



**International Equine Science Meeting 2008  
University of Regensburg, Germany**



**Poster**

**Investigation on standing stalls for horses with regard to  
animal welfare**

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**Introduction 1**

For centuries, roped husbandry has been the traditional system for keeping horses. Today, this system is still used in practice more or less frequently in various regions. Compared to former times, however, types of horses and their use have undergone some changes over the last centuries. While in earlier days, mainly cold bloods were kept and used for work several hours a day, today's horses are kept for sports and leisure and spend most of their time in the stable. For this reason, mostly warm bloods and thorough bredes are used nowadays. Taking today's changed conditions into consideration, the question arises whether this method of equine husbandry may still be applied with a view to animal welfare

**Material, Methods and Animals 2  
Farms and Horses 2.1**

The study comprised 13 farms on which either all or some of the horses were constantly kept in standing stalls. In total, 65 horses were included in the study. Three farms where horses were kept under near-natural conditions served as a control group. All 52 horses had 24-hour access to the pasture allowing social interaction. All farms were operating businesses and participated in the present study on a voluntary basis

.....Fulltext available in :

**Proceedings of the International Equine Science Meeting 2008**

**Language: English**

**ISBN-10: 3980813401**

**ISBN-13: 978-3980813402**