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Pack wounds in Morocco

BCF
Bimeda

Pack Wounds of Donkeys and Mules in the Northern High Atlas & Lowlands of Morocco

Sells P.D., Pinchbeck G., Mezzane H., Ibourki J., Crane M.

Equine Veterinary Journal (2010)

The Problem

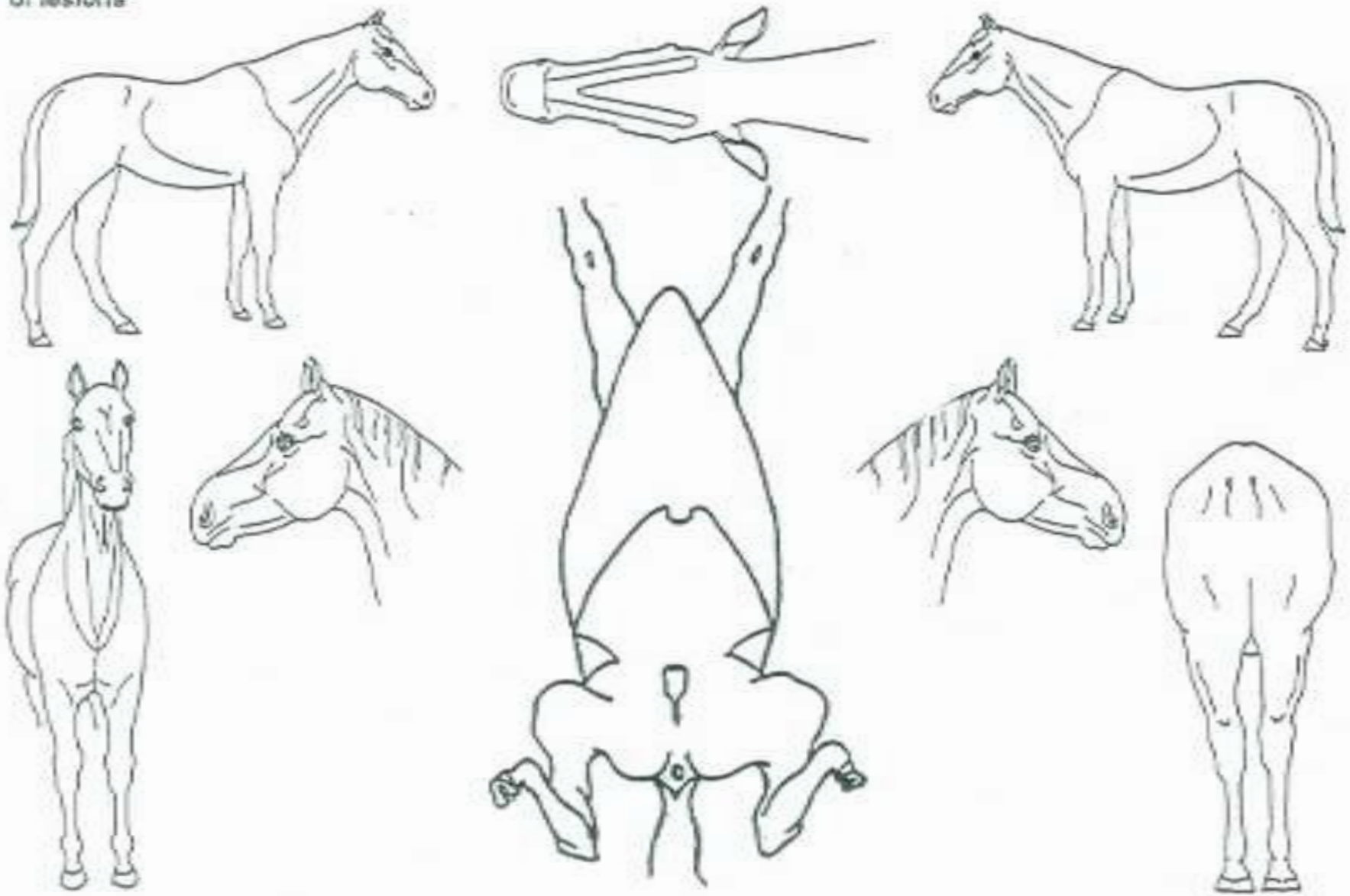
Project aims

- To determine whether the prevalence of pack wounds is higher in equids working in the wood trade compared with other trades
- To determine factors associated with the presence of a pack wound

