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DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY SERVICES MALAYSIA

ANIMAL WELFARE CODE OF PRACTICE

HORSE RIDING AND SPELLING ACTIVITIES



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ANIMAL WELFARE CODE OF PRACTICE HORSE RIDING AND SPELLING ACTIVITIES

DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY SERVICES MALAYSIA
Wisma Tani, Podium Block, Lot 4G1,
Precinct 4, Federal Government Administration Centre,
62630, Putrajaya, Malaysia

Tel : 603-8870 2000
Fax : 603 8888 8685
Email : pro@dvs.gov.my

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PREFACE

The Animal Welfare Act 2015 (Act 772) was gazetted on 29th December 2015 and has been enforced since 1st July 2017. In accordance with the provisions of Section 15 of this Act, there are thirteen (13) activities involving animals that shall be licensed by the Animal Welfare Board.

The Department of Veterinary Services of Malaysia has taken the initiative to develop the Animal Welfare Codes of Practices (COPs) which cover the standards and guidelines on animal welfare. These COPs serve as reference to the licensee or any person involved in animal activities. Therefore, all parties must comply with the animal welfare standards which are specified in these COPs and they shall be responsible for ensuring the fulfillment of the animal welfare needs.

In line with national and international requirements on animal welfare, it is expected that animal welfare will be practised throughout animal management in all activities involving animals as listed in Schedules of this Act.

The Department of Veterinary Services Malaysia would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to the members of the COPs Committee, government agencies, non-government organisations and all individuals involved directly and indirectly in the preparation of these COPs.

DATO' DR. QUAZA NIZAMUDDIN BIN HASSAN NIZAM
Director General of Veterinary Services
Malaysia

ANIMAL WELFARE CODE OF PRACTICE HORSE RIDING & SPELLING ACTIVITIES

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Handling of animals in any activity involving animals should take account of animal welfare requirements. This obligation is the responsibility of the owner or licensee under the Animal Welfare Act 2015. An owner or licensee of the premises for horse riding and spelling activities shall comply with this obligation. It is therefore necessary for the owner or licensee to take reasonable steps to ensure that the following animal requirements are met:

i. its needs for a suitable environment;
ii. its need for a suitable diet;
iii. the need for it to be able to exhibit its normal behaviour pattern;
iv. the need for it to be housed with or apart from other animals; and
v. the need for it to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease.

This Animal Welfare Code of Practice (AWCOP) should be observed by the owner or licensee at the premises for horse riding and spelling activities. All horse riding and spelling activities need to obtain a license and comply with laws and regulations issued by the Animal Welfare Board, veterinary authorities or local authorities to operate as horse riding and spelling activities.

2.0 SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 To set standards for the care and management of horses in riding and spelling centres.

2.2 It applies to the welfare of horses held and cared for in these establishments.

3.0 DEFINITIONS

3.1 Horses
All equine species including any mare, gelding, pony, foal, colt, filly or stallion and hybrids including mules.

3.2 Horse hire premises
Any business, non-profit or voluntary operation which provides horses to clients for riding, trekking or tuition. This includes holiday facilities which provide horses for riding as one of a selection of recreational activities. It also includes riding schools in which the horses used for tuition are owned or leased by the proprietor.

3.3 Government facilities
Any facilities that is managed or governed by the government, government bodies or government agencies.

3.4 Proprietor
Owner or/and any person(s) managing the centre jointly and severally responsible.

3.5 Riding and spelling centre
The establishment carrying out a business of keeping horses for training, housing, upkeep, exhibition, display, or depicting of performing horses.

3.6 Breeding or sale of horse facilities
Facilities that facilitates a business on breeding and sale of horses.

3.7 Stable
Any building / structure containing loose boxes or stalls.

3.8 Yard
Any small enclosure without a roof, not being a stable, loose box or paddock. Yards are frequently used to accommodate horses but they are not intended to support the grazing needs of horses. They should be situated in well-drained areas and soundly constructed of timber or metal piping.

