Injuries by animals among children and adolescents

Data for a nationwide campaign in Germany

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Why research based on IDB?

- Standardized hospital based data collection on all injuries and all age groups
- Germany (FDS): 3 hospitals collecting data on the cause and circumstances of injuries
- Brandenburg Department of Health responsible for maintaining the data base

EU-IDB information on injury morbidity

- Injury mechanism
- Place of occurrence
- Activity when injured
- Type of sports when sport
- Triggering product
- Injury causing product
- Details on road accident
- Details on acts of violence
- Details on acts of self-harm
- Verbal description of incidence
- National add-ons: e.g. use of personal protective equipments, influence of alcohol
Findings of the German IDB

Animals are involved in 2.5% of all injuries (n= 13,323, <18 ys)

- Injuries by animals require **significantly more** hospital admissions compared to other injuries!
- Horses and dogs count for **two thirds** of all injuries caused by animals
- **Girls** have more than 90% of all accidents with horses!

### Injuries and animals by species and sex of child (n=338)

- **Horse**: 92% (Girls: 8%, Boys: 8%)
- **Dog**: 8% (Girls: 82%, Boys: 18%)
- Ticks: 6%
- Wasp: 4%
- Cat: 2%
- Other: 2%

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EuroSafe Meeting Milan
Advantage of the German IDB
Injury circumstances

**Dogs:**

- **Common event**
  "Child has been bitten by the dog into the head region whilst competing for a toy during play"
  - Average hospital stay: 5 days

Dog bites leave life-long defacing scars and trauma

**Horses:**

- **Common event No 1:**
  "Child has fallen from horse"
  - Average hospital stay: 5 days

- **Common event No 2:**
  "Child has been kicked by horse"
  - Average hospital stay: 10 days
Messages for the nationwide campaign

- Familiarity with an animal does not prevent accidents
- Often accidents with pets occur whilst playing
- Young children are unable to judge how their behavior is conceived by a pet
- Adults must continually supervise very young children interacting with dogs
- Horse trainers should emphasize how children need to behave safely while grooming