Data collection

- Dec ’07 – Feb ’08
- Wood trade in the mountain region (n=56)
- Other trades in the mountain region (n=37)
- Other trades in the lowland region (n=54)

Distribution
of lesions

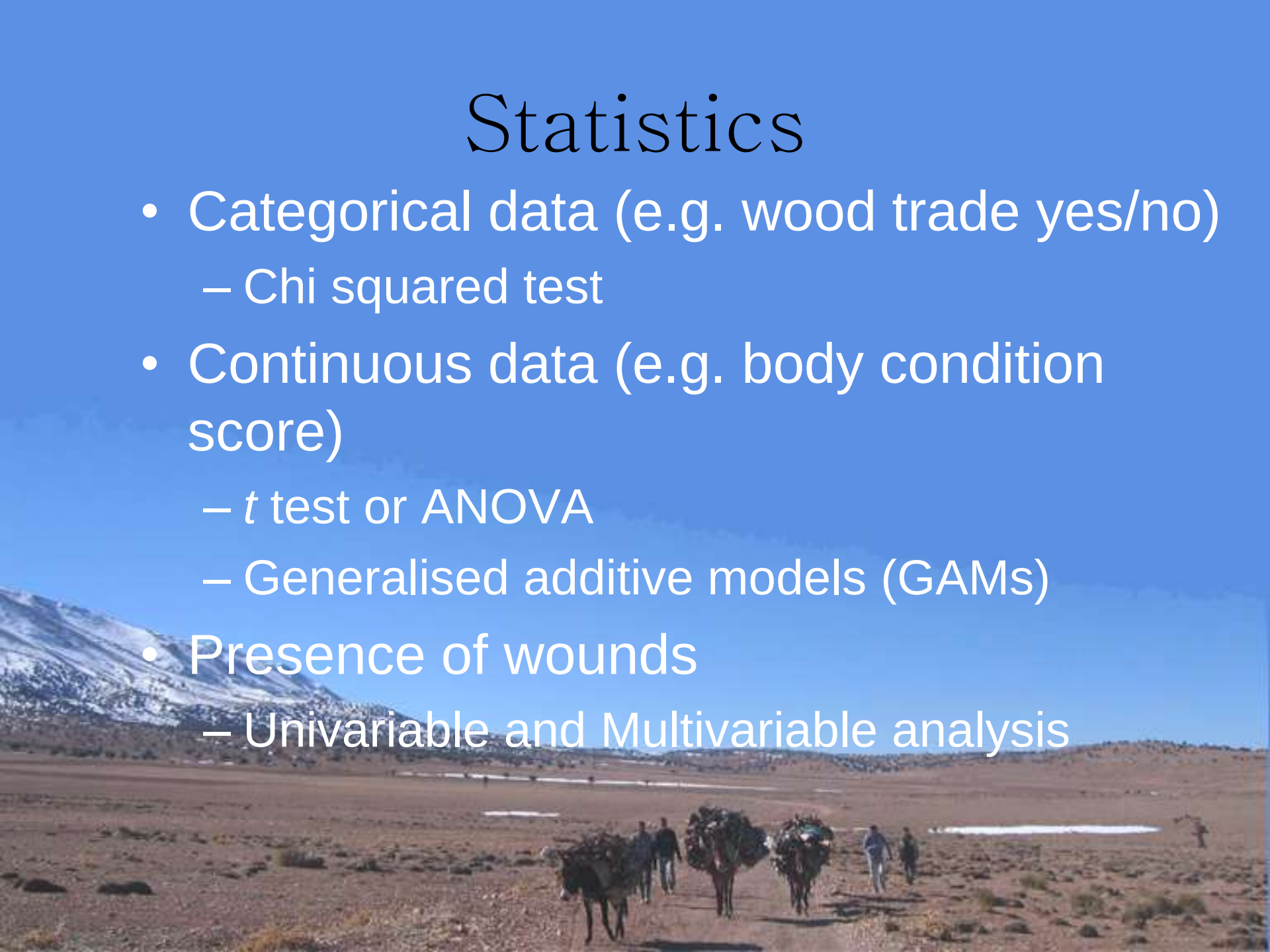


TABLE

Score	
1	
2	
3	s with it.

