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Horses discriminate human body odours from joy and fear contexts

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Aim : to determine whether horses can discriminate between human odours of fear and joy

STEP 1

15 people watched a comedy or a horror movie



STEP 2

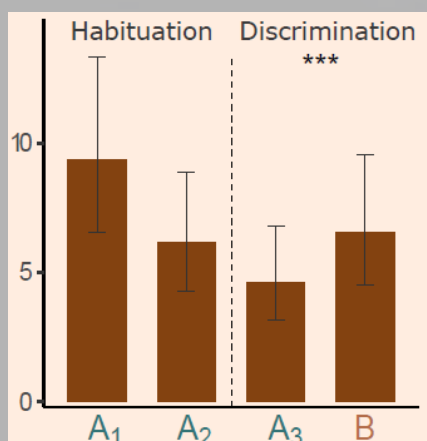
30 horses were exposed to their sweat odours in a Habituation / Discrimination test

Hypothesis: during the discrimination test, horses will sniff the new odour (B) more than the repeated one (A)



RESULTS

Horses sniffed the new odour more than the repeated odour



Horses showed a significant left-nostril bias when sniffing joy but not when sniffing fear



CONCLUSION

Horses are able to discriminate between the human odours produced in contexts of fear and joy.

This asymmetric nostril use implies differences in the emotional processing of the two odours by horses.