

# Crib-biting in US horses: Breed predispositions and owner perceptions of aetiology

J. D. ALBRIGHT\*, H. O. MOHAMMED†, C. R. HELESKI‡, C. L. WICKENS‡ and K. A. HOUP‡

*Departments of Clinical Sciences and †Population Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14853 USA; and ‡Department of Animal Science, Michigan State University, Lansing, Michigan 48824, USA.*

**Keywords:** horse; behaviour; crib-biting; breed prevalence; learning

## Appendix I. Survey questions administered to horse owners

### Initial (postcard) survey

How many horses do you own?  
How many crib-biting horses do you own?  
What is the breed(s) of crib-biting horses?  
Did a horse begin crib-biting after the arrival of a crib-biter?

### Follow-up survey

How many horses of each of these breeds do you own?  
How many crib-biting horses of each of these breeds do you own?

Arabian  
Draught  
Gaited Horse (specify)  
Grade  
Morgan  
Pony (specify)  
Quarter Horse/Appaloosa/Paint  
Standardbred  
Thoroughbred  
Warmblood (specify)  
Other (specify)

---

Are horses allowed social contact with others?

- No contact with other horses
- Visual contact with other horses (e.g. over stall door, via window in stall)
- Visual and tactile contact with other horses (e.g., horses can touch over fence line, stall door, bars on stall etc.)
- Turn out with another horse or group of horses

---

Do you believe crib-biting is due to:

- Predominantly genetic factors
- Combination genetic and environment
- Predominantly environment (horse's surroundings and management)

---

Do you believe crib-biting is learned from other horses (i.e. horse learns to perform this behaviour by observing others)?

- Yes
  - No
-