4.0 AGISTMENT OF HORSES

4.1 Agistment in this code refers to the commercial service of keeping horses belonging to other people but not limited to grazing, education, conditioning, training or breeding.

4.2 It is recommended that a written agreement defining the conditions of the agistment should be made between the horse owner or agent and the agistment property proprietor. The agreement should state the fee, the service to be provided, the name of the person responsible for supervision and provision of feed and water, and the steps to be taken should the horse become sick or injured.

4.3 The proprietor of the agistment property should state the provisions made for the safety of the animals, the supply of feed and water, and routine measures for the control of parasites.

4.4 Any disputes that may arise between an agistment property proprietor and a horse owner or agent must not be permitted to interfere with the maintenance of minimum standards for accommodation, supervision and nutrition contained in this code.

4.5 Minimum standards for agistment of horses is the responsibility for implementing this code, in relation to every horse kept on an agistment property, those persons as named in section 3.4.

5.0 HORSE HIRE PREMISES

5.1 The primary purpose of these recommendations and minimum standards is to protect the welfare of horses on horse hire premises. This section must be read in conjunction with the rest of this code.

5.2 Compliance with the minimum standards by all proprietors of horse hire premises will help protect Malaysians favourable international image as a country which humanely uses animals.

6.0 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PROPRIETOR

6.1 The responsibilities below may be delegated to a manager.

6.2 The proprietor of every horse hire premise is responsible for ensuring the minimum standards prescribed in this code are complied with on the premise.

6.3 The proprietor must ensure that no horse under his care is ridden by any client without the supervision of a trained and competent employee aged 16 years or over. This person will be termed the "supervisor" for the purposes of this code.

6.4 The proprietor must ensure that every supervisor has:

6.4.1 A minimum level of horsemanship equivalent to that required and recognized by the Malaysian Equine Council.

6.4.2 The instructional ability to explain the techniques of mounting and dismounting, and the aids used to make the horse walk, trot, canter, halt and turn.

6.4.3 Evidence of a basic knowledge of fire safety and human first aid, including cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR); a current first aid certificate is required.

6.4.4 A standard operating procedure to follow for emergency referral.

6.4.5 An understanding and knowledge of road safety rules when using road during any ride.

6.5 The proprietor must take all possible steps to ensure that all riders are provided access to a correctly fitting hard hat for the purpose, which meet the approval of SIRIM. Footwear used by every rider should have a defined heel to prevent the rider's feet from sliding forward through the stirrup, and the soles of shoes should be smooth to reduce the chances of footwear becoming stuck in the stirrup.

6.6 Prior to allocating a horse to any riders, the proprietor or supervisor if delegated the task, must:

6.6.1 At all times, use the approved riding gears.

6.6.2 Assess the prospective rider's ability to establish his level of competence and whether he will require initial basic instruction.

6.6.3 Assess the prospective mount to ensure its suitability for the rider's level of competence, age and weight, and to ensure that the horse's level of fitness, nutrition, health and soundness, and the state of its hooves, make it suitable for the intended ride.

6.6.4 Assess the saddlery to ensure correct fit and freedom from features that may cause injury to the horse or the rider.

Note: No horse may be ridden when its body condition score is below 2 points or above 4 points on the scale. Every horse should be given one day's complete rest after 6 day's work. It is recommended that a record is kept of the above. No horses to be used for more than 4 continuous hours with minimum of 30 minutes rest in between.

6.7 Unless confined to an arena or small paddock, each rider on the horse should ideally be conducted with the following ratio of supervisors to riders:

a. Up to 5 riders	1 supervisor
b. 5 to 10 riders	2 supervisors
c. 11 to 15 riders	3 supervisors
d. 16 to 20 riders	4 supervisors

The suggested minimum standard is 1 supervisor for every 10 riders.

6.8 Other responsibilities

6.8.1 Providing adequate facilities, equipment, feed, water, supervision and care to ensure the welfare of the horses is not compromised.

6.8.2 Supervising the daily feeding, watering and inspection of the horses to ensure their well-being.

6.8.3 Maintaining the hygiene of the premises and the health of the horses and providing prompt veterinary or other appropriate treatment in cases of illness or injury.

