

Signs of hereditary diseases in three-year-old franchises-montagnes horses

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The objective of this study was to investigate clinical signs of diseases with known or suspected hereditary components like equine sarcoid, insect bite hypersensitivity (IBH), osteochondrosis, podotrochleosis, prognatism and wind-sucking in the franchises-montagnes (FM) horse. We performed a clinical examination on 702 three-year-old FM horses, which were shown at the Swiss-Field-Tests in 2004. A questionnaire on health, environment and feeding habits of the animals was completed. In 11.9% of the horses, sarcoids were detected. The prevalence was higher in chestnuts (16.6%) than in bays (10.1%). The prevalence of sarcoids in offspring from sires with known sarcoids was not significantly higher than in descendants from stallions without a known history of sarcoids. Clinical signs of IBH were only found in six horses (0.9%). In 12.0% of the animals, hoof abnormalities were recorded. The angle between hoof base and hoof wall was $56.7 \pm 0.1^\circ$, the average hoof width was 13.7 ± 0.3 cm in the front feet. We found no significant difference between left and right feet. With the exception of a high prevalence of sarcoid, our results indicate that the FM horse is overall a healthy breed.

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Signs of hereditary diseases in three-year-old Swiss Warmblood horses

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The objective of this study was to investigate clinical signs of hereditary diseases like equine sarcoid, osteochondrosis (OC) and idiopathic laryngeal hemiplegia (ILH) in relation to environment, management and conformation of the horses. For this purpose, we analyzed veterinary examinations of 403 stallions at their approvals since 1994 and examined 493 three-year-old Swiss Warmblood horses, which were shown at the Swiss-Field-Tests in 2005. A questionnaire on health and management of the animals was completed. In 11.5% of horses sarcoids were found. The prevalence of sarcoids in offspring of sires with known sarcoids was not significantly higher than in descendants from stallions without a known history of sarcoids. We found distended joints as a possible symptom of OC in 11.4% of the horses. We did not find a relationship between enlarged joints in the offspring and the presence of OC in the sires. While we found a high number of sarcoid affected horses compared to other studies, the prevalence of enlarged joints was low and very few horses displayed abnormal respiratory noise at work. Furthermore, we found no correlation between conformation and the horse's general health.

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