



Animal welfare aspects in modern stable building




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The history of the development of horses and its significance for keeping horses

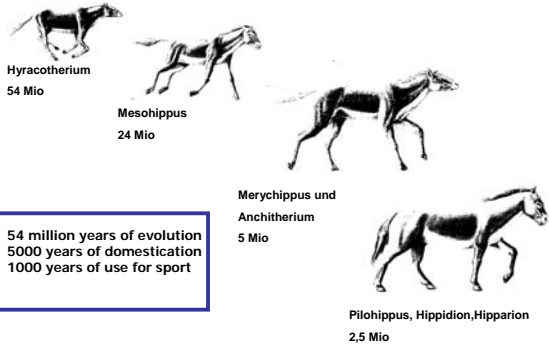
Original habitats
 Steppe, tundra, semi-desert
 Hilly and open
 Groups of trees and bushes
 Arid to semi-arid vegetation
 Close to water
 Major climate fluctuations
 Networking with other animals



Present habitats:
 Stables for single horses
 Stables for groups of horses
 Indoor riding arenas and riding grounds
 Horse walkers and treadmill
 Show jumping arenas
 Paddock
 Open space
 Trucks and trailers
 Veterinary clinics



A long way to today's horses



Hyracotherium
54 Mio

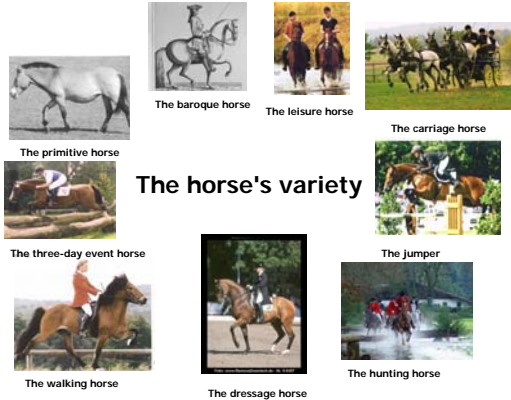
Meshippus
24 Mio

Merychippus und Anchitherium
5 Mio

Pilohippus, Hippidion, Hipparion
2.5 Mio

54 million years of evolution
 5000 years of domestication
 1000 years of use for sport

The horse's variety



The primitive horse

The baroque horse

The leisure horse

The carriage horse

The three-day event horse

The jumper


The walking horse

The dressage horse

The hunting horse

The horse's characteristics as a result of evolution

- Highly-developed senses
- Instantaneous reactions
- Permanent attentiveness
- Enormous sprinting powers
- Great endurance
- Social characteristics
- Defecating while moving
- Extreme thermal regulation
- Brilliant adaptation to the situation
- Ideal learning skills
- No cries of pain if he is injured!!!!



With its very special character
the horse serves us as a partner
in a way that no other animal does.

The horse's basic needs


Free Moving at rest and at high speed






Feeding **Drinking** **Playing**

Lying down in all its variations



REM sleeping position

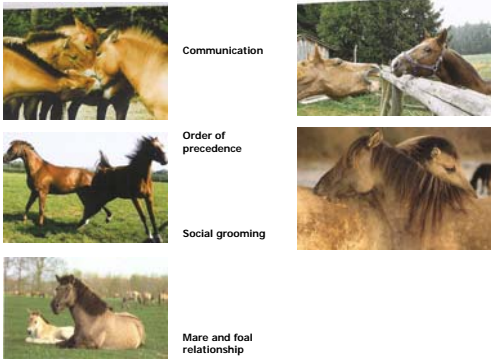
Non-REM sleeping position

Lying and rolling

Tethering posts and boxes that are too small: REM sleeping position is not possible

A rare picture: All the horses in a group lying down

Social contacts




Communication

Order of precedence


Social grooming

Mare and foal relationship

Exploration behaviour




Comfort behaviour



Which horse can still do that today???

In the 5000 years of domestication horses have changed their appearance and developed differently, but their behaviour patterns, reactions and requirements from their environment have been retained completely.

Horses' habitats




...and today???

What has this to do with keeping horses today?

- The horse is and remains an animal of the steppes and a highly specialised flight animal, which lives or likes to live in herds and groups.
- Its metabolism, its eating habits, its need for free mobility, its social behaviour, its climatic requirements, in brief, all its necessities of life, are characterised by its original habitat.
- The horse makes very precise demands on its environment, which must be taken into account when planning stables and riding arenas, and in daily dealings with horses!
- It is our duty and responsibility to arrange the horses' living quarters in such a way that the basic requirements are complied with and respected.