6.8.4 Supervising, monitor staff and to maintain log book, whether or not working for fee or reward.

6.8.5 Collecting, keeping and maintaining relevant records.

7.0 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SUPERVISOR

7.1 Prior to the start of any ride, the supervisor/designated person ensure the following points are covered and agree with every rider;

7.1.1 The supervisor is in charge of the ride and every rider must agree to follow his instructions about care of the horse.

7.1.2 Limitations on the manner in which the horse may be ridden, relevant to rider experience and horse condition, must be explained to and agreed to by every rider.

7.1.3 A final check about the use of the gears.

7.2 It is recommended that a formal agreement between the proprietor and rider should note the above conditions of hire and the importance of correct head and footwear.

7.3 The supervisor must take all possible steps to ensure that during the ride, no horse is worked beyond its level of fitness, nutrition, health and soundness.

7.4 The frequency and length of resting periods for horses during rides must be determined by the nature of the ride and the factors such as age, environmental, accidents, surrounding circumstances. Any animal showing signs of stress or overwork must be rested immediately.

7.5 The supervisor must arrange for the last 10 minutes of every riding period to be completed at an easy walk to ensure that the horse has regained its normal pulse and respiration rate by the end of the ride.

7.6 During periods between rides, the supervisor must arrange for each horse to be rested, fed, watered and sheltered, and otherwise supervised, according to its needs. The bridle should be removed and, if the saddle is not removed, the girth must be loosened and the stirrups on conventional saddles should be run up. No horse at rest may be left tacked-up for more than 2 hours.

8.0 ACCOMMODATION AND FACILITIES FOR HORSES

8.1 Riding centres and boarding stables must have an adequate fresh and clean water supply, and should be located away from noise or pollution that could cause injury or stress to horses.

8.2 Horses in stables, collecting yards and paddocks should have adequate protection against sun, wind and rain and extremes of temperature. Shade trees, roofing, windbreaks and rugs may be necessary.

8.3 Horse enclosures must be designed and maintained to prevent injury, disease and escape. Methods used to achieve this include the following:

8.3.1 Provide enclosures with ledge that cannot be opened by the horse.

8.3.2 Use fencing material that is clearly visible and safe to horses.

8.3.3 Build collecting yards with post and rail fencing using timber and screw or steel piping and steel or concrete posts. Barbed wire, prefabricated wire and high tensile fencing can injure horses severely, and should not be used for collecting and handling yards. The fences for holding yards should be high enough to prevent escape.

8.3.4 Provide floors (of yards, sheds and stables) with surfaces that permit adequate drainage and allow horses to stand and walk normally.

8.3.5 Make gates at least 1.3 metres wide to stables, yards and paddocks swing stable doors should open outwards.

8.3.6 Use stables that have a height clearance of 2.5 metres high, with a floor area of at least 12 square feet for each horse or 9 square feet for each pony under 12 hands.

8.3.7 Provide appropriate stable bedding that is clean and sufficiently thick.

8.3.8 Ensure stables are well ventilated enough to keep them free of dampness and noxious odour.

8.3.9 House horses in a dust free environment wherever possible.

8.3.10 Use natural lighting as far as possible and lights to be darken at night.

8.3.11 Keep paddocks free of noxious plants and rubbish that may injure the horses and be turned out daily.

8.4 Hygiene

8.4.1 Stables and yards must be kept clean. Urine affected bedding and manure must be removed at least once a day.

8.4.2 Efforts must be made to effectively control pests including ticks, flies, lice, mosquitoes and rodents, under professional supervision if applicable.

8.4.3 Disposal of manure, bedding, food wastes and animal bodies should be prompt and hygienic. All wastes shall be disposed in a manner consistent with environmental and local government rules and regulations.

8.5 Feed and Water

8.5.1 Horses must have appropriate food and water, sufficient to keep them in good health and body condition.

8.5.2 Horses need salt (added to the feed or as a salt lick) and a regular supply of fresh, clean water. As a guide, 25-45 litres a day may be needed in hot weather. Mares need extra feed and water when they are pregnant or lactating.

