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Outcomes of a web-survey to collect stakeholders' opinion on welfare requirements for horses

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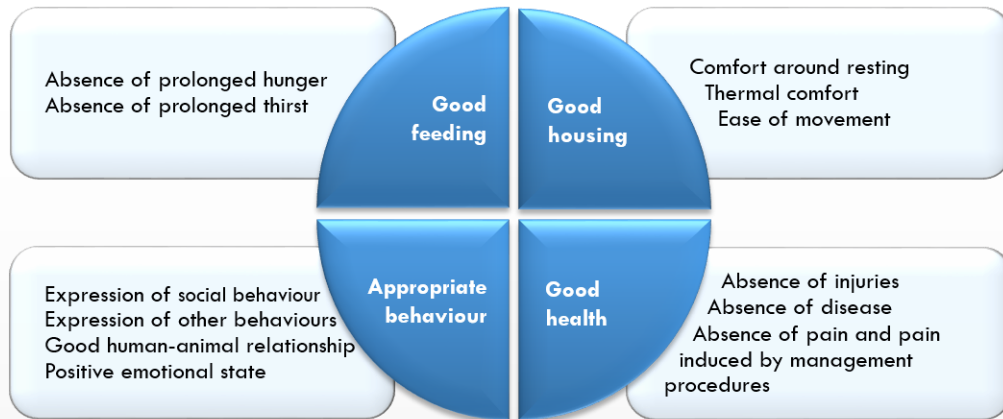
Introduction

The Animal Welfare Indicators (AWIN) project



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The Animal Welfare Indicators (AWIN) project



(Welfare Quality®, 2009)



