



I-INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF ANIMAL SCIENCE IN SEMI-ARID REGIONS

Universidade Federal do Agreste de Pernambuco – UFape

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Área do trabalho: Nutrição e Produção de Não-Ruminantes

Hoof trimming of horses competing in Pega de Boi no Mato and Vaquejada

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Given the importance of horses in rural areas and the increased use of these animals in sports and leisure activities, it is crucial to continually train the involved professionals and to implement technical improvements in breeding facilities. Although equines can be used in many functions, certain practices and management techniques, such as hoof trimming, are essential for these animals, regardless of their specific roles. This practice emerged as a means to protect against environmental adversities, promoting hoof health, extending the animals' longevity, and enhancing their well-being. In this context, the aim was to gather information on the hoof trimming practices of equines participating in Pega de Boi no Mato and Vaquejada competitions. Data were collected from horse breeders in the states of Alagoas, Pernambuco, Paraíba, and Ceará, with a total of 184 respondents and 847 equines involved. Data collection was done through interviews using predefined questionnaires, recording information on: the location of the breeding facilities; number of equines per breeder; purpose of breeding; reasons for hoof trimming; age at which hoof trimming started; frequency of hoof trimming; whether it was performed by a professional or a practical hoof trimmer; and the cost of the service. The data were subjected to descriptive statistical analysis. It was observed that although 72.8% of the respondents trimmed their animals' hooves, this practice was more common in Vaquejada horses (96.4%) than in Pega de Boi horses (53%). While Pega de Boi horses were trimmed mainly to prevent accidents, the hoof care for Vaquejada animals primarily aimed at correcting limb alignment. Hoof trimming for Pega de Boi animals began around the age of 3 years, with a 6-month interval between trimmings. In contrast, Vaquejada equines started hoof trimming before the age of one, with a monthly frequency. Regarding hoof trimmers, 57.8% of Vaquejada horse breeders used professional services, while 81.1% of Pega de Boi horse owners employed practical hoof trimmers. Between 2018 and 2019, the fees charged by hoof trimmers for both types of equines ranged from R\$40.00 to R\$100.00. It was concluded that breeders of Pega de Boi no Mato and Vaquejada equines understand the importance of trimming their animals' hooves, and despite often being knowledge passed down empirically, it is a relatively common practice in the daily routine of breeding facilities.

Keywords: Culture, Horse, Hoof, Northeast.

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