

# Beyond riding:

## Reevaluating horse welfare

The aim is to give a scientific perspective on horses' welfare trying to help and contribute to a better understanding of how to take care of horses in a more suitable way. The objectives are:

**Addressing a topic taboo**  
**Having a holistic approach**

When we talk specifically about horse Krueger in 2021, described their basic needs in welfare with these 3 main points:

### Nutrition

**Grazing needs:** The restriction of the grazing needs tends to lead into stereotyped behaviours.

**Dietary composition:** A proper diet it's not only the one that meets the calorics needs, it also has to address their need for prolonged chewing.

### Free movement

**Natural baheviour:** The horse is a nomadic animal, the need of constant movement has an impact in their physic and psychological needs.

**Impact of confinement:** the most common stabulation method in Europe is in stalls, limitng their natural movement leading into health issues and stress.

### Social interaction

**Social structure:** In the wild, horses hardly ever are alone, they thrive in groups, so when they are forced to this isolation they are lead to a situation of stress and abnormal behaviors.

**Stall designs:** Just some modifications in the stalls desgins are able to enhance social interaction and reduce stress.

### Conclusions

- **Current Practices:** Most stalling methods in Europe are unable to fullfil horses' needs, particulary in sport horses.
- **Opportunity for Improvement:** The current situation gives us a wide range of improvement and oportunities to address horses' welfare correctly.
- **Future Directions:** By combining our interest with their natural behaviour we will be able to enhance their well-being and performance.

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