



**Horse Welfare**  
Alliance of Canada

# EQUINE CARE ASSESSMENT

## Rescue or Rehabilitation 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](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 facility 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 and facility attendees 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 equine held in them. Equine are not fighting and able to get away from aggressive animals.			
During muddy conditions there are areas in the exterior penning that equine can stand and lie down without being in the mud.			
There is shelter provided to protect equine from extreme weather when applicable (shade in hot weather, wind breaks in cold weather).			
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). It is highly recommended that equine in poor body condition or poor health be inspected daily.			
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.			
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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.			

The facility has the ability to segregate sick or injured animals for treatment in an area that allows 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. <b>Type of flooring in stalls:</b>			
There is non-slip flooring throughout the facility. <b>Type of flooring:</b>			
The air quality of the barn is acceptable. There is no buildup of noxious gases, dust or moisture. <b>Ventilation of the barn is provided by:</b>			
The facility has an emergency action plan.			
The emergency action plan 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).			
<b>FEED AND WATER</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Equine 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 equine.			

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.			
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.			
<b>HEALTH MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>N/A</b>
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 gets 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.			
<b>HUSBANDRY PRACTICES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>N/A</b>
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.			
All members of management and staff 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 cannot be handled in a manner that would subject them to pain or injury.			
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>
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.			

<b>EUTHANASIA</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>N/A</b>
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.