Final Project
Research Article

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Contents

Table of Contents 1: Introduction 2: Exploratory Data Analysis a: Data Dictionary b: Horse Demographics c: Hospital Demographics d: Physical Attributes e: Circulation Attributes f: Outcome Analysis 3: Conclusions 4: Bibliography and References 5: Appendix

Introduction

Horses are regarded as powerful and courageous animal that are highly desired for riding, ranch work, jumping, racing, or dressage. As with any animal, there are always complications that may arise in regards to their health. This is especially true in Horses. Horses can develop health problems at any stage in life and some are more susceptible to health problems than

others. Our dataset focuses on horses who suffer from Colic. Colic is defined as having abdominal pains but in horses it is referred to problems in gastro-intestinal tract. Some common causes of Colic are High grain based diets/Low forage diets, Moldy/Tainted feed, Abrupt change in feed, Parasite infestation , Lack of water consumption leading to impaction colics, Sand ingestion, Long term use of NSAIDS, Stress and Dental problems. About 10% of horses die from colic which is why its important to understand variables that can contribute to their outcome given that the horse underwent Colic Surgery.

Exploratory Data Analysis

Data Dictionary

Our data was sourced from the University of California, Irvine Machine Learning Repository.

This specific dataset was donated August 6, 1989 by Will Taylor. It was created for use by Mary McLeish & Matt Cecile who belong to the Department of Computer Science at the University of Guelph in Guelph, Ontario, Canada.

The data has 299 observations and 27 parameters that range from continuous to discrete and nominal variables. Below you can find an outline of the variables found within the dataset as well as their respective description.

Variable Name	Description
ID	a row indicator which uniquely identifies each row
surgery	was the horse treated with or without surgery
age	identify if the horse in an adult or a child (young identified as under 6 months)
hospital_number	the case number assigned to the horse (same number if a horse is treated twice)
rectal_temp	the temperature of the horse's rectum recorded in degrees Celsius
pulse	a horse's heart rate measured in beats per minute
respiratory_rate	the number of breaths a horse takes per minute
temp_of_extremities	a subjective way to measure the condition of outermost circulation by the temperature
peripheral_pulse	a subjective way to measure the condition of outermost circulation by pulse
mucous_membrane	a record of the color of the mucous membranes as an indicator of circulation
capillary_refill_time	measuring the time to refill the capillaries
pain	a measure of the horse's pain level (not to be taken as a linear variable)
peristalsis	an indication of the activity in the horse's gut
abdominal_distention	measure of the amount of air/gas filling the horse's gut as an indicator of a health problem

Variable Name	Description
nasogastric_tube	amount of gas coming out of the nasogastric tube
nasogastric_reflux	the amount of reflux within the nasogastric tube
nasogastric_reflux_ph	ph of the reflux within the nasogastric tube
rectal_exam_feces	the amount of feces found within the rectal
abdomen	an indicator to how the abdomen (small and large intestine) is in relation to feces
packed_cell_volume	number of red cells in the blood by volume
total_protein	total amount of protein found in the blood
abdomo_appearance	the color of the fluid taken from the horse's abdominal cavity
abdomo_protein	total amount of protein found in the gut
outcome	current status of the horse: alive, dead, or euthanized
surgical_lesion	could the lesion and/or problem be treated with surgery
lesion_1	indicator of the site, type, subtype, specific code for lesion 1
lesion_2	indicator of the site, type, subtype, specific code for lesion 2
lesion_3	indicator of the site, type, subtype, specific code for lesion 3
cp_data	indicates if there is pathology data present

