



Visuele horizon

Cooper et al., 2000: In conclusion, our study found that increasing visual horizons significantly reduced established patterns of stereotypic weaving and nodding in stabled horses particularly if they provided additional opportunities to view or socially interact with neighbouring horses. This was, however, a relatively short term study conducted on a stable social group of horses with a rigid routine, but there is no evidence that increasing social opportunities had any adverse effects on our horses or that the effect of changing stable design wore off with time.

Cooper *et al.* (2000) found that weaving in horses was significantly reduced when they had access to a conspecific in an adjacent stable through a grilled 1 m² portal. Weaving was significantly reduced when weaving horses were housed in stables that provided increased visual contact with neighbouring horses.

The incidence of weaving dropped to zero when the horses had opportunities for social interaction with their neighbours on all four sides of their enclosure (Cooper *et al.*, 2000).

Henderson, 2007: Although not studied by these researchers, presumably stalls that open onto individual paddocks (in/out stalls) would further increase visual horizons, provide the horse with some degree of environmental control, and increase well being (Luescher *et al.*, 1991).

McGreevy *et al.* (1995a) found that stereotypy was less common on large yards where horses had visual contact with a large number of other horses.

References

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