Differences in affiliative behavior in domestic and exotic animals: horses and Visayan warty pigs

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Affiliative behavior has been studied amongst a single species, such as mare-foal interaction or sow-piglet interaction. The present study examined affiliative behavior across horses and Visayan warty pigs to determine if there is a significant difference in the mount of times affiliative behavior is exhibited between domestic and exotic animals. One-zero sampling was used to determine if the specific animal performed a defined affiliative behavior in each 10-minute interval. Every 30 seconds, a stopwatch beeped and if the animal was exhibiting an affiliative behavior, a 1 was marked, if not 0 was recorded. Each animal was observed at a random time of day for each collection, and each animal was either observed in person, or via cameras. Observations were made roughly 4 times a day for 50 days, with a total of 203 observations and 33.83 total observational hours. The mount of exhibited affiliative behavior was higher in Visayan warty pigs (n = 2) than in horses (n = 10; 33% vs. 5%, respectively; P < 0.0001). The significance in these findings suggest that Visayan warty pigs exhibit affiliative behavior more often than horses.