8.5.4 Feeding diets high in cereal grain to horses that are ridden infrequently can produce unpredictable temperament changes which can be dangerous for a rider.

8.5.5 Feed should be free from contamination such as mold, dust, insecticides or other substances that could be toxic.

8.5.6 Feed should be stored in the best practical way to prevent deterioration (for example; store chaff in dry, rodent proof bins, and store hay in a dry area on raised pallets to allow air circulation).

8.5.7 Horses must be able to easily reach feed and water containers. The containers should be firmly fixed, nontoxic, easily cleaned and suitable for normal angle for the horses.

8.5.8 Automatic and manually filled watering systems should be checked daily. If horses are working during the day, they should have water available at regular intervals when they are resting.

8.5.9 On treks, horses must be allowed sufficient time to drink from natural water sources. If feed must be changed before a trek, this should be done gradually over a period of days.

9.0 MANAGEMENT

9.1 Equipment

9.1.1 All equipment which may affect the safety and welfare of horses and riders should be designed and maintained to avoid injuries.

9.1.2 Saddles that touch the mid-line of the horse's back or that have broken trees must not be used in order to not interfere with the movement of the horse.

9.1.3 Saddle blankets should give enough padding and be dry and clean.

9.1.4 Tack should be appropriate for and fit each horse on which it is used.

9.2 Care of Horses

9.2.1 As far as possible, horses should be protected from stress, injury or disease. Methods that should be used to achieve this include:

a. Providing the space for each horse in a group to reach sufficient feed (for example, give each horse a separate feed container, at least 4 m apart).
b. Segregating colts, stallions, weanlings, pregnant mares and sick horses from other groups if necessary.
c. Providing adequate supervisions of horses in stables, collecting yards and, as far as possible, when they are being ridden.

9.2.2 Horses must be of a suitable size, conformation, disposition, fitness, and have adequate education for the purpose for which they are used.

9.2.3 Horses that must not be used for work in riding centres include:

a. Horses under 3 years of age (except for 2 year old Thoroughbred);
b. Horses in poor body condition;
c. Mares that are more than 8 months pregnant, or are in the first three months after foaling; and
d. Horses known to be or suspected of being injured or ill, except as advised by a veterinary surgeon.

9.2.4 Horses should be groomed before saddling, and particular care should be taken to remove sweat and dirt from areas under the saddle, girth and bridle. The back and girth areas should be cleaned and inspected when unsaddling.

9.2.5 Horses should, as far as possible, be ridden in a controlled manner and at a speed that is safe for horse and rider, considering the ground, the weather, and the experience of the rider.

9.2.6 Horses should not be overworked. Horses that show signs of tiredness or distress during work should be rested until fully recovered. Programmes must be planned to prevent overwork and allow appropriate spelling of horses.

9.2.7 Continuously stabled horses should be exercised at least once a day. This may be done by riding, lunging or releasing them into a large yard for at least one hour a day.

9.2.8 After working, stabled horses should be hosed, sponged or brushed to remove sweat and dirt.

9.2.9 If the horses are exposed to rain continuously and extreme heat for a period of time, temporary shelter must be provided.

9.2.10 When introducing new or spelled horses, increase their workload gradually.

9.2.11 Horses should not be tied up by reins attached to the bit unless the attachment includes an easily breakable component such as plastic or string.

9.2.12 Whips and spurs should only be used as training aids by experienced riders. It is illegal to use spurs with sharpened rowels.

9.3 Fire Safety

9.3.1 Staff should have easy access to appropriate firefighting equipment. They must be trained and be competent in using the equipment.

9.3.2 Any security methods must allow for ready access to horses and quick evacuation of staff and horses in an emergency.

9.3.3 Precautions to improve fire safety in stables should include as in Appendix 1.

9.4 Record Keeping

9.4.1 Appropriate records should be kept for each horse, as part of good management and a health care programme.

9.4.2 When the proprietor assigns responsibility to a supervisor he must also provide the supervisor with all relevant information. The method of achieving supervisor awareness of horses' fitness levels and recent workloads will vary according to the nature of the business operation.