Protocol



On-farm test



Stakeholder meeting



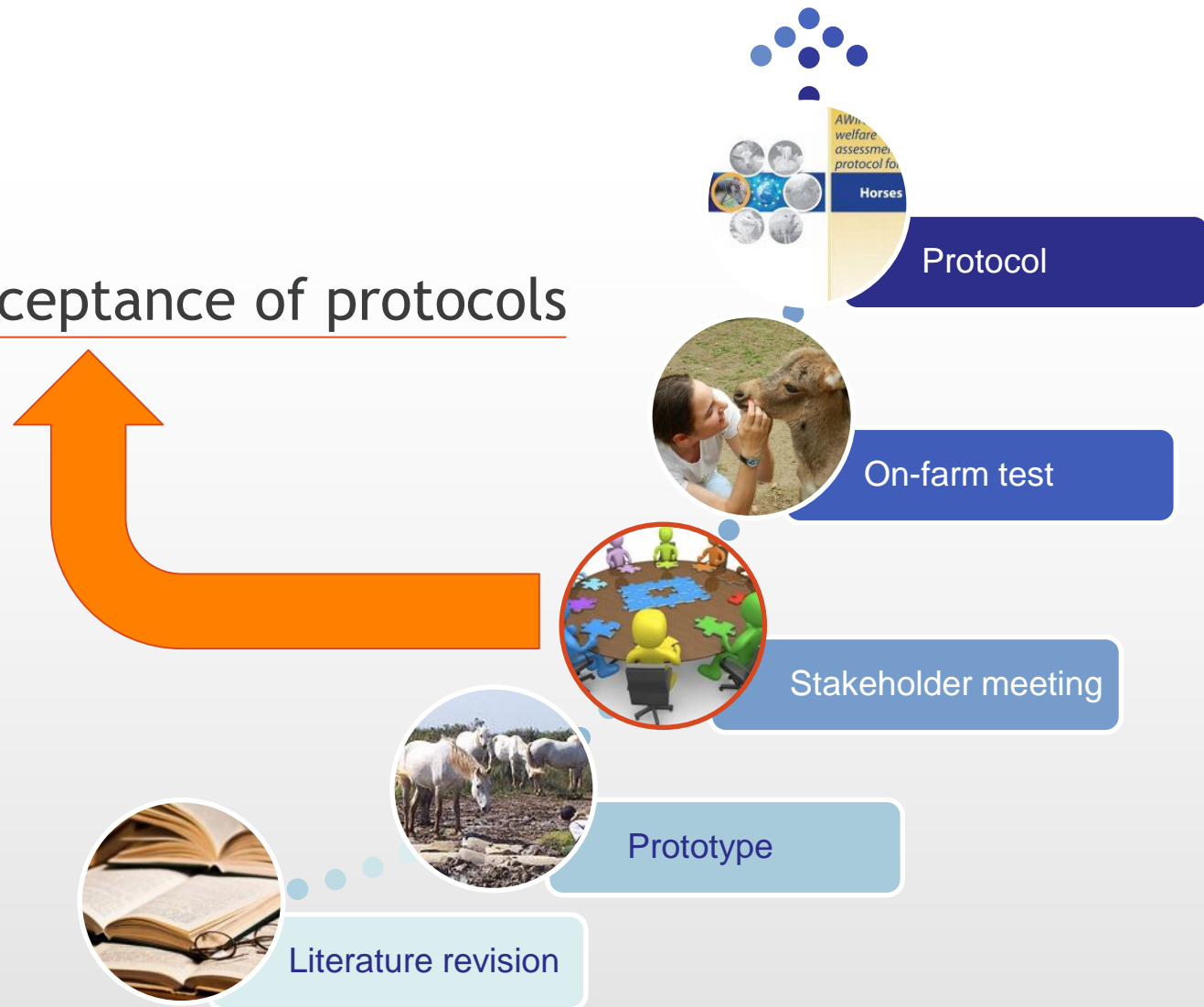
Prototype



Literature review



Ensure a good acceptance of protocols



Material & Methods

The online survey



Survey 1.0 - Powered by Ariel.Net



Farmers' experience is crucial to develop **welfare assessment protocols** and to assure their **acceptability and feasibility on farm**.

Farmer participation promotes **awareness of animal welfare** issues, focused on animal-based indicators.

A participatory approach can promote the collaboration within stakeholders, increasing the likelihood of bringing about changes, maintaining them independent of premium price or certification purposes, and assuring the effectiveness and the sustainability of the assessment procedures.



Together we **can improve productivity and welfare** of farmed animals in Europe.

We need your point of view in order to **identify indicators** that you consider important for assessing and monitoring animal welfare.

Please find 5 minutes to answer this SHORT QUESTIONNAIRE

ITALIAN

SPANISH

PORTUGUESE

FRENCH

ENGLISH

- Multi-language web-survey
- 14 open questions about appropriate requirements to guarantee high levels of horse welfare on farm
- Text mining

Material & Methods

The online survey

- ❖ In your opinion, what do horses need to be good, healthy and productive?
- ❖ How does a horse act and react in each of the following situations?
 - In the presence of a noise
 - Isolated from the group
 - In the presence of animals/persons known
 - In the presence of unknown animals/persons
- ❖ Looking at your neighbor's horse, what signs would you identify, to evaluate the conditions of accommodation?
- ❖ Looking at your neighbor's horse, what signs would you identify, to evaluate feeding conditions?
- ❖ Looking at your neighbor's horse, what signs would you identify, to evaluate health conditions?
- ❖ Looking at your neighbor's horse, what signs would you identify, to evaluate the manifestation of normal behavior?
- ❖ Looking at your neighbor's horse, what signs would you identify, to evaluate the manifestation of abnormal behavior?