Statistics

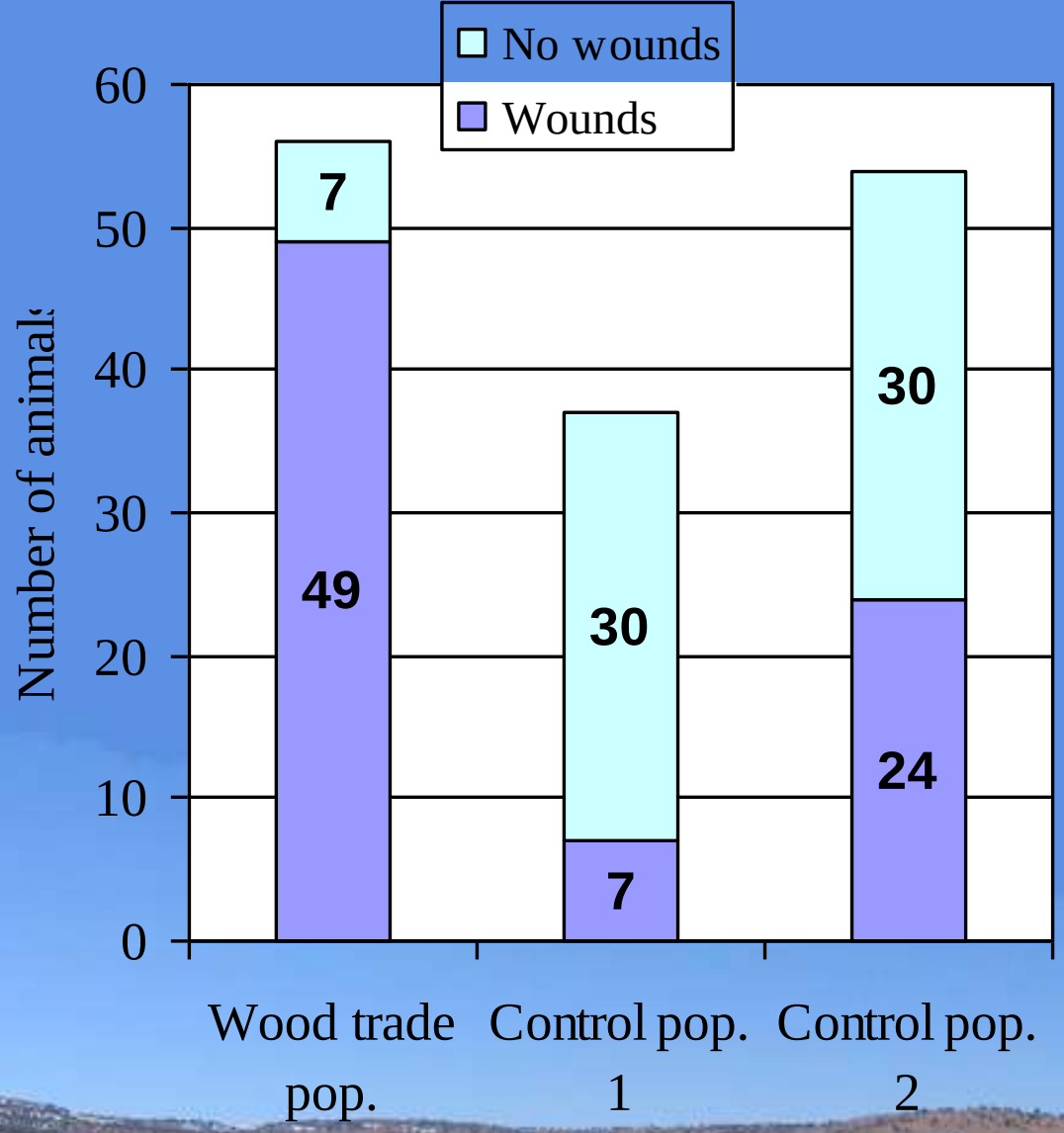
- Categorical data (e.g. wood trade yes/no)
  - Chi squared test
- Continuous data (e.g. body condition score)
  - *t* test or ANOVA
  - Generalised additive models (GAMs)
- Presence of wounds
  - Univariable and Multivariable analysis



