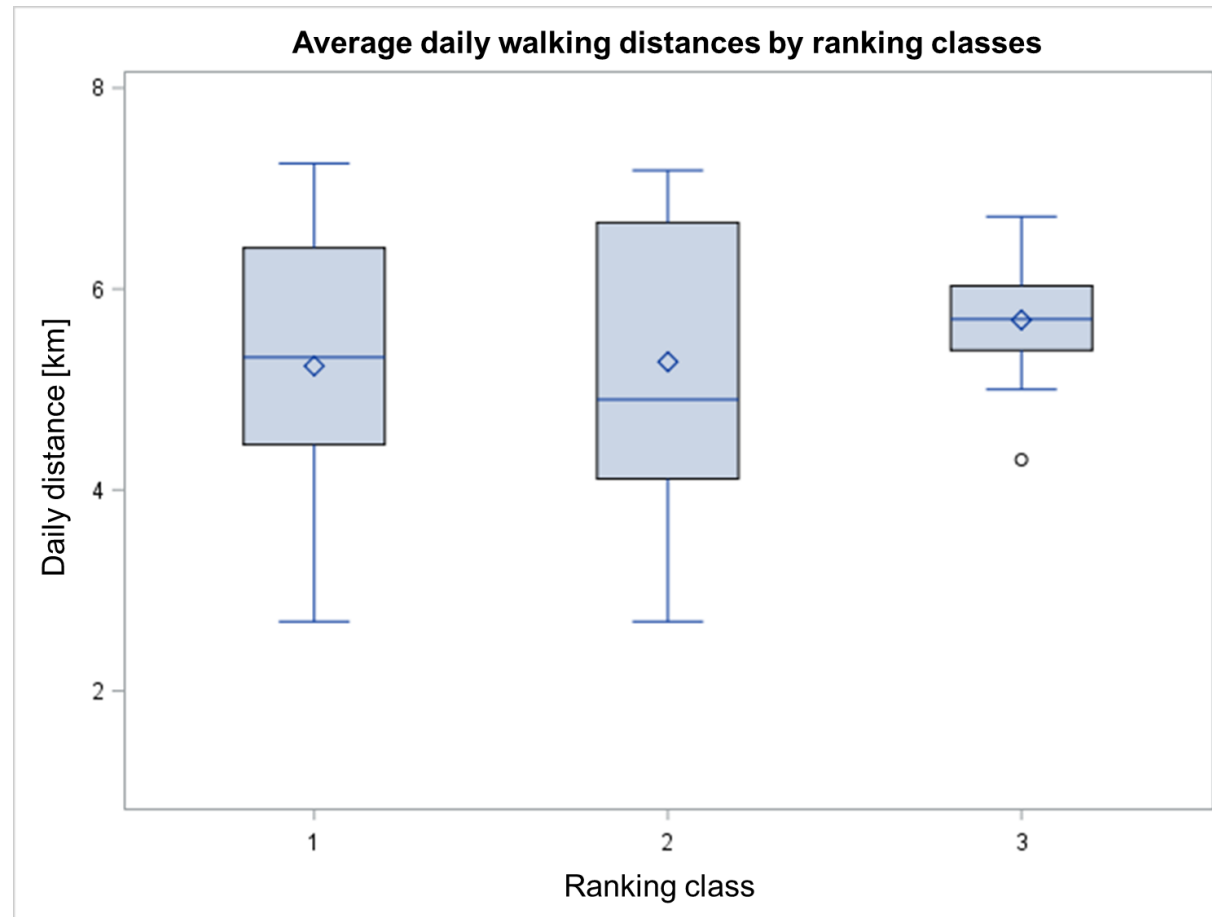
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