Results and discussion

Participants

122 surveys

- 30% Italy
- 15% UK

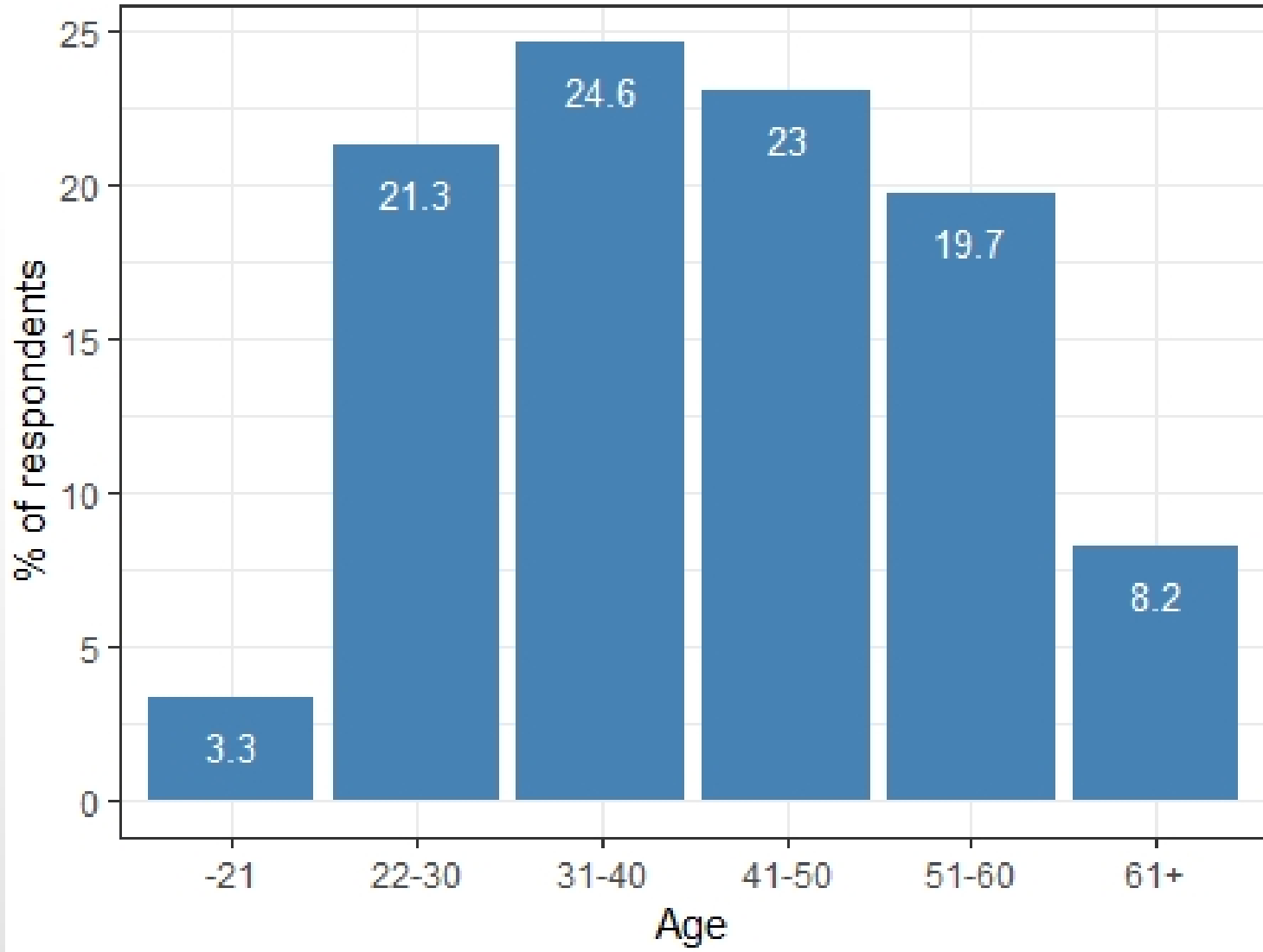


- most of the participants were women (85%)



