



Horse Welfare
Alliance of Canada

EQUINE CARE ASSESSMENT

Breeding Facility

Each statement requires a response of yes, no or N/A (not applicable). Once the assessment is complete, review the areas that are not in compliant and reference the equine Code or the HWAC equine Code on-line training program (www.horsewelfare.ca) to learn how to reach compliance by taking corrective actions.

Facility Name: _____ Date: _____

DUTY OF CARE	YES	NO	N/A
The farm manager is aware of the <i>Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Equines*</i> , has access to the Code and encourages staff and facility attendees to reference the Code document to assure dutiful care of the equines on location.			
FACILITIES AND HOUSING	YES	NO	N/A
Pens or corrals have enough room for the number of grouped equine held in them. Equine are not fighting and able to get away from aggressive equine.			
During muddy conditions there are areas in the exterior penning that equine can stand and lie down without being in the mud.			
Shelter is provided to protect equine from extreme weather when applicable (shade in hot weather, wind breaks in cold weather). Acceptable shelter includes constructed buildings or natural protection.			
Equine that are showing signs of heat or cold stress are promptly assisted.			
If blankets are used, the condition of the animal beneath the blankets must be examined at least weekly. The blankets must be appropriate for the weather conditions (waterproof and breathable).			
All fences and penning are well maintained and suitable for equine. There are no gaps, broken boards, protruding objects or loose wires that can cause injury.			
Any electric fences are installed per manufacturers specifications and all power sources are designed to prevent short circuits or stray voltage. Equipment is inspected regularly. Temporary electric fences used for strip grazing or pasture rotation are not an acceptable permanent perimeter fence for equine.			
The facility has the ability to segregate sick or injured animals for treatment in an area that allows the equine easy access to palatable water, feed and appropriate shelter.			

Incompatible and unfamiliar animals are not housed together in pens (i.e. stallions) in order to prevent injury.			
No parts of housing have areas where equine can injure themselves (i.e. sharp or protruding objects, places where they can get their head or limbs stuck).			
The stalls have enough room for equine to lie down in a natural resting position, stand with their head fully raised, walk or step forward and turn around with ease.			
If equine are kept indoors with no natural light, artificial light is provided during the day. Keeping equine in continual darkness is unacceptable.			
Stalls are kept clean and equine have a dry area to lie down. The flooring in the pens or stalls will in no way harm the animals and provides a clean, dry, comfortable area to lie down. Concrete or hard rubber mats without bedding (straw or shavings) are not acceptable surfaces. If bedding is used it is non-toxic. Type of flooring in stalls:			
There is non-slip flooring throughout the facility. Type of flooring:			
The air quality of the barn is acceptable. There is no buildup of noxious gases, dust or moisture. Ventilation of the barn is provided by:			
The facility has an emergency action plan.			
If they have an emergency action plan, it is posted and readily available to staff.			
Toxic materials are securely stored where equine cannot gain access to them (i.e. paint cans, fuel containers, herbicides, rodent control).			
FEED AND WATER	YES	NO	N/A
Equine have access to clean palatable water in the amounts they need and for current environmental conditions. Type of waterers:			
Heated waterers are provided if the property is in a climate that requires them.			
The water troughs or containers are clean, in working order and have no sharp or protruding objects in or around them that can injure an animal.			
All feedstuff is appropriate for equine.			

Feed (hay, grain, minerals) is stored in an area where equine cannot access it, out of the elements and away from rodents.			
Management ensures that all equine are provided a diet that is appropriate to their condition, activity level, age and the current environment. Special consideration is given to the diets of any geriatric equine.			
Stallions receive a diet that takes their needs and activity into consideration.			
Pregnant and lactating mares/jennets receive a diet that is adequate for maintaining health and vigour and allows them to provide adequate nutrition to the foal.			
Equine are provided with salt either through their ration or free choice.			
All equine have access to forage daily and if hay is the source it must be of good quality, free from mould and dust.			
HEALTH MANAGEMENT	YES	NO	N/A
Equine are visually inspected regularly to ensure health and well-being are maintained (i.e. illness, injury, incompatibility).			
The facility has a valid Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR) with a veterinarian and works directly with a veterinarian. Contact Information:			
Treatment records or receipts for medications are available.			
The facility has a parasite control program (internal and external parasites).			
The facility has policies and procedures for when equine get sick or injured. Policy:			
Equine that are sick, injured or in pain receive treatment without delay or are euthanized without delay.			
Management is aware of who to contact in the case of reportable disease.			
Equine requiring dental care promptly receive it by a veterinarian or competent individual working under direct veterinarian supervision.			
All cases of lameness are identified, recorded and addressed either through specific therapies or changes in individual care and management.			

