

CONSTRUINDO SABERES, FORMANDO PESSOAS E TRANSFORMANDO A PRODUÇÃO ANIMAL

## INTEREST FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL ENRICHMENT OF CONFINED HORSES FOR JUDGMENTS

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The use of environmental enrichment (EE) as a way to improve animal welfare has been an important tool. Besides efficient in its proposal, can be a cheap alternative, being necessary use of the creativity and the knowledge of species to which is directed. Thus, objective was verify the interest of horses, kept confined for judgements participation, for the environmental enrichment in the form of active feeding. A total of 135 horses, aged between 1 and 11 years old, were observed, males and females of the Mangalarga Marchador breed. As form of environmental enrichment was used a pet bottle with holes containing horse feed (equi12). The EE was made available in two moments for 5 minutes and the interaction time was recorded, noting the initial time in which the animal showed interest, and the final time, the animal stopped interacting with the EE. A frequency test was performed to check the amount of time (intervals of 1 in 1 min) and interest in EE. It was obtained that during the first presentation of the EE to the horses, the great majority interacted with the EE, representing a total of 85.48%, and still 33% of the animals spent 4 to 5 min interacting with the EE, showing that the object introduced drew attention. This interaction consisted in the act of smelling, biting, nosing and licking the bottle. The lack of interest of 14.52% of the horses by the EE can be attributed to several causes, among them, the stress caused by the trip, the sudden change in the environment in which the animal was. In the second presentation there were no significant differences between the times, however, the percentage of animals that showed no interest in the toy decreased to 12.21%. Active feeding can be used for distraction from kept horses confined.

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