9.4.3 However, for larger premises, where horses may be hired more than once per day and under the direction of different supervisors, it is recommended that a simple central record in a log book should be maintained for supervisors' reference and updated after each ride. Suggested essential details are the horses' name or identity, and the date, time and duration of the ride.

9.4.4 Where factors affecting a horse's fitness for subsequent use are observed by a supervisor, appropriate comments should be added and the proprietor advised.

9.4.5 Upon reasonable request of an Animal Welfare Officer under the Animal Welfare Act 2015, the proprietor shall permit the Animal Welfare Officer to inspect all horses, saddlery, equipment facilities and relevant records.

9.5 Staff

9.5.1 Staff should be considerate of the wellbeing of the horses and have experience in handling them.

9.5.2 Staff should be aware of their responsibilities and be competent to carry them out.

9.5.3 Relevant formal training, such as Training in General Horse Care and Management recognised by the Malaysian Equine Council and the Department of Skills Development (Ministry of Human Resources Malaysia) is required.

9.5.4 Staff involved in handling, shoeing, treating, educating, conditioning, training, riding or driving horses must be able to prove competence by the Malaysian Equine Council, Sijil Kemahiran Malaysia (SKM) or equivalent certificate that is relevant to the activity being carried out.

9.5.5 No person may handle, ride or drive any horse in a manner which is incompatible with its age, current level of fitness, nutrition or health.

9.5.6 Competent staff should be able to recognise the different behaviour patterns of horses and instill confidence in their horses.

9.6 Health Care

9.6.1 Owners of horses that are being boarded must be asked to sign an agreement authorising provision of necessary veterinary treatment.

9.6.2 The horse boarding establishment manager should establish liaison with a registered veterinary surgeon who is able to attend to any horses in his or her care, and is also able to advise on disease prevention measures.

9.6.3 The health and comfort of each horse needs to be checked. Horses which are stabled or confined to stable yards, boxes or small paddocks should be checked at least twice a day to ensure that they are receiving appropriate feed and water and are free from disease, distress and injury, while horses confined in broad acre situations must be inspected regularly.

9.6.4 If signs of disease or injury are observed, appropriate treatment must be promptly provided to protect the health of individual horses and to prevent the spread of disease.

9.6.5 If necessary, horses that are ill should be stabled, separated or isolated and appropriate facilities must be available for their care.

9.6.6 A basic minimum first aid kit for horses should be carried when they are ridden into remote areas where prompt veterinary attention cannot be provided in case of injury or illness as in Appendix 2.

9.6.7 Horses' teeth must be checked, and rasped if necessary by a competent dental technician, every 6 months. Dental records should be maintained.

9.6.8 Horses' legs should be inspected regularly for injuries or swellings.

9.6.9 Horses' hooves should be:

a. Shod if the horses are worked on roads or hard ground.
b. Regularly trimmed or shod by a farrier (preferably every 4 - 6 weeks).
a. Regularly cleaned out.

9.6.10 Where treatment to restore health or repair injury is not possible, practical or successful, horses should be humanely euthanised. Horses should be humanely euthanised only by a registered equine veterinary surgeon. When horses are boarded, the owner should sign an authorisation for the animal to be euthanised in case of an emergency.

9.7 Transport

9.7.1 During transport, horses must be:

a. Transported in the shortest possible time;
b. Boxed separately;
c. Fitted safely with headstalls (if the animals are trained to lead and tie up) with the lead of the headstall secured to the vehicle or stall using a quick release knot.

9.7.2 Lame or sick horses should only be transported for veterinary treatment where transport would not cause undue pain or distress.

9.7.3 Mares more than eight months pregnant should not be transported unless advised by the equine veterinary surgeon.

9.7.4 Owner shall obtain all necessary approvals, licenses and permits from the Road Transport Department and / or other related agencies.

9.7.5 Register of the movement must be recorded as follows:

a. Date and time the horse leaves the stable and the date and time it arrives at its destination whether approved or not.
b. Date the horses return to the stable whether approved or not.
c. Owner shall maintain the register of such register for inspection.

