



UTCVM Ophthalmology Service

Determining the Spontaneous Eye Blink Rate of Normal Horses

The University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine Ophthalmology Service is in search of normal riding horses to participate in a study at the Equine Performance and Rehabilitation Arena this fall.

The research project will be assessing spontaneous eye blink rates (SEBR) in horses at differing levels of focus or attention. The current study's goal is to determine the normal SEBR in horses (while filmed) resting in a stall and resting in a stall with human monitoring. We will then transition to the arena and ask each horse owner to saddle and ride the horse and film the blinks while standing, walking, and trotting. We are looking to enroll horses (1 horse per day) during October 22nd-26th in the afternoons.

Each owner will receive \$50 (Visa gift card)/horse for participation in the study. Horses will receive a physical examination and ophthalmology examination at no charge and would be stalled for approximately two to three hours at UTCVM. We will then move over to the Equine Performance and Rehabilitation Arena for 30 minutes to an hour for the riding portion (total time at hospital 3-4 hours).

A horse will not be included in the study if the physical examination or ophthalmology examination was abnormal (including any lameness), or if the horse is unwilling to be stalled or ridden in the arena. Financial compensation will still be awarded even if the horse was dismissed from the study.

Summary:

What: Equine Blinking Study

Where: University of Tennessee Veterinary Medical Center and Equine Performance and Rehabilitation Arena

When: October 22nd-26th in the afternoons - 1 horse per day (additional dates in November)

Why: Evaluate the blinking rates of horses at differing levels of attention

Who: Riding horses and their owners/riders!

- ✓ Will receive \$50 Visa gift card, equine physical examination, ophthalmology examination, and opportunity to ride in the Equine Performance and Rehabilitation Arena

Video: <https://tinyurl.com/UTCVMEquineBlinks>

Website link: <https://tinyurl.com/UTCVMEquineBlinksInfo>

Please contact for further information:

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