



**Horse Welfare**  
Alliance of Canada

# EQUINE CARE ASSESSMENT

## Boarding Stables

Questions to ask when choosing a boarding stable.

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 stable 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 equine on location.			
<b>FACILITIES AND HOUSING</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>N/A</b>
The pastures and paddocks appear to have enough room for the number of equine housed and cared for at the facility.			
There are areas that will remain dry in muddy conditions where equine can stand and lie down without being in mud.			
The application of fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides and farm manure is timed to prevent any health risks to grazing equine or contamination of ground water.			
Equine are kept off the sprayed area as per the label directions.			
There is shelter provided to protect equine from extreme weather. Acceptable shelter includes constructed buildings or natural protection.			
When new equine are introduced to a herd, the animals are managed in a way that minimizes the risk of injury.			
All fences and penning are well maintained and suitable for equine. There are no gaps, broken boards, protruding objects or loose wires that can injure equine.			
There is no temporary fencing material used for permanent perimeter fencing.			
There are no gaps, broken boards, protruding objects or loose wires that can injure 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.			
All stalls are well maintained and have no gaps, broken boards, nails or other protruding objects that can cause injury.			
The stalls have enough room for equine to lie down in a natural resting position, stand with their head fully raised, walk forward and turn around with ease.			
If equine are to be stalled indoors all day without natural light, artificial lighting is provided during the day. Keeping equine in continuous darkness is not acceptable.			
Bedding provided for equine is non-toxic. <b>Type of bedding:</b>			
Stalls are kept clean. If the stables provide stall cleaning how often are the stalls cleaned:			
There is non-slip flooring throughout the facility. <b>Type of flooring:</b>			
The flooring in the pens will in no way harm the animals and provides a clean, comfortable area to lie down. Concrete or hard rubber mats without bedding (straw or shavings) are not acceptable surfaces. <b>Type of flooring:</b>			
Respiratory problems can be created or made worse by poor bedding practices and poor indoor air quality. 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 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).			

FEED AND WATER	YES	NO	N/A
Equine have access to clean palatable water in the amounts they need. <b>Type of waterers:</b>			
Heated waterers are provided if the facility is in a climate that requires them.			
Water troughs or containers are clean, in working order and have no sharp or protruding objects in or around them that can injure the animal.			
Feed (hay, grain, minerals) is stored where equine cannot access it, kept out of the elements and away from rodents.			
<b>The following questions apply to stables that provide daily feeding and feedstuff as part of the boarding contract. If the stable is one where owners are responsible for feedstuff and daily feeding, you can skip to the next section on Health Management.</b>			
The hay is of good quality, free from mould and dust.			
The hay is stored in a way that will maintain the quality and the concentrates (grain) are kept in containers/rooms that minimize the risk of equine gaining access to it and overeating.			
The equine have access to salt in their diet (through their ration or free access in a block or loose salt form).			
If the stable provides feedstuff for equine, they work with a nutritionist to ensure that animals are provided rations that meet their needs.			
The managers and staff are trained in Body Condition Scoring (BCS) to ensure equine maintain a healthy weight.			
HEALTH MANAGEMENT	YES	NO	N/A
The facility has policies and procedures for when equine gets sick or injured, including when the owner is unavailable. A sick or injured animal receives treatment without delay. <b>Policy:</b>			
The facility has a veterinarian on call for emergencies. <b>Contact Information:</b>			

<b>HUSBANDRY PRACTICES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Stalled equine are allowed daily turnout time or some form of regular exercise. The schedule for turnout or form of exercise:			
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).			
Regular hoof care is essential towards achieving overall equine health and longevity through hoof and leg soundness. If the facility provides hoof care as part of the boarding contract, how often are they trimmed:  Facility farrier contact details and references:			
<b>EUTHANASIA</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>N/A</b>
The facility has an emergency euthanasia plan. Please describe:			
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.