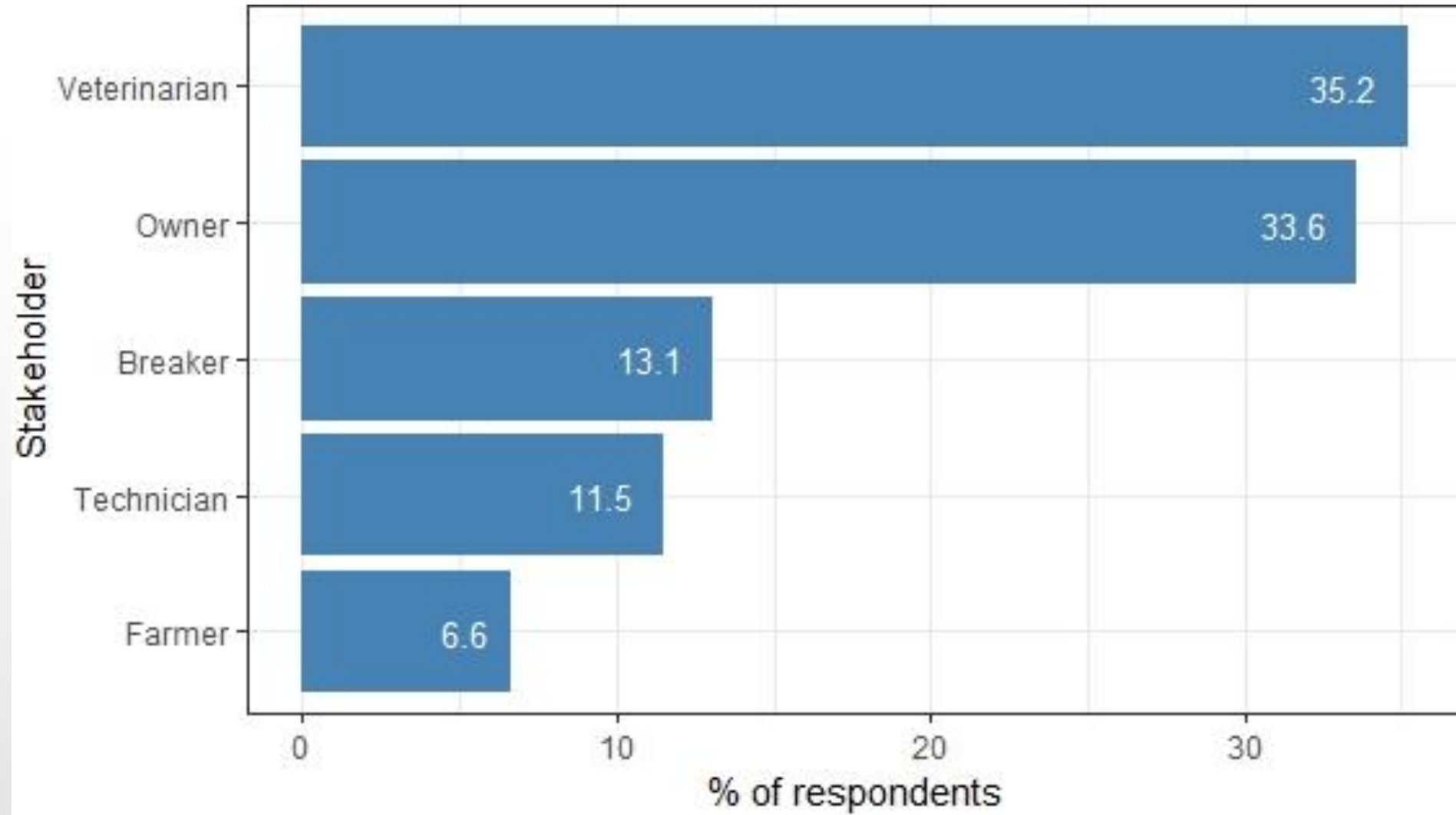
Results and discussion

Participants



Results and discussion

Participants



Results and discussion

Text analysis

In your opinion, what do horses need to be good, healthy and productive?



Welfare Principle *Good Feeding:*

- ❖ considered the most relevant
 - Water (n=40)
 - Feed (n=35)



Results and discussion

Text analysis

In your opinion, what do horses need to be good, healthy and productive?



Welfare Principle *Good Housing:*

- ❖ Importance of the shelter (n=31)
- ❖ Pasture is mentioned only 18 times



Results and discussion

Text analysis

In your opinion, what do horses need to be good, healthy and productive?



Welfare Principle *Good Health:*

- ❖ Care (n=24)
- ❖ Health (n=20)



Results and discussion

Text analysis

In your opinion, what do horses need to be good, healthy and productive?



Welfare Principle
Appropriate Behaviour:

- ❖ Training (n=23)
- ❖ Company (n=16)



Results and discussion

What is in the AWIN Welfare assessment protocol for horses?

Welfare principles	Welfare criteria	Welfare indicators
Good Feeding	Appropriate nutrition	Body Condition Score
	Absence of prolonged thirst	Water availability Bucket test
Good Housing	Comfort around resting	Bedding Box dimensions
	Thermal comfort	Not considered for single stabled horses
	Ease of movement	Exercise
Good Health	Absence of injuries	Integument alterations Swollen joints Lameness Prolapse
		Absence of disease
	Absence of pain and pain induced by management procedures	Horse Grimace Scale Signs of hoof neglect Lesions at mouth corners
Appropriate Behaviour	Expression of social behaviour	Social interaction
	Expression of other behaviours	Stereotypes Fear test
	Good human-animal relationship	Human-animal relationship tests
	Positive emotional state	Qualitative Behaviour Assessment



Conclusion

- Stakeholders' involvement is fundamental for any action intended to improve animal welfare
- This work portrays the stakeholders' perception of horse welfare
- The results showed that horse stakeholders consider welfare primary linked with appropriate feeding
- Allowing the possibility to interact with conspecifics and spend time at pasture is paramount to guarantee horse welfare



Thank you for your attention!