Living quarters today

Single horses





Tethering posts
 Already partly prohibited
 No movement
 No social contact
 Serious damage to health
 Stabling contrary to animal welfare

Inside boxes
 Little social contact
 Little movement
 Poor stable climate
 Little stimulation
 "Obsolescent model!"
 Just no animal welfare





External boxes
 Little social contact
 Restricted movement
 Usually poor stable climate
 No choice of where to stay
Should be the minimum standard







Paddock boxes
 Social contact possible
 Choice of where to stay
 Good stimulation
 Withdrawal zone present
 More movement
Recommendable method for keeping horse






Keeping single horse outside
 No social contact
 Little stimulation to move
 Only acceptable with protection against the weather
Not a good solution







Keeping groups of horses


Multiple room group stable
 High level of social contact
 Lots of things to do
 Few opportunities to withdraw
 No environmental stimulation
Good, but not ideal



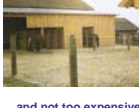


Keeping groups with turnout exercise facilities
 High level of social contact
 Good range of movement
 Good deal of environmental stimulation
 Restricted withdrawal possibilities
Modern method of keeping horses

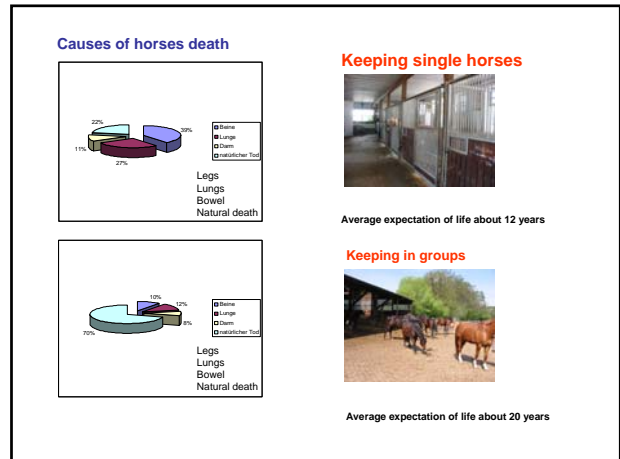
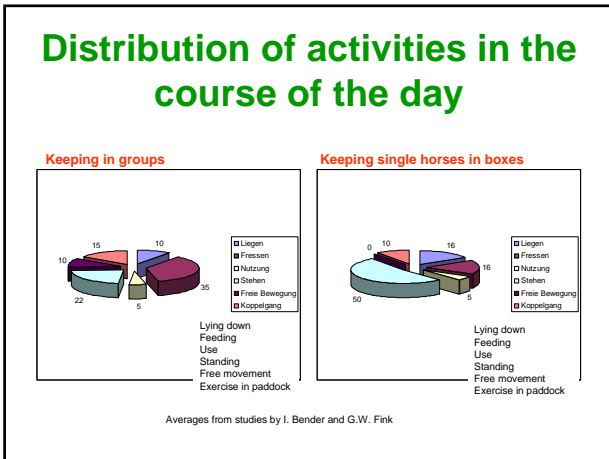


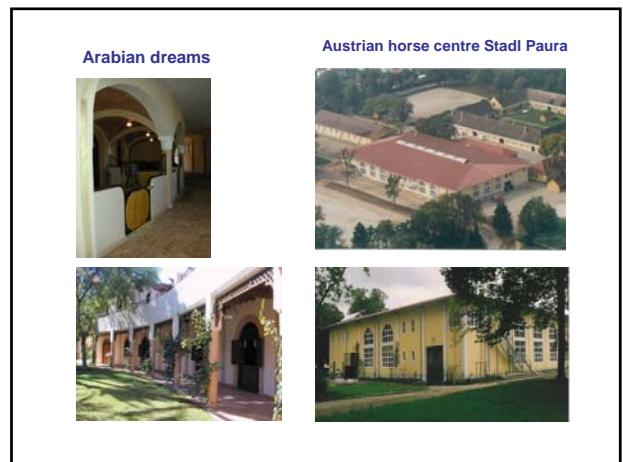


Keeping groups in multiple rooms with turnout exercise facilities
 Appropriate method of keeping horses with use by riders
 Best method of keeping horses where there is a connection to a pasture
The best for horse and rider
Ideal for leisure horses
Suitable for sport horses as well!!!



...and not too expensive!





The big indoor riding school



The olympic horse village



Are we on the right way?



Yes

- Introduction of the criterion "happy horse"
- Examining stables by "horse inspectors"
- Greater compliance with the concept of animal welfare
- Competitions for stables
- Awards for particularly good operations (FN, LAG)
- Introduction of guidelines for evaluating stables
- Changing the attitudes of stable owners, horse owners and trainers
- Planning and building appropriate modern stables
- Ethical principals
- Behavioural code for horseman



Please never forget:



Even the most attractive fence is a prison for horses, and horses don't cry!!



We will not build good stables until we look at the world from the horse's point of view

Thank you for your attention