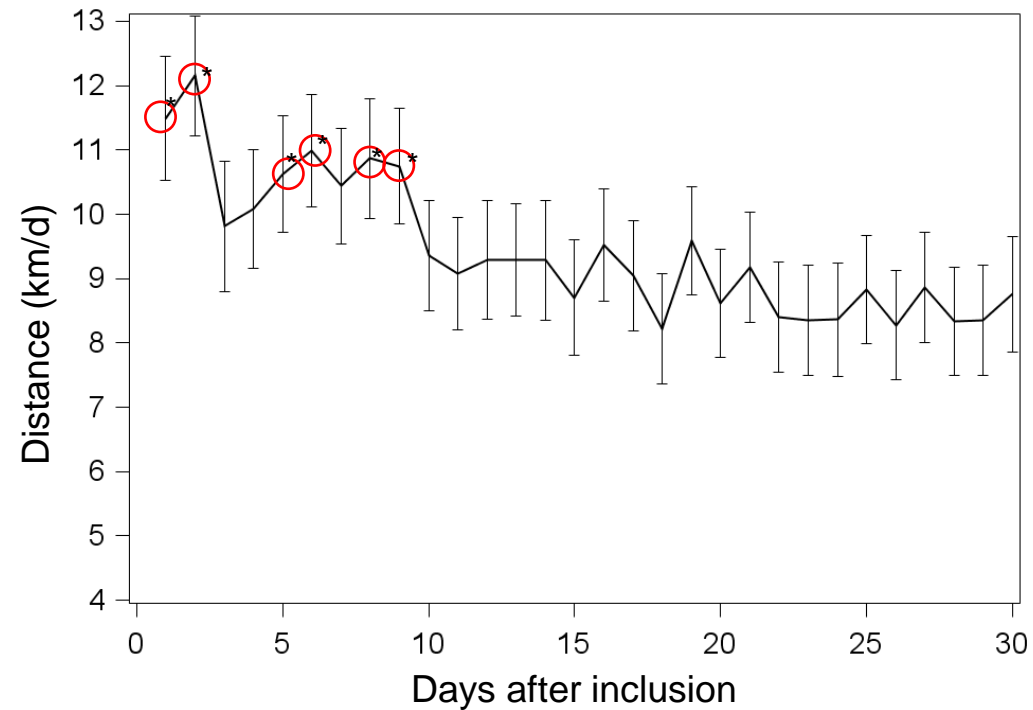
Activity of the horses: daily variations



