

Supplement 2 – Variables tested as predictors of equipment-related wounds

Predictors Investigated		Outcome
Town	Driver thinks of load distribution	Overall presence of equipment-related wounds
Species	Driver would like to change something about equipment	
BCS	Belief of harness influencing ability to work	
Main type of work	Belief of cart influencing ability to work	
Number of days worked per week	Belief whether equipment is comfortable for the animal	
Average number of hours worked per day	Belief whether equipment is efficient	
Average number of breaks per day	Belief whether equipment is assembled correctly	
Average duration of breaks per day	Removing harness during breaks	
Cleanliness of harness	History of wounds	
Cart axel balance	Measures to prevent wounds	
Shafts passing through the centre of gravity	Being responsible for assembling and hitching	
Traction through point of draught	Source of training on hitching and assembly	
Driver age	Source of information about equipment	
Driver number of dependents	Presence of girth	
Percentage of income derived from equid	Presence of belly band	
Driver Education	Presence of crupper	
Driver gender	Presence of back-band	
Ownership of equid	Presence of traces	
Income comfort level	Presence of neck strap	
Income percentage derived from equid	Presence of swingle	
Years of experience driving	Presence of breeching	
Years of experience with equids	Saddle positioned adequately	
Level of enjoyment of the profession	Presence of a functional swingle tree*1	
Source of equipment	Presence of a functional saddle*2	
Source of training as a driver	Presence of functional traction*3	
Cost of harness	Presence of functional breeching*4	
Cost of cart		
Priority when choosing equipment	<i>*1 Swingle tree is present and moves freely. Traces attach to swingle tree.</i>	
Equipment receiving maintenance	<i>*2 Adequately positioned, wide pressure points, has gullet, has padding, secured tightly to the animal.</i>	
Person responsible for maintenance	<i>*3 Adequate position over the point of draught, freely moving traces that attach to a functional swingle tree</i>	
Frequency of harness maintenance	<i>*4 Presence of breeching and correctly assembled as either true or false breeching</i>	
Frequency of cart maintenance		

Predictors Investigated		Outcome
Town	Thickness of saddle padding	Saddle Wounds
Species	Saddle shape (presence of gullet)	
Breathability of saddle padding	Shafts passing through the centre of gravity	
Saddle fit	Main type of work	
Saddle position	Cart axel balance	
Saddle pressure	Functional saddle	

Predictors Investigated		Outcome
Town	Breast collar being adjustable	Breast collar wounds
Species	Breast collar width	
Presence of breast collar padding	Presence of traces	
Breathability of breast collar	Free movement of traces (when traces present)	
Breathability of breast collar padding	Adequacy (thickness) of breast collar padding	
Breathability of breast collar contact surface	Cart axel balance	
Position of the breast collar	Main type of work	
Breast collar passing through point of draught	Functional traction	
Presence of a functional swingle tree		

Predictors Investigated		Outcome
Town	Main type of work	Girth Wounds
Species	Functional girth	
Breathability of girth materials		

Predictors Investigated		Outcome
Town	Bit size/fit	Bit wounds
Species	Free movement of reins	
Bit condition	Main type of work	

Predictors Investigated		Outcome
Town	Blinker shape	Blinker wounds
Species	Main type of work	
Blinker position		

Predictors Investigated		Outcome
Town	Breeching assembly	Limb wounds attributable to equipment
Species	Breeching breathability	
Breeching presence	Main type of work	
Breeching type	Functional breeching	

Predictors Investigated		Outcome
Town	Breeching presence	Tail wounds attributable to equipment
Species	Breeching type	
Crupper presence	Breeching assembly Main type of work	
Crupper breathability	Functional breeching	

Predictors Investigated		Outcome
Town	Shafts passing through centre of gravity	Shaft Wounds
Species	Cart axel balance	
Shafts width	Main type of work	