Horse Demographics

3
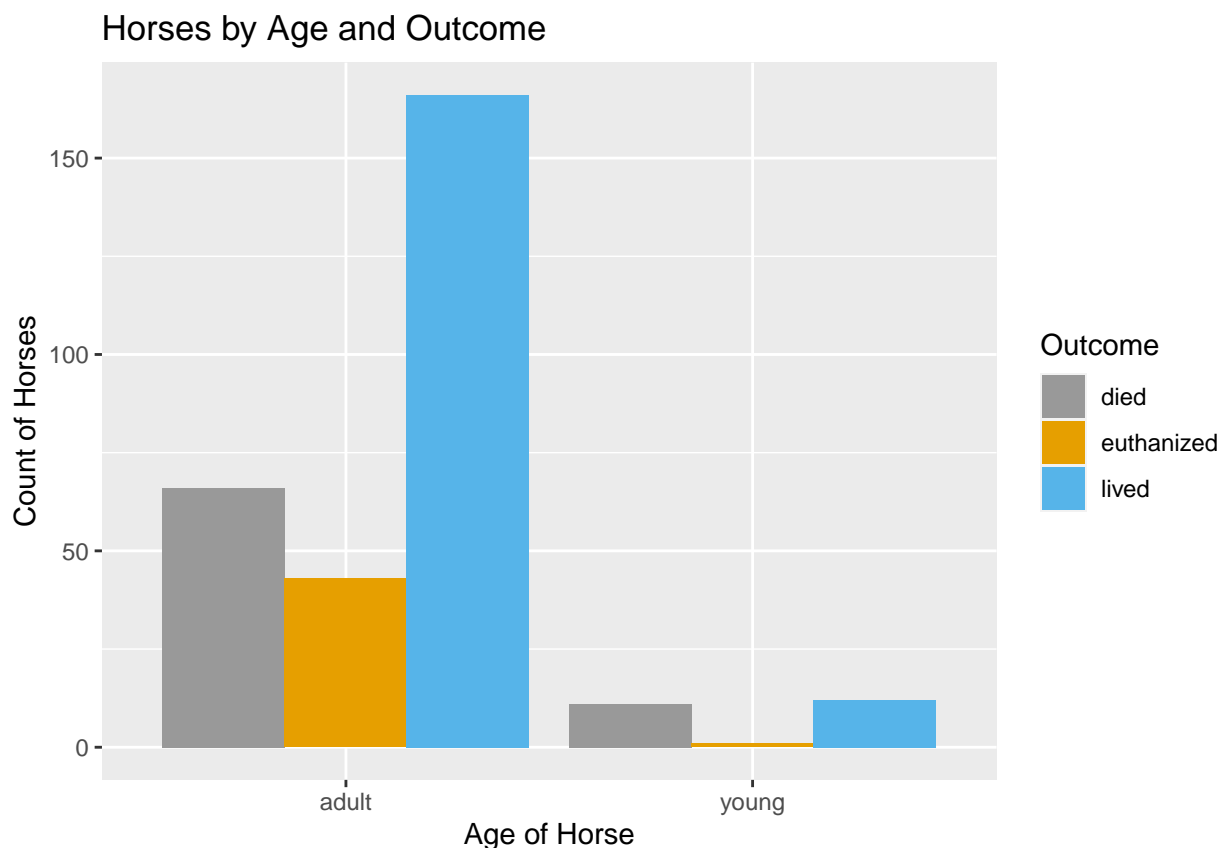
This graph shows number of horses by age groups and outcome which indicates horses' life status. The number of young horses (24) is very small so that it might not be enough to talk about the pattern. The bar graph shows that adult horses have higher lived proportion than young horses.
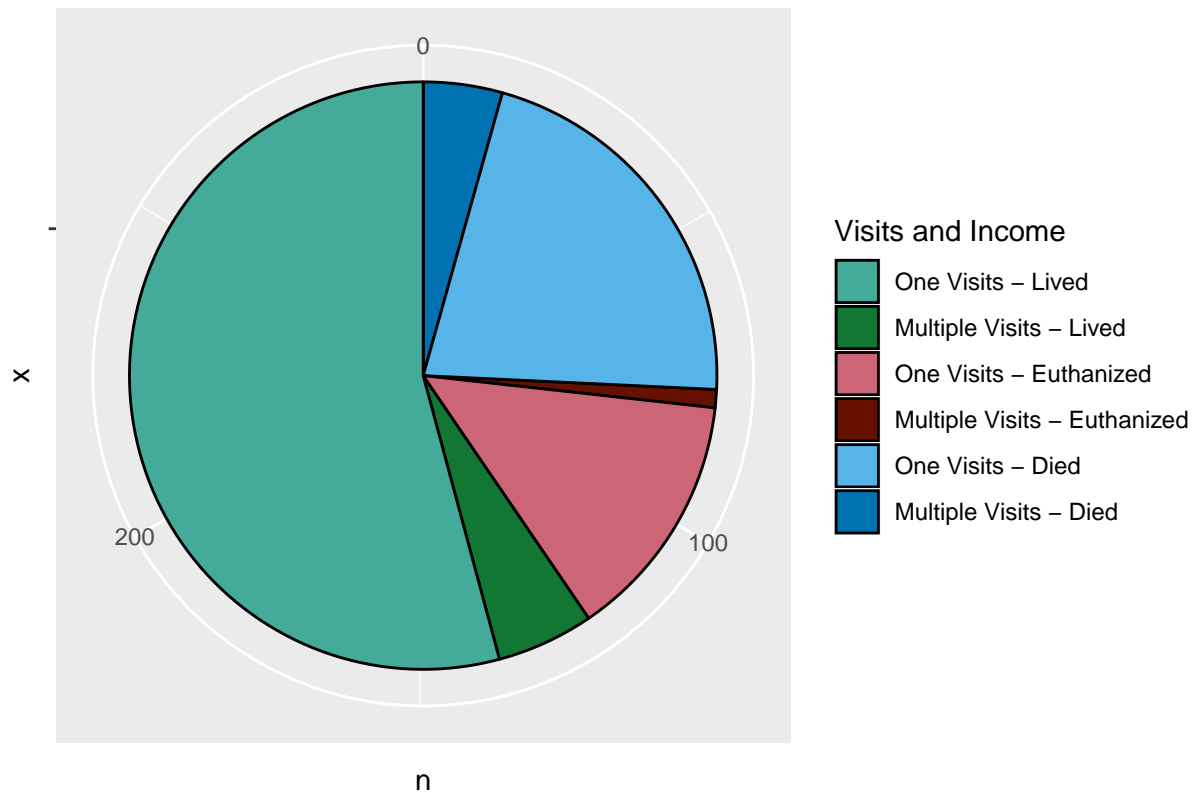
Hospital Demographics

