

## Horse Care Info Sheet

# Stereotypies

## What are stereotypies?

Stereotypies are repetitive behaviours with no apparent goal or function. Some of the most common examples include:

- Cribbing
- Wind sucking
- Weaving
- Pawing
- Stall walking



*Cribbing*

Stereotypies are common: between 10-40% of stabled horses experience stereotypic behaviours.<sup>1</sup>

## What causes stereotypies?

- High concentrate, low fibre diets that decrease time spent eating
- Insufficient space for movement
- Insufficient social and environmental stimulation
- Frustration

## How can we prevent stereotypies?

- Maximise horse welfare
- Encourage natural behaviours
- Reduce anxiety, stress and frustration
- Provide environment that allows freedom to move and socialization

## How can we manage stereotypies?

- Increase exercise/turnout
- High fibre forage-first diet, increasing chew time
- Socialization with other horses
- Enrichment tools (joy balls, food puzzles, etc.)

**Learn more about stereotypies and other behaviours by taking our short courses**  
[Horse Behaviour & Safety](#) and [Horse Care & Welfare!](#)

1. Davidson, N. and Harris, P. Nutrition and Welfare. In *The Welfare of Horses*. Springer. 2007.