

OPHTHALMOSCOPY OF EYE FUNDUS IN HORSES

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Summary Animal eyes can be viewed as a reflection or as a mirror of their health. The purpose of this study was to examine the eye fundus of clinically healthy and calm temperament Lithuanian draft horses comparing the results obtained with those of analogous foreign studies. In June-September 1995-1997 the eyes of farm horses were directly examined by means of a Gowllands brand (England) ophthalmoscope in the regions of Prienai and Kaunas. The attention was focused on the colouration of *Tapetum lucidum* and *Tapelum nigrum*, the position of the optic nerve on the retina (*Discus nervi optici*), the size, the form and colouring of the disc, the branching of centrally located retinal arterial/venous blood vessels and their peculiarities in relation to the sex, age and colour of horses.

We found that the colouration of *Tapetum lucidum* depends on the horse body colour and the colour tone of *Discus nervi optici*. It is related to the age of the horse.

None of our findings support sex-linked anatomical influences in the horses examined.

Keywords: horse, fundus of eye, ophthalmoscopy.