Influence of rank order



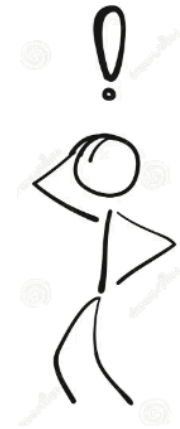
Activity of the horses: newcomers (n=10)



- Restlessness in first days, no influence on walked distances on established horses

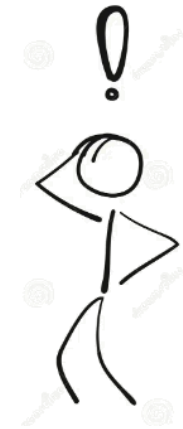
Summary: HIT active stables

- Movement concept is successful (likewise for paddock trail – 9.6km)
- Integration newcomers relatively low in stress
 - especially with regard to total herd
- Improvement potential: lying halls, drinkers, straw feeders



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Behavioural needs and animal welfare

- Account for behavioural needs in husbandry
- Is that enough? Do we then have a good welfare?



What is animal welfare?

- www.menti.com
- Code: 2367 0534

What is animal welfare?

no cruelty animal-centered stimulation

environment mental health good life conditions behaviour

 a life worth living activities

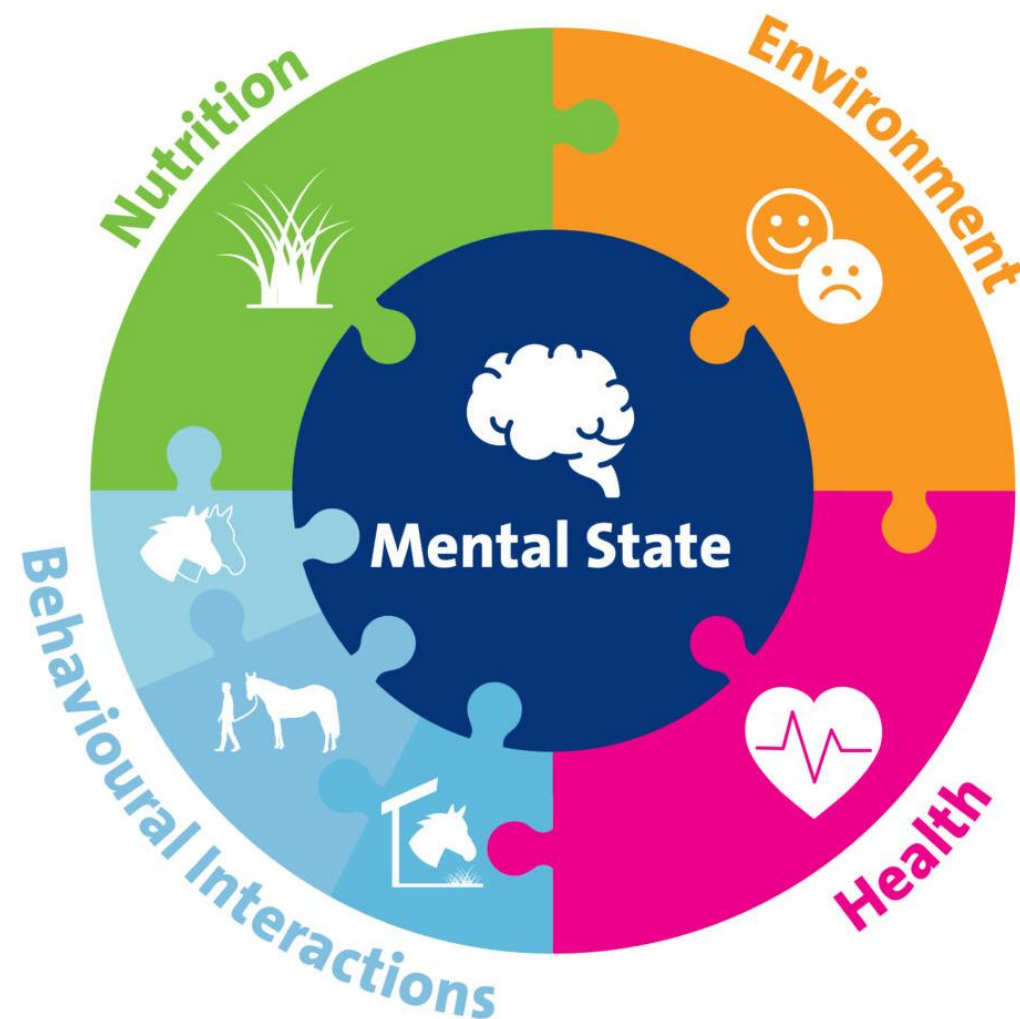
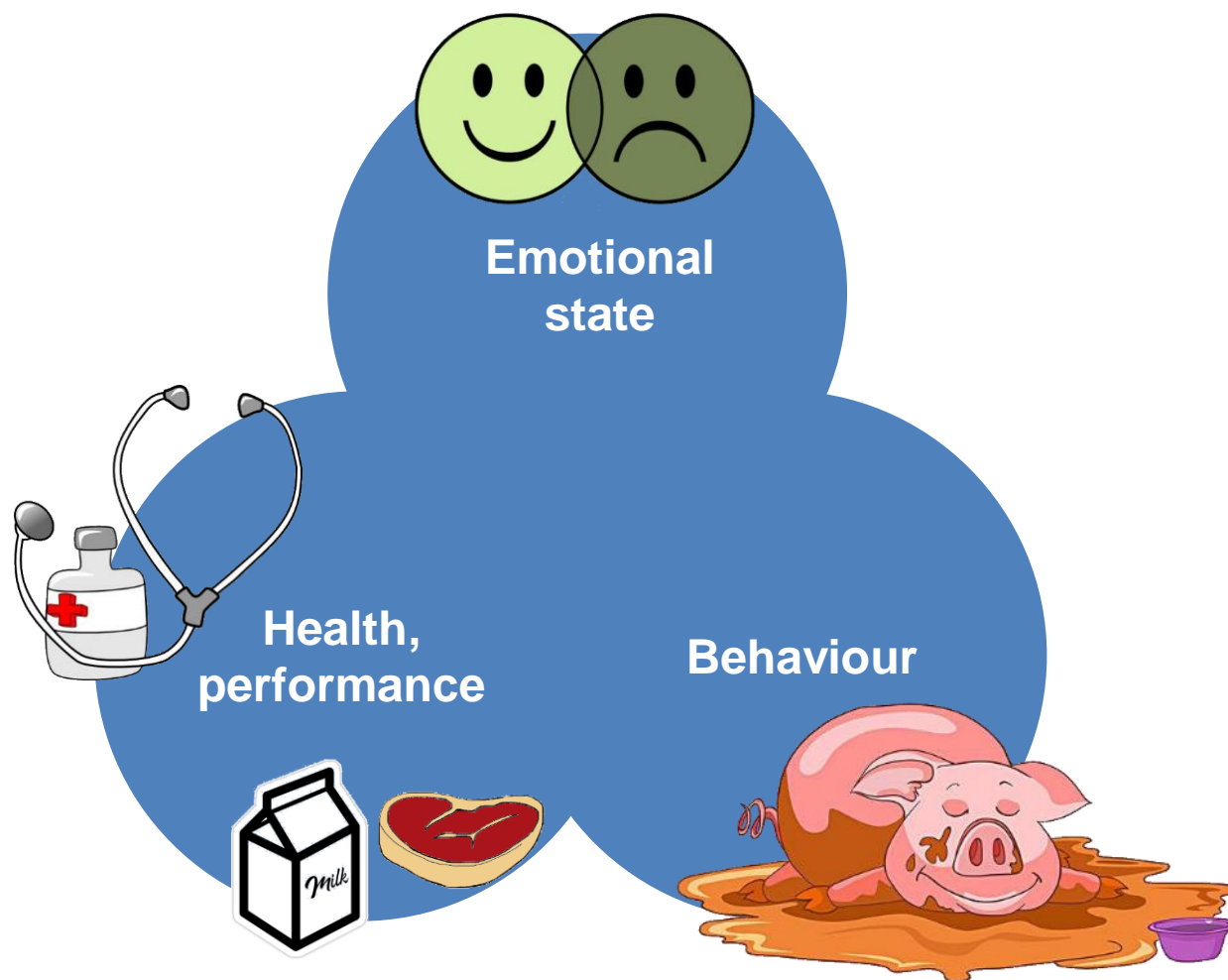
striving

health natural behaviour

 natural environment space behaviour hedonistic

 physiology natural diet nutrition feeding

What is animal welfare



References

 Journal of Equine Veterinary Science
Volume 95, December 2020, 103282


Original Research

Distances Walked by Long Established and Newcomer Horses in an Open Stable System in Northern Germany

Frederik Hildebrandt ^a  , Joachim Krieter ^a, Kathrin Büttner ^{a,b}, Jennifer Salau ^a, Irena Czycholl ^a

Area and Resource Utilization of Group-Housed Horses in an Active Stable

by Frederik Hildebrandt ^{1,*} , Kathrin Büttner ^{1,2} , Jennifer Salau ¹ , Joachim Krieter ¹  and Irena Czycholl ¹ 

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Animals 2021, 11(10), 2777; <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani11102777>

 Applied Animal Behaviour Science
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Dominance hierarchy does not influence distances travelled and area utilization in a large group of ponies

Gesa Weidling ^b, Joachim Krieter ^b, Ralf Lübben ^a, Irena Czycholl ^c  



Thank you for your attention!
Questions?
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