

Measuring Improvement in Equine Welfare by using SEBWAT

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Preview

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About the Brooke

- The Brooke is an international animal welfare organization, dedicated to improving the lives of working equines in the poorest part of the world
- The Brooke is working in 11 different countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America
- Brooke India (BI) is an affiliate of Brooke UK and presently working in eight states of India.



Dorothy Brooke, founded the Brooke in 1934



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Objective of the Study

- To prepare baseline about present status of equine welfare in Nanded District of Maharashtra (India)
- To identify major welfare issues prevailing in the area.
- Guide Brooke India(BI) field staff to prepare action plan with community on identified welfare issues
- To measure the impact of BI intervention.



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Methodology

- Equine based welfare assessment indicators has been developed by the Brooke in collaboration with Bristol University, UK in 2002.
- It is direct animal based measurement (include both behavioral and health indicators)
- Equine based welfare assessment contains 54 observations.
- The protocol meets the requirement for satisfactory welfare indicators listed by *Sorensen et al. (2001)*
 - *Express animal point of view, Express changes over time,*
 - *Cheap and easy, Practical to field conditions etc*



Standardized Equine Based Welfare Assessment Tool (SEBWAT):

- A standard protocol has been developed for welfare assessment of equines
- A team of two trained members collect data; one as observer and other as recorder
- This is a highly standardized tool
 - It has proper and detailed guidance notes
 - Assessors are highly standardized both for intra and inter observer standardization
- Data entered in Brooke's IMS (web based database) for analysis.



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Observations :

A. Nine descriptors:

- Date (day/month/year)
- Time (24 hours)
- Observer (initials)
- Region ID (as given by UK)
- Animal ID (optional)
- Owner ID (optional)
- Work type (13 types); guidelines for multiple work types.
- Species (H,D,M).
- Sex (S, G, M).



B. Behavioral indicators :

- General attitude
(Alert / Apathetic / Aggressive)
- Observer approach
(Friendly/ avoidance)
- Chin contact
(Receptive/ not receptive)
- Tail tuck
(Fear response in donkeys only)



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2. Health indicators:

- Body Condition Score
(1-5 scoring system)
- Mucous membrane
(Normal range/Pale/Dark)
- Wound on body parts
(Superficial/Deep lesion)
- Lip lesions
(Superficial/Deep lesion)
- Ectoparasites
(Bot eggs/Lice/ Ticks)
- Sign of diarrhea
(Present/Absent)
- Pain response on spine
(Mild reaction/Strong reaction)



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- Mutilation
(*Tail/Muzzle/Ear*)
- Firing lesions
(*Healed/Deep lesion*)
- Hobble wound,
(*Superficial/Deep lesion*)
- Swelling of tendon
(*No or Mild/Clear Swelling*)
- Hoof shape and quality
(*No or Mild/Clear abnormality*)
- Frog health
(*Normal/Diseased/Absent*)
- Gait examination
(*Moderate/Highly compromised*)



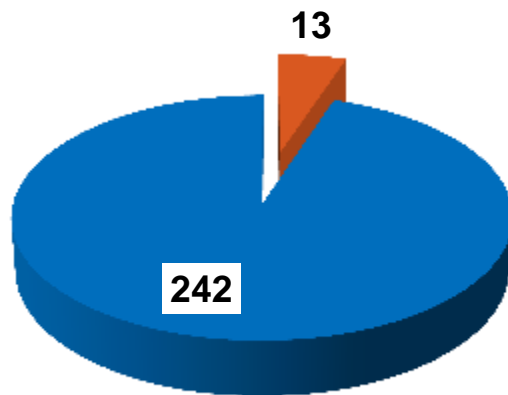
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Sampling:

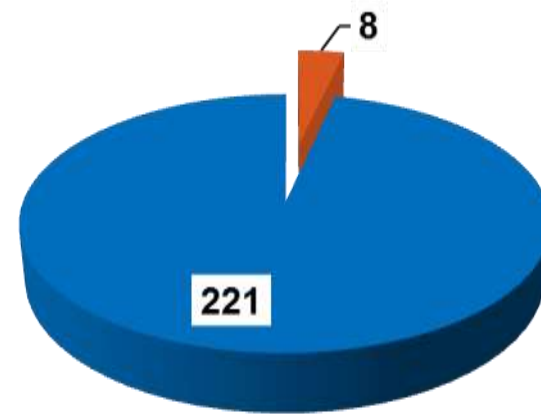
- Sampling done two levels
 - One at location i.e. village level. 50% intensive villages of Nanded district (N=4599) were randomly selected.
 - 5% animals were covered during the assessment
- Total 225 and 229 equines were assessed in 2010-11 and 2012-13 from the same villages respectively,
- For comparability, both the assessments had been conducted in same time of the year