Results

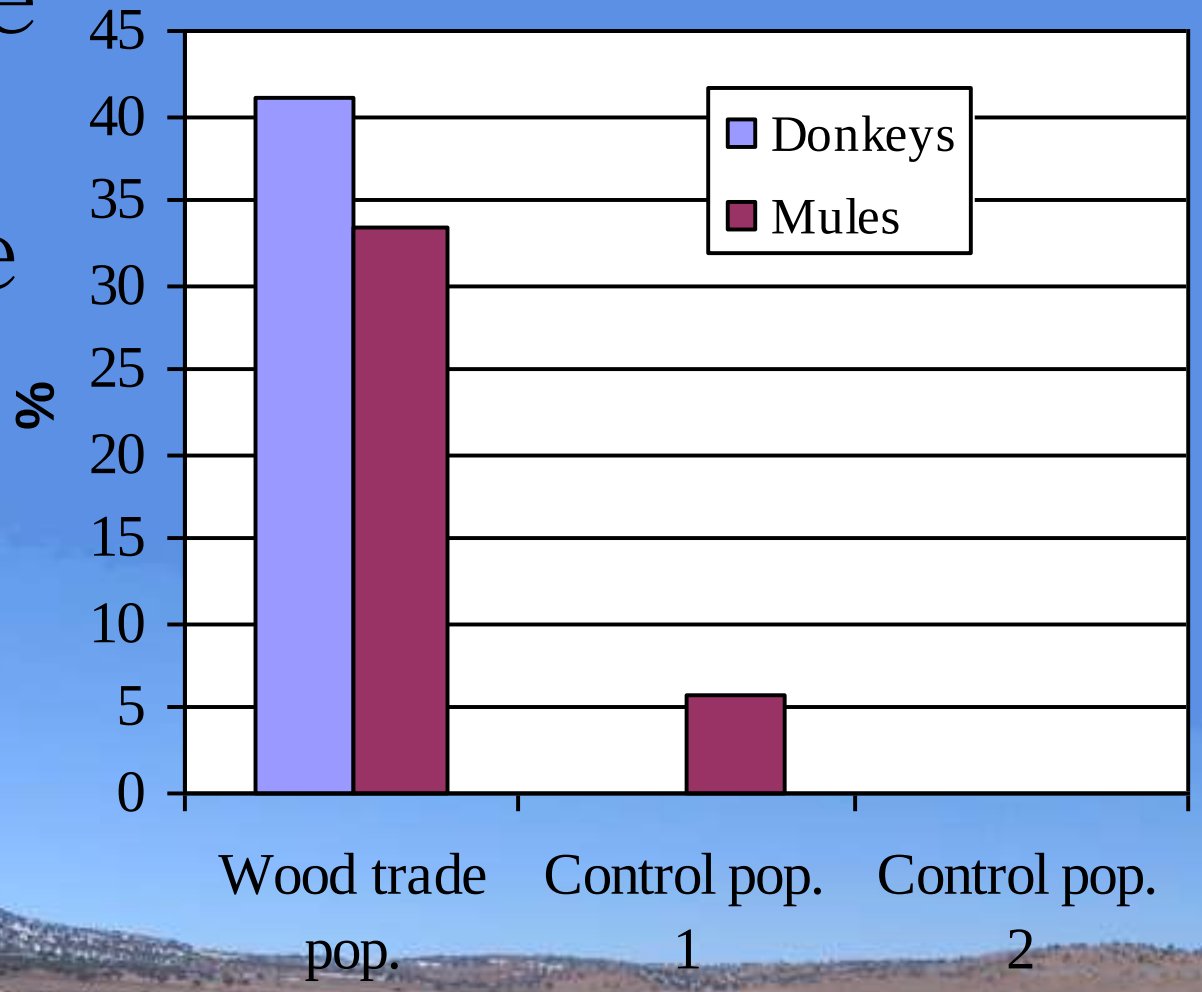
- The overall prevalence of wounds in the 3 equid populations was high (54%).

Number of animals with pack wounds



- Is there a problem in the wood trade animals?