There were 16 horses that came back. Of those horses, we can see a breakdown of how many lived, died, or were euthized.

outcome	n
died	7
euthanized	2
lived	8

Comparing the Horses that came back to the hospital numerous times to the horses that only visited once. We can see that there is a larger gap in the proportion of horses that need to be euthanized once returning to the hospital. The propotion of horses that returned to the hospital and were either euthanized or died (50%) is much larger than the proportion of horses that only went to the hospital once (39%). This helps show that disregarding all other factors and demograpics, if a horse was to return to the hospital, they had a 20% higher chance of being euthanized or dying.

4

Outcome of Horse by Visits to Hospital

Visits and Income
- One Visits – Lived
- Multiple Visits – Lived
- One Visits – Euthanized
- Multiple Visits – Euthanized
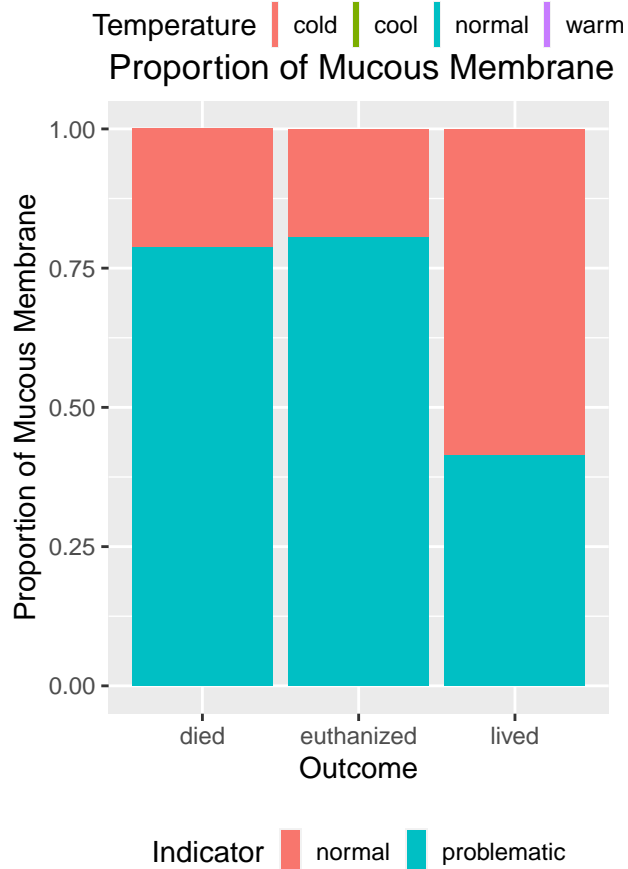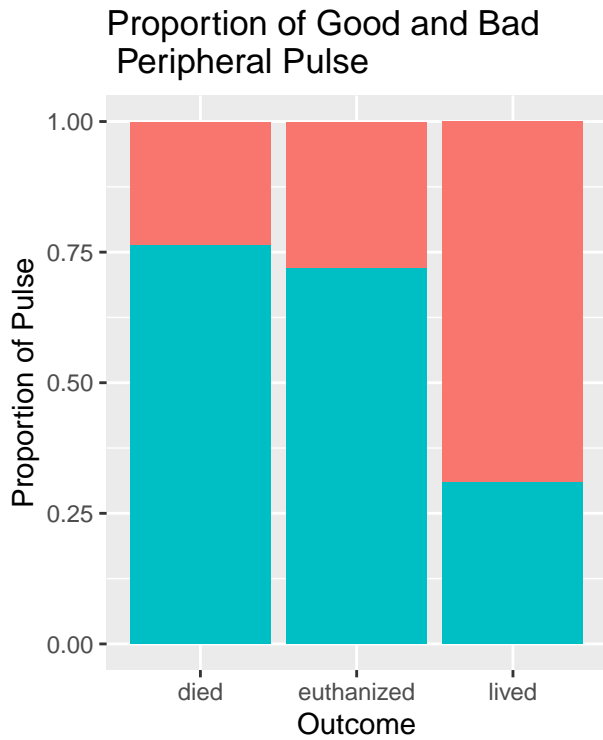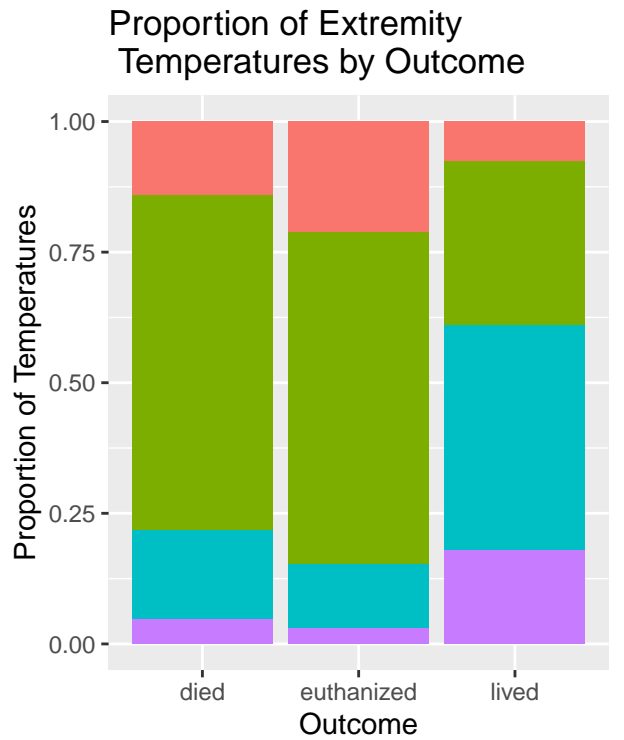- One Visits – Died
- Multiple Visits – Died

Physical Attributes

A normal rectal temperature for a horse sits around 37.8. A temperature above can come from an infection while a low temperature may be due to shock in the body.

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# histogram of the horses rectal temperature
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Circulation Attributes

Cold and Cool temperatures are associated with possible shock of the horse, while hotter extremities (in this case denoted as 'Warm') are associated with elevated rectal temperatures. Both cases signal that there is an underlying health issue with the horse.

