

# DOES YOUR HORSE HAVE TROUBLE TRAILER LOADING?



**HORSES** are needed for a pilot study of ConfidenceEQ gel on reducing stress and problem behaviors during trailering

Contact Robin Foster, PhD at [rfoster@pugetsound.edu](mailto:rfoster@pugetsound.edu) for more information or to sign up

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## WHAT IS CONFIDENCE EQ®?

Confidence EQ is a non-prescription equine appeasement pheromone produced by Ceva Animal Health, the manufacturers of Feliway for cats and Adaptil for dogs. Here is Ceva's statement about this product:

*ConfidenceEQ from Ceva Animal Health is designed to help reduce stress in your horse. It replicates the soothing signals a mare sends to her nursing foal. Based on the science of pheromone communication, ConfidenceEQ speaks to your horse in a language they instinctually understand. Apply the convenient single-packet gel to the nostrils of your horse and you'll see the science in action. You may even notice a flexing of the top lip called the Flehman Response. This natural behavior is how horses receive and interpret the pheromones, the first indication that ConfidenceEQ is at work.*  
<http://www.confidenceequine.com>.

## WHAT DOES THE STUDY INVOLVE?

We will make two visits to your farm or boarding stable spaced about one week apart, each lasting approximately 60 minutes. During one visit we will apply Confidence EQ gel 30 minutes before trailer loading. During the other visit we will apply a saline-based gel as a control. The sessions will be videotaped, and you will be asked to fill out a brief survey about your horse's behavior. The study will use your trailer, which should be accessible and on site.

## WILL I BE COMPENSATED FOR PARTICIPATION?

Participants will receive a \$10 gift certificate.

## IS MY HORSE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE?

Participating horses must have a history of persistent mild to moderate anxiety and behavior problems during loading. Eligible horses must be 3 to 25 years old, in good health, and not taking any prescription medications. Horses in rehabilitation or rescue or with a history of harsh treatment are ineligible for the study.

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Robin Foster, PhD, CAAB, Certified Horse Behavior Consultant is Research Professor at the University of Puget Sound and Affiliate Professor at the University of Washington. She is also owner of Adaptive Animals, LLC offering behavior consultations for horses and dogs, [www.adaptiveanimals.com](http://www.adaptiveanimals.com).