9.7.6 Owner must allow the float to be inspected by officials / government officers at any time.

9.7.7 Owner must at all times follows all the rules set by the relevant authorities.

9.8 Any vehicle especially designed or regularly used for transporting horses should:

a. Sturdy enough to withstand the weight of the horse being transported.
b. Each bay must have a minimum area of 1.75 m^2.
c. Entire interior apartment must not have a sharp and / or protruding edges.
d. Have a quick release fittings that can be easily removed if a horse becomes cast in the vehicles.
e. At least 600mm high and 600mm from the floor.
f. Prevent horses from kicking / biting each other.
g. Have non-slip floors with adequate traction.
h. Have enough head room for horses to stand in its natural position with a clear safe area above the head, a minimal clear height of 2.1m.
i. Easy access for personnel to check on the condition of the horses throughout the entire journey.
j. Well ventilated, must have fans to keep it ventilated at all times.
k. Exhaust must not pollute the area where horses are confined.
l. Adequate circulation to allow sufficient clean air, removal of smells and gases.
m. The windows and / or roof must be easily opened from outside.

n. Horses need to be monitored at all times either by a personnel to say with the horses at all times or CCTV system from driving cabin.
o. First aid/medical kit must be present inside the float at all times and fully equipped.
p. Must be easily cleaned.

9.8.1 The specific welfare implications of transporting horses within Malaysia as prescribed in Animal Welfare (Transportation of Animals) Regulations 2019.

10.0 FENCING

10.1 The suitability of fencing varies according to the breed, sex and disposition of the horses, as well as stocking density and paddock size. Barbed wire and narrow gauge (2.5 mm) high-tensile steel wire can cause severe injury to horses because of their cutting, non-stretching and no breaking properties, therefore this type of fencing are not recommended.

10.2 Fences should be readily visible to horses and properly maintained. The ideal fence for premises designed mainly for horses is the post-and-rail type, with rails treated or painted with non-toxic preparations. A popular alternative, which also provides a good visual barrier, is a single top rail attached to a conventional post- and-wire fence.

10.3 A form of internal fencing on horse properties which is growing in popularity is the use of posts spaced about 5 m apart with two electrified wires 60 cm and 120 cm above ground level. A heavier gauge wire should be used to provide a good visual barrier and, as with all electrically fenced paddocks, horses require careful supervision until they have become accustomed to the fence. Temporary internal subdivisions may be created quickly with electrified tape and fiberglass standards. This method must not be used to create pens or yards, as horses are likely to panic and flee when shocked.

10.4 Gateways should be designed to allow for the easy and safe passage of horses. Gates must be securely fastened to prevent escape and injury to the animals.

10.5 Minimum standards for fencing.

10.5.1 The height and strength of fences must comply with a standard which a competent horseman would consider to be reasonable to contain the types of horses being held.

10.5.2 There must be no sharp objects projecting inwards.

10.5.3 When first introduced to electric fencing, horses must be supervised closely to ensure they become adequately familiarised.

10.5.4 Gateways must allow for the easy and safe passage of horses.

11.0 YARDS AND SHELTERS

11.1 Horses kept in yards do not have the same freedom of movement as those in open paddocks. They are more susceptible to the chilling effect of cold winds and rain, and heat stress from direct sun. Where natural shelter belts and trees do not provide protection from adverse weather, e.g. Cold winds, driving rain and hot sun, temporary shelters should be provided.

11.2 The walls of temporary shelters should be constructed to shield the horse against cold winds. The roof should be constructed to allow adequate ventilation and at a ceiling height which provides a minimum clearance of 60 cm above the poll of the animal when in its normal standing position.

11.3 In any yard or shelter, each horse must have adequate room to lie down, stand up, and turn around. There should be a clean, dry area for the horse to lie down, the surface of which protects the horse from abrasions and capped elbows and hocks.

11.4 Minimum standards for yards and shelters.

11.4.1 Horses kept in yards must be provided access to effective natural or artificial shelter, or be adequately covered to protect them against cold/heat.