Proportion of Extremity Temperatures by Outcome

Proportion of Good and Bad Peripheral Pulse

Proportion of Mucous Membrane

Peripheral Pulse is a measure of how fast blood, in the outermost parts of the horse, is

moving away from the heart way and is being used to measure the horse's circulation. A normal or increased peripheral pulse is considered normal, however, a reduced or absent pulse in an indicator of poor circulation.

The Mucos Membrane color can also be an indicator of poor circulation and lead to an earlier admittion into the hospital. The following table denotes the meaning beind the colors;

| Color	Meaning
Normal Pink	indicate a normal or slightly increased circulation
Bright Pink	indicate a normal or slightly increased circulation
Pale Pink	occurs in early stages of shock
Pale Cyanotic	indicates of a serious circulatory issue
Bright Red/Injected	indicates septicemia
Dark Cyanotic	indicates of a serious circulatory issue

capillary refill time The longer the refill, the poorer the circulation

Pain Attributes

	died	euthanized	lived	Sum
alert	2	1	35	38
depressed	14	12	33	59
extreme_pain	24	6	12	42
mild_pain	8	5	54	67
severe_pain	17	11	10	38
Sum	65	35	144	244

This two way table states that the more pain a horse has, it is less likely to be "lived" than "died" or "euthanized". For example, when horses feel extreme pain, there are only 1/3 of horses to be "lived" when the other 2/3 were either "died" or "euthanized". However, when horses alert status, over 90% of horses to be "lived".