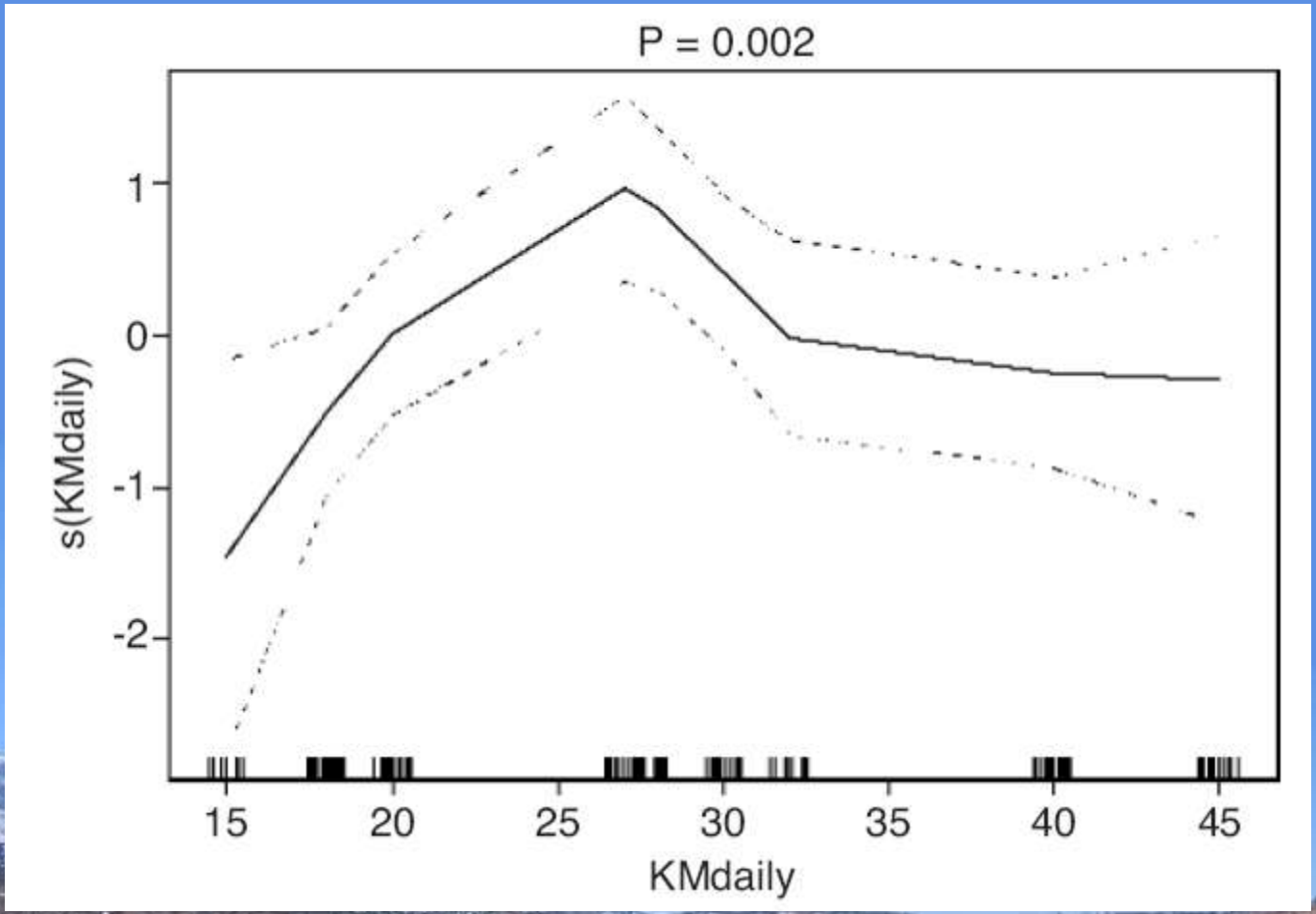
Percentage of animals with Grade 2 wounds



Donkeys or mules?

