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## **HORSE CARE GUIDELINES**

A special thank you to [MNHARE](#) for permission to reprint in part, these guidelines.

### **ADEQUATE FOOD:**

- Nutritious feed (hay/grain) in sufficient quality (wholesome, palatable and free of contamination such as feces, mold, mildew, insects, dust, etc.).
- Food shall be provided in sufficient quantity and be of adequate and appropriate food value.
- Diet should be prepared with consideration for the age, breed/type, condition, size, exercise level and quantity of equine(s).
- Equines should score, by a veterinarian, no less than a body condition score of 5 on the Henneke Condition Scoring Chart to be considered of adequate weight.
- Equines shall have access to adequate natural forage or be fed daily or as recommended by a veterinarian or Equine Allies, Inc.
- All storage and feeding receptacles shall be kept clean and free from contamination such as feces, mold, mildew, insects, dust, etc.
- If more than one animal is fed at one time or in one place, it shall be the responsibility of the caregiver to separate animals for equal feeding.

### **ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE:**

- An equine shall be afforded immediate veterinary care if known or suspected to have an injury (accidental or deliberate), or exhibiting such signs as shock, colic, founder tremors, swelling, broken bones, open wounds, inability to eat or drink, blistering as a result of fire or acid, etc., irregular or abnormal breathing, partial or total paralysis, abnormal discharge or bleeding, signs of disease, severe parasitic infection, loss of appetite, weight loss, abnormal skin condition or hair loss, temperature fluctuation, persistent diarrhea, inability to bear weight on a limb or lameness, or other such signs.
- Hoof care maintenance and trimming every 6 to 8 weeks, or as directed by a veterinarian or farrier.
- Parasites kept under control through worming every 6 to 8 weeks or as directed by a veterinarian.
- Annual dental check-up and necessary treatment to ensure proper and adequate food digestion.
- Vaccination as recommended by a veterinarian.
- Proof of testing for Equine Infectious Anemia (Coggins Test)

### **ADEQUATE WATER:**

- Adequate water means clean, potable water available at all times for all equines. Exceptions shall be determined by a veterinarian.

-All water receptacles shall be kept clean and free of contaminants and be positioned or affixed to minimize spillage.

#### **ADEQUATE SHELTER:**

-Shall have at least a roof and three sides and be kept in good repair and free of standing water, accumulated waste, sharp objects and debris.

-Adequate shelter provides protection from inclement weather conditions (prevailing winds, sleet, rain, snow and arid temperature).

-It is the responsibility of the owner/custodian to ensure that each equine, taking into consideration age, breed/type and health has access to proper shelter or protection from the weather (relief from more dominant equines that may exclude him/her from the shelter).

#### **ADEQUATE SPACE:**

-Space available to the equine must be usable and safe (must be provided an area free from standing and accumulated water, sharp objects and debris, maintained in a safe and healthful manner).

-Equines shall be allowed to exercise and have freedom of movement as necessary to reduce stress and maintain good physical condition. Space and provisions for exercise must be appropriate and sufficient for the age, breed/type, quantity, condition and size of equines.

-Stall size must be of a minimum of 10' by 10'.

-Enclosed areas should be constructed or modified to allow free flow of air to control temperature, humidity and prevent air stagnation.

-Equines kept in stalls must be allowed a minimum of 4 hours of daily turnout in a suitable and safe fenced area large enough for the equine to exercise.

-Fencing shall be well maintained and in good repair at all times. Fencing adequate for equine needs to be highly visible and of a minimum of 4 feet in height. Barbed wire fencing is not considered to be an appropriate fencing for equines.

#### **ADEQUATE COMPANIONSHIP:**

-Equines are herd animals and are very social. Equines need to be kept with another equine or at a minimum with another grazing animal such as a goat or cow.

**OUR MISSION IS  
TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE HUMANE CARE AND TREATMENT OF HORSES,  
TO ADVOCATE EQUINE WELFARE  
AND TO FURTHER THE BOND BETWEEN PEOPLE AND HORSES**