

CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2002 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

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Project Number

J1004

Project Title

Left, Left, Right,... Left? Are Most Horses Left Handed or Right Handed?

Objectives/Goals

Abstract

The objective of my project was to find whether most horses were left handed or right handed. I believed that most horses were left handed and I wanted to see if this was true or not.

Methods/Materials

I used 25 horses to do my experiment. I rode each horse over a jump to see which lead they were most comfortable with. If the horse was in a right lead canter (a canter where the right leg leads in front) this would mean that the horse was right handed. If the horse was in a left lead canter (a canter where the left leg leads in front) this would mean that the horse was left handed. To be sure of this, I jumped each horse 10 times.

Results

Out of the 25 horses, 7 of them were right handed and 18 of them were left handed.

Conclusions/Discussion

My objective was proven and my hypothesis was supported. My results proved that my hypothesis was correct. Most horses are left handed. When I tried to get each horse in the opposite lead in which they were most comfortable with, I found it was quite difficult and it didn#t look as attractive as when they were in their natural lead.

Summary Statement

I first thought that most horses were left handed, so I tested it out and found that my hypothesis was correct and that most horses are left handed.

Help Received

My friend Alex Stratman helped me by jumping 5 of the horses.