**S2 Table**: Relative abundance of Phyla in the faeces of horses and ponies with an overall median relative abundance over 0.4 % at the three sampling points presented as medians and 25/ 75 percentiles in brackets.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Phylum** | **Breed** | **t1** | **t2** | **t3** |
| Firmicutes | Horses | 55.7 (52.3/59.8) | 57.2 (55.5/62.2) | 58.5 (55.5/62.9) |
|  | Ponies | 54.0ab (51.9/62.9) | 58.5a (53.2/63.8) | 62.8b (57.7/65.7) |
| Bacteroidetes | Horses | 39.0 (35.0/40.5) | 37.2 (34.0/40.4) | 35.0 (32.7/36.5) |
|  | Ponies | 40.9 (33.1/43.6) | 36.6 (29.4/42.9) | 32.1 (28.9/38.3) |
| Spirocheates | Horses | 3.16 (1.87/3.96) | 1.72 (1.65/2.59) | 2.39 (1.73/3.16) |
|  | Ponies | 2.21(1.70/3.65) | 1.89(1.75/2.18) | 1.78 (1.34/2.28) |
| Fibrobacteres | Horses | 1.90a (1.05/2.45) | 0.98b (0.85/1.29) | 1.11b# (0.59/1.84) |
|  | Ponies | 0.78 (0.51/2.31) | 0.79 (0.65/1.70) | 0.38\*(0.09/0.88) |
| Proteobacteria | Horses | 0.34 (0.31/0.69) | 0.61# (0.52/0.92) | 0.52 (0.43/0.99) |
|  | Ponies | 0.60a (0.37/0.85) | 1.14b\*(0.81/1.45) | 0.43a (0.27/0.70) |
| Actinobacteria | Horses | 0.37a (0.30/0.49) | 0.34ab (0.30/0.43) | 0.88b (0.54/1.31) |
|  | Ponies | 0.33a (0.31/0.49) | 0.39a(0.33/0.59) | 0.77b (0.67/1.25) |

a, b medians with different subscript letters differ significantly within a row (p < 0.05)

\*, # medians with different subscript symbols differ significantly within a column (p < 0.05)