Results :



2010



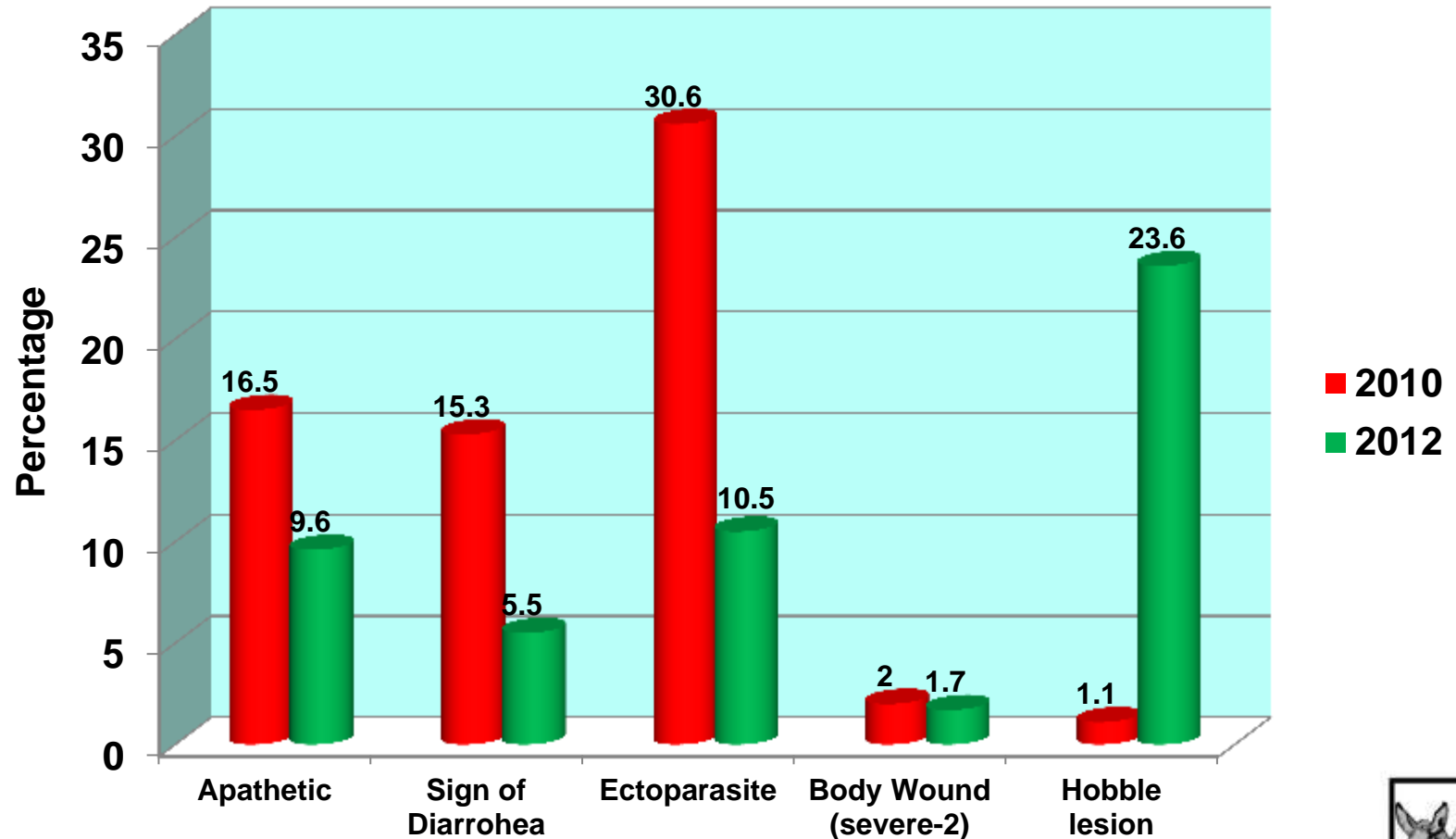
2012

- **Work Type:** Most of the animals (94.5 %) were used as TGP (Transportation of Goods by Pack).