All equine with laminitis are receiving appropriate lifelong management and treatment which may include medications, dietary requirements and hoof care. If equine are present with laminitis, please describe current care:			
Corrective action is being taken on all equine with a Body Condition Score (BCS) below a 3 or above a 7. Animals that are not responding to corrective action are referred to a veterinarian.			
Corrective action is being taken on all donkeys and mules with a BCS of 2 or below or 4 and above. Animals that are not responding to corrective action are referred to a veterinarian.			
Any geriatric horse, donkey or mule that is emaciated is under the care of a veterinarian.			
No equine are starved or prevented from eating for prolonged periods of time in order to reduce BCS. Changes and/or reduction in feed, exercise and feeding protocols is gradual.			
HUSBANDRY PRACTICES	YES	NO	N/A
All equine have some form of regular exercise or turnout, unless under stall rest for medical reasons or due to severe environmental conditions.			
There is no equipment (including restraint devices) that may cause injury to equine. If equipment is found to be harmful, corrective action must be taken immediately.			
Everyone responsible for the care of the equine are trained and experienced in equine behaviour and handling.			
Equine are handled in a manner that is acceptable and humane (not causing pain or avoidable injury).			
Equine are not subjected to training methods that are abusive or intentionally hurt the animal including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soring • Excessive use of whips • Forcing the head position by tying equine to a fixed object. 			
Equine must only undergo training that matches their physical capabilities and level of maturity.			
Tack and equipment used during training is maintained in good repair and fits the equine correctly.			
If animal identification is performed it is done in a manner that causes minimum handling stress and pain.			
Tail nicking, blocking or tail docking for cosmetic or any purposes are not performed on any equine.			

Hooves are trimmed or shod as necessary and not allowed to grow to excessive lengths.			
Equine are groomed ensuring they are free of debris where the saddle or harness is placed and burrs causing discomfort or injury removed immediately.			
All tack is free of wrinkled or twisted material and debris before placed on equine.			
If branding is used: it is not on the jaw or cheek and it is never applied to a wet animal.			
The farm is aware of provincial restrictions with respect to castration of equine.			
If your province allows castration by a non-veterinarian you ensure it is only performed by a skilled operator who has a valid Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR) that allows access to pain control, examines the scrotal area to ensure normal anatomy, the methods of handling and restraint do not cause injury or unnecessary pain, and pain control is provided.			
Following castration, the equine is monitored and if complications occur, a veterinarian is contacted immediately.			
RESPONSIBLE BREEDING	YES	NO	N/A
Before choosing to breed, you make yourself familiar with and are able to provide the basics of care as outlined in the Code.			
Mares and jennets requiring care during gestation receive it.			
Pregnant mares or jennets have some form of exercise or turnout daily - unless they are under stall rest for medical reasons or severe environment conditions that make it temporarily improper or impossible.			
The farm has a plan in place for the foaling process, including getting prompt expert advice or help when needed.			
Mares and jennets close to foaling are observed at least twice daily for health, well-being and signs of foaling.			
Newborn foals are monitored to ensure they can rise and suck unassisted.			
If abnormalities are observed in the foal, appropriate care is given immediately.			
All foals receive colostrum or alternative care to maintain their health and vigour.			
Facilities or fencing used during weaning are safe, strong and have no protrusions that can injure the foal or mare.			
If the foal or mare/jennet injures themselves attempting to reunite, corrective action is taken immediately.			

TRANSPORTATION	YES	NO	N/A
All animals are fit to be transported as per the Health of Animals Regulations Part XII. No unfit animals are loaded into trailers at the facility.			
All animals are segregated as required for compatibility and safety of the equine.			
All equine are provided clean palatable water upon arrival at the facility.			
CHANGE OR END OF CAREER	YES	NO	N/A
When making the decision on the change or end of a equine's career, their health, welfare and usability are carefully considered.			
EUTHANASIA	YES	NO	N/A
The farm has an emergency euthanasia plan which includes who can perform euthanasia, what method is used, confirmation of insensibility, secondary methods available and confirmation of death. Please describe:			
Equine that are sick, injured or in pain receive treatment or are euthanized without delay. Owners receive appropriate advice on care and treatment from a veterinarian or make arrangements for euthanasia for a sick, injured or compromised animal that is not showing signs of improvement.			
The facility uses only an approved method of euthanasia. Method:			

* In the equine Code, the word "horse" refers to all equine species, namely horses, ponies, miniature horses, donkeys, mules and hinnies.