The equine pain face
Gleerup, Karina Charlotte Bech; Forkman, Björn; Lindegaard, Casper; Andersen, Pia Haubro

Publication date:
2014

Document version
Early version, also known as pre-print

Citation for published version (APA):
The equine pain face

**BACKGROUND**
In many animals moderate pain induces only minor changes in their behaviour. Recent research has shown that facial expressions may be a sensitive indicator of pain in some species.

**OBJECTIVE**
The aim of this study was to investigate the possible existence of an equine pain face and to describe this in detail.

**RESULTS**
Both methods produced altered behaviour interpreted as pain, in all horses. Alterations in facial expressions were observed in all horses and facial expressions representative for baseline and pain expressions were condensed into explanatory illustrations (see below).

**CONCLUSION**
An equine pain face can be recognized in horses during induced moderate pain and may be a useful tool for recognizing pain in horses and thereby improving animal welfare.