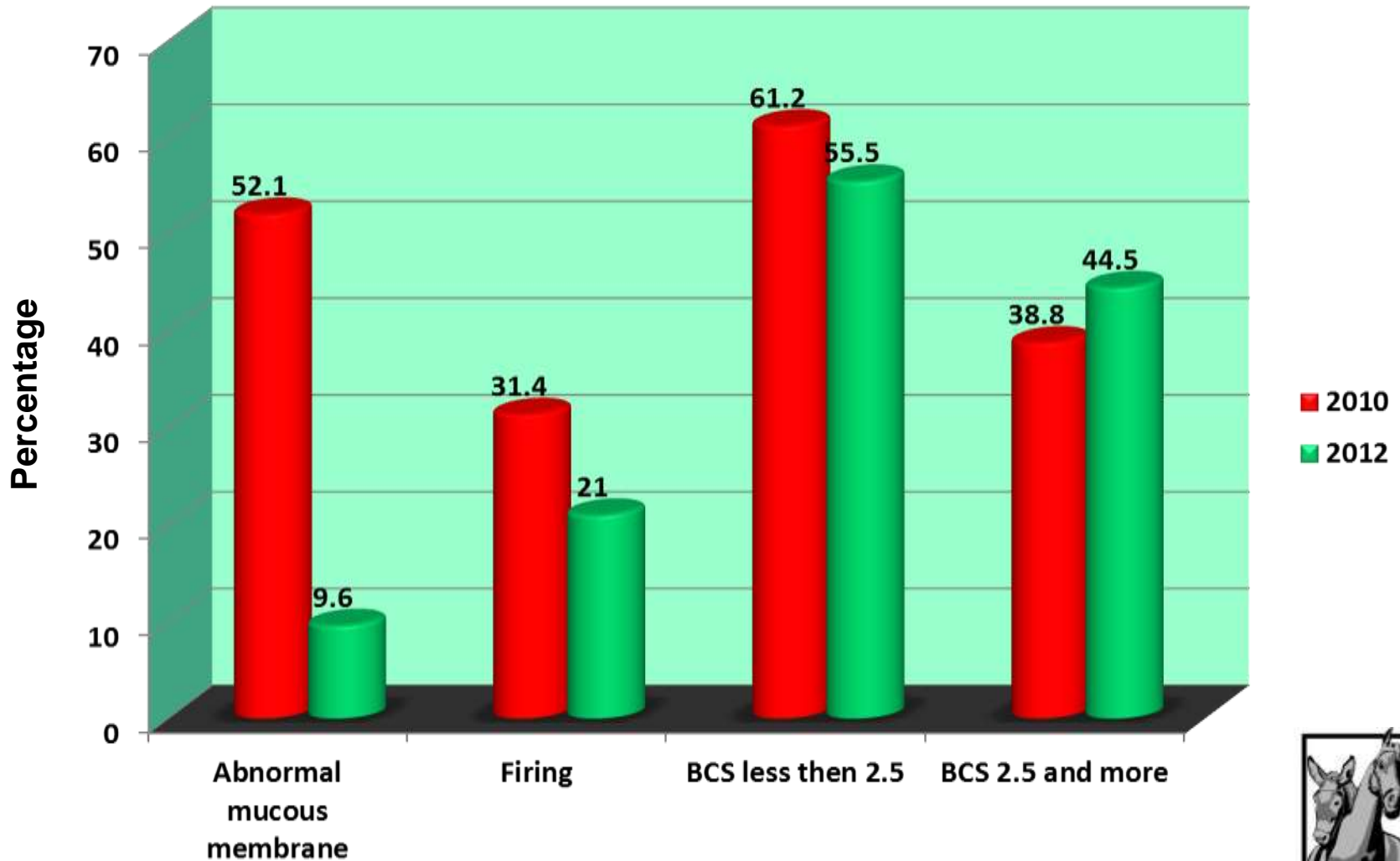
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Comparison of WA parameters:



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Discussion :

- Most of the indicators showed improvement from baseline data which reflects effective intervention.
- Hobbling increased due to increase due to safety reasons.
- Behavior indicators reflects animal's perception and their interaction with its environment including human – animal relationship.
- Brooke India's working approaches:
 - Provides veterinary services to needy equines
 - Community mobilization
 - Influencing liaisoning and networking



Our activities:



Treating needy Equines



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Community engagement (PRA, PWNA)



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Stakeholder's Training



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Conclusion :

- Positive changes in welfare indicators indicates some success of Brooke India intervention.
- Direct animal based measurement (welfare assessment tool) can measure the changes in welfare condition of equines over a period of time.
- Scoring system can be repeatable (Whay, 2003 and Leeb 2001).
- It is most relevant to animal itself.



Acknowledgement

- Welfare assessment team members.
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Thank you

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