Outcome Analysis

Horses Outcome vs Surgery Performed
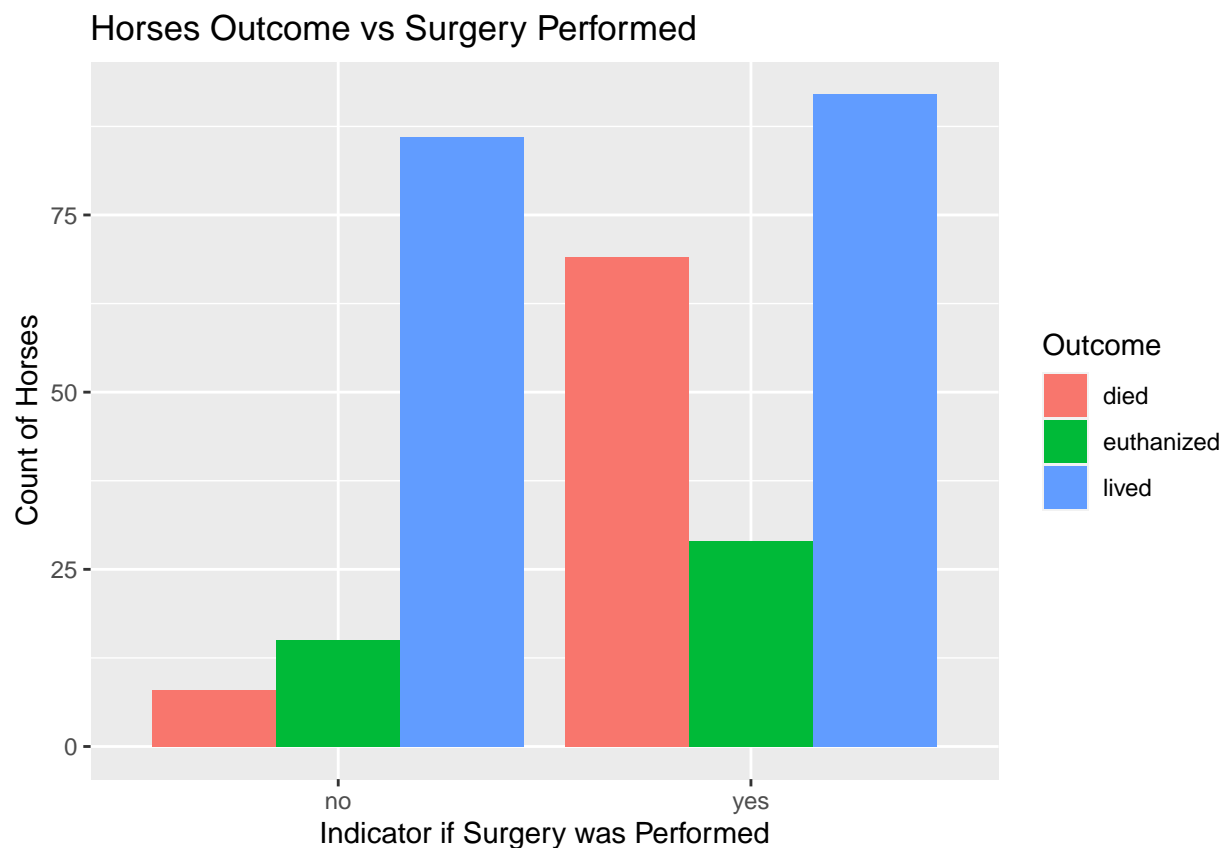
This table provides some input to the most common Lesions found on Horses and an analysis to compare the horses demographics of age, outcome and if they had surgery in respect to the place of the lesion.

age	outcome	surgery	lesion_1	Freq
adult	lived	no	0	45
adult	lived	no	3111	16
adult	lived	yes	3111	12
adult	euthanized	yes	3205	11
adult	lived	yes	2208	10
adult	died	yes	3205	9
adult	lived	yes	0	7
adult	lived	no	400	5
adult	lived	yes	2124	5
adult	died	yes	2205	5

Conclusions

Bibliography and References

Colic emergencies " large animal hospital " College of veterinary medicine " University of Florida. (n.d.). Retrieved May 28, 2021, from https://largeanimal.vethospitals.ufl.edu/hospital-services/surgery/colic/

Colic Surgery in Horses. (n.d.). Retrieved from https://www.acvs.org/surgical-procedures/colic-surgery-horses