



**Horse Welfare**  
Alliance of Canada

# EQUINE CARE ASSESSMENT

## Equine Feedlot

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](http://www.horsewelfare.ca)) to learn how to reach compliance by taking corrective actions.

Facility Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>DUTY OF CARE</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>N/A</b>
The feedlot manager is aware of the <i>Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Equines*</i> , places the document in an accessible location and encourages staff to reference the Code document to assure dutiful care of the equines on location.			
<b>FACILITIES AND HOUSING</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Pens or corrals have enough room for the number of grouped horses held in them. Horses are not fighting and able to get away from aggressive horses.			
The feedlot has a mud management plan and access to any equipment to implement the plan.			
Each pen must have dry areas that during muddy conditions horses can stand and lie down without being in mud.			
Shelter is provided to protect horses from extreme weather when applicable (shade in hot weather, wind breaks in cold weather). Acceptable shelter includes constructed shelter or natural protection.			
Horses that are showing signs of heat or cold stress are promptly assisted.			
All fences and penning are well maintained and suitable for horses. There are no gaps, broken boards, protruding objects or loose wires that can cause injury.			
The feedlot has the ability to segregate sick or injured animals for treatment in an area that provides shelter, bedding, dryness and the horses have easy access to water and feed.			
Incompatible and unfamiliar animals are not housed together in pens (i.e. stallions) in order to prevent injury.			
No parts of the feedlot have areas where horses can injure themselves (i.e. sharp or protruding objects, places where they can get their head or limbs stuck).			

There is non-slip flooring throughout the feedlot. <b>Type of flooring:</b>			
The feedlot 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 horses cannot gain access to them (i.e. paint cans, fuel containers, herbicides, rodent control).			
<b>FEED AND WATER</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Horses have access to clean palatable water in the amounts they need and for current environmental conditions. <b>Type of waterers:</b>			
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 the horse.			
Feedlot horses are receiving a diet that is adequate for health and vigour.			
Feed (hay, grain, minerals) is stored in an area where horses cannot access it, out of the elements and away from rodents.			
Management ensures that all horses 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 horses.			
Horses are provided with salt either through their ration or free choice.			
All horses have access to forage daily and if hay is the source it must be of good quality, free from mould and dust.			
<b>HEALTH MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Horses are visually inspected regularly to ensure health and well-being are maintained (i.e. illness, injury, incompatibility).			
The feedlot 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 feedlot has a written biosecurity and disease management plan in place that was developed with a veterinarian.			

The feedlot has policies and procedures for when a horse gets sick or injured. Policy:			
Horses 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.			
Horses 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.			
Corrective action is being taken on all horses with a Body Condition Score (BCS) below 3. Animals that are not responding to corrective action are referred to a veterinarian.			
<b>HUSBANDRY PRACTICES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>N/A</b>
There is no equipment (including restraint devices) that may cause injury to the horse. If equipment is found to be harmful, corrective action must be taken immediately.			
Everyone responsible for the care of the horses are trained and experienced in equine behaviour and handling.			
Horses are handled in a manner that is acceptable and humane (not causing pain or avoidable injury).			
Horses must only undergo training that matches their physical capabilities and level of maturity.			
If animal identification is performed it is done in a manner that causes minimum handling stress and pain.			
If branding is used: it is not on the horse's jaw or cheek and it is never applied to a wet horse.			
Hooves are trimmed or shod as necessary and not allowed to grow to excessive lengths.			
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Upon arrival at feedlot, all horses are assessed for health and well-being.			
All horses are provided clean palatable water and good quality forage upon arrival at the feedlot.			
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 horses.			
Feedlot management is aware of the requirements with the Health of Animals Regulations Part XII regarding the transport of animals.			
<b>EUTHANASIA</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>N/A</b>
The feedlot 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.