

Table of Contents

List of abbreviations.....	III
1. Summary.....	1
2. Zusammenfassung.....	3
3. General introduction	7
3.1 Definition of the terms “pheno-” and “endotype”	8
3.2 Equine asthma.....	9
3.2.1 Aetiology.....	9
3.2.2 Pathogenesis.....	11
3.2.3 Immunological pathways	12
3.2.4 Classification of phenotypes and endotypes in EA.....	13
3.2.5 Treatment	15
3.3 Neutrophils	15
3.3.1 Granulopoiesis and homeostasis	16
3.3.2 Morphology.....	16
3.3.3 Recruitment and functions	17
3.3.4 Neutrophil extracellular traps (NETs)	20
3.3.4.1 Morphology and function	20
3.3.4.2 NET formation mechanisms	22
3.3.4.3 NET degradation.....	25
3.3.4.4 Detrimental effects of NETs.....	26
3.3.5 Neutrophil cholesterol.....	27
3.3.6 Anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies (ANCAs)	28
3.4 Graphical summary.....	30
4. Aims	31
5. Results	33
5.1 Differentiation of three equine asthma phenotypes (mild, moderate and severe EA)....	33
5.1.1 References	61
5.1.2 Additional files.....	65
5.2 The role of NETs in the pathogenesis and differentiation of EA phenotypes.....	73
5.2.1 Figures.....	93
5.2.2 References	104
6. General discussion.....	107
6.1 Phenotype differentiation in EA research.....	108
6.1.1 The studies’ differentiation of three EA phenotypes.....	110

6.2 Detrimental effects of NETs in human lung diseases..... 114

6.3 NETs as part of the EA pathogenesis 116

6.3.1 Extracellular trap activated cells are increased in BALF 117

6.3.2 Impaired NET regulators influence pro-inflammatory milieu in BALF 123

6.3.3 Comparison of evidence for airway NETs in other horse studies 125

6.3.4 EA pathogenesis is associated with systemic alterations 126

6.3.5 Autoimmunity is contributing to sEA 131

7. Concluding remarks..... 135

8. Future outlook 139

9. References (Chapter 3 and 6)..... 143

10. Appendix 167

Affidavit..... 169

Acknowledgements..... 171