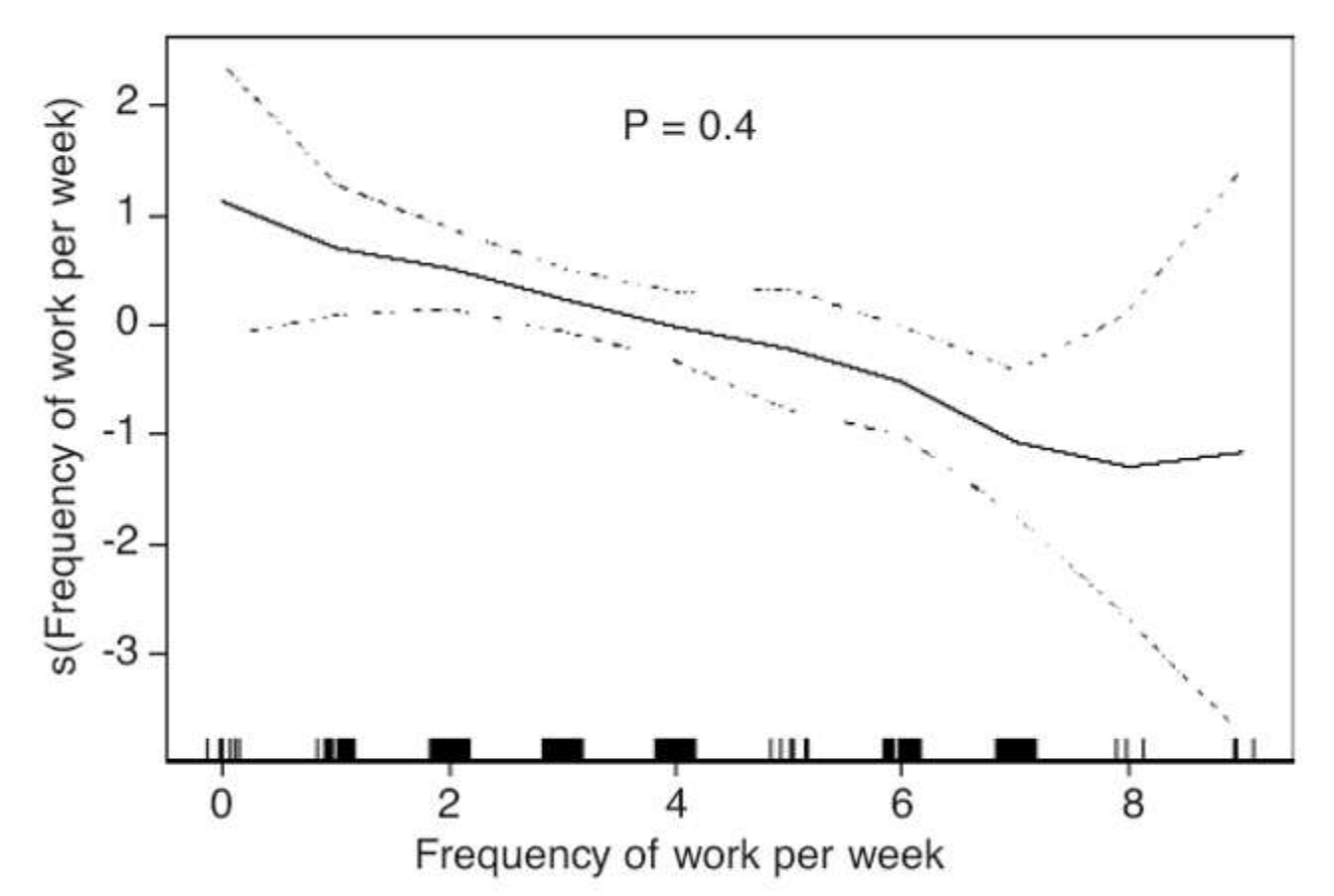
- In all populations the prevalence of pack wounds was higher in donkeys (67%, 60/90) than in mules (35%, 20/57)
- The ‘overall wound score’ was significantly higher ($P<0.001$) in donkeys (median = 2) than in mules (median = 0)

Wood trade



- Nonlinear relationship between the distance travelled daily and the risk of suffering a pack wound at any of 3 sites

Overall



- Linear relationship between frequency of work per week and the risk of suffering a pack wound at any of 3 sites.

Risk factors for pack wounds

- Most common wound site was the withers (31%)

Risk factors for pack wounds

- Low body condition score – not a risk factor for a wound

Risk factors for pack wounds

- Significant risk associated with a dirty pack

Risk factors for pack wounds

- Significant risk associated with tight ropes or straps

Risk factors for pack wounds

- Increased risk associated with increasing age, being male, being a donkey rather than a mule, and travelling longer distances

Study conclusions

- ‘Problem group’ identified
- Specific interventions may be recommended
- Ongoing monitoring of interventions in a logical, scientific manner

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