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*I'm Sensing Bias: Does Poor Conformation in Quarter Horses affect Certain Senses?*

The purposes of this project are to test Quarter Horse senses of sight, hearing, and touch in relation to their conformation and to see if horse owners are biased in any way towards their horses' conformation status. My predictions were that the senses would not be affected by conformation and that horse owners would be biased against poorly conformed horses. I tested this by developing simple physical tests for sight, hearing and touch. For each physical test, I conducted 3 trials. I found that conformation does not affect horse senses. The results of the senses tests supported my hypothesis that poor conformation does not affect senses, but typically only affects balance, comfort level and gait patterns. I also developed a survey in which the horse owner would evaluate their opinions of the horse regarding such areas as likeability, performance, and abilities. I analyzed this data in relation to how many conformation faults the horse had to determine potential bias. The results of owner bias showed a slight trend towards a bias against poorly conformed horses. In other words, the more faults a horse had, the lower they were rated by their owners. This will be very important to know for future interactions involving Quarter Horses. More people can be aware of conformation and how it may affect their horses. This will help them choose the right horse for specific purposes and also to get proper care for their horses when needed.