11.4.2 Yards and shelter sheds must provide sufficient room for each horse to lie down, stand up and turn around.

11.4.3 The bedding area in each yard or shelter shed must be clean and dry and provide warmth and protection against abrasion.

11.4.4 Yards and pens must not be constructed with electrified tape or electrified wire as the only barrier.

11.4.5 Yards and artificial shelters must be soundly constructed with no exposed surfaces or projections likely to cause injury to horses.

11.4.6 Clean drinking water must be provided at all times.

12.0 TETHERING

12.1 Tethering is a practice which has a high risk of injury to horses. It is not recommended and should be used only when other forms of grazing or containment are unavailable and when close supervision of the horse can be maintained. Only placid horses and those adequately trained to accept the practice should be tethered.

12.2 Minimum standards for tethering

12.2.1 Horses tethered for grazing must be fitted with a secure halter or collar. Collars must be at least 50 mm wide.

12.2.2 The tether must be at least 9 m long and include a swiveling device to prevent twisting. The tether may be constructed of soft hemp rope (minimum diameter 25 mm) or 10 mm chain of about 30 mm link. Nylon rope must not be used for tethering, due to its tendency to cause severe burns.

12.2.3 The tether must be attached as low as possible to the anchor post and in a manner which minimizes the risk of entanglement.

12.2.4 The area across which the tether may travel must be free of obstructions that may entangle the tether. The tether must not be sited in a position that allows the horse or pony to cross or reach any public access way (footpath, road, etc).

12.2.5 Tethered horses must be kept under general surveillance and inspected closely at least twice every 24 hours.

12.2.6 Supplementary feed must be provided twice a day where grazing does not provide the daily feed requirements.

12.2.7 Clean water must be available at all times in a trough or container that is securely placed and not easily upset by the animal.

12.2.8 Tethered horses must have access to effective natural or artificial shelter, or be adequately covered.

12.2.9 Tethered horses must always have access to a dry area on which to lie down, except under continuously wet conditions.

12.2.10 Horses or ponies less than 2 years old must not be tethered.

12.2.11 Horses must not be tethered in circumstances likely to lead to their becoming agitated, distressed or injured, e.g. In-season mares close to stallions, or horses close to noisy machinery.

12.2.12 Mares about to foal must not be tethered.

13.0 HOUSING

13.1 Stables

The term "stable" refer to a complete training or riding establishment, or an individual loose box used for horse accommodation. Such buildings frequently incorporate feed storage and tack rooms.

13.2 Minimum standards for stables

13.2.1 Stables must be soundly constructed with no exposed surfaces or projections likely to cause injury to horses.

13.2.2 Floors must be constructed of a non-slip surface and must be designed to direct liquid effluent away from the animal accommodation.

13.2.3 Alley ways must be wide enough (minimum 3m) to allow horses to be turned around in comfort without risk of injury to other horses and people.

13.2.4 In stable areas where horses are to be handled there must be a minimum clear space of 60 cm above the poll of the animals when they are standing in their normal position, above normal head position should exceed 1 metre.

13.2.5 Ventilation must provide good air circulation in stables without directing draughts on to the horses.

13.2.6 Highly inflammable liquid material must not be stored in or dangerously close to stables where horses are accommodated.

13.2.7 Stabled horses must be readily accessible and able to be quickly released in the event of fire or other emergencies.

13.2.8 There should be adequate lighting to permit the inspection and safe handling of animals.

13.2.9 Water containers and feed bins should be constructed and sited in a manner that minimizes the risk of injury to horses

13.2.10 Fire safety equipment (e.g fire extinguisher) must be easily accessible during emergency

13.2.11 Stables should be free from any odour and to be as clean as possible

13.3 Loose Boxes

13.3.1 Loose boxes are commonly used for the overnight or long-term individual accommodation of horses.

13.3.2 The recommended minimum floor sizes for various types of boxes are:

a. Ponies - 3 m x 3 m
b. Horses - 3.5 m x 3.5m
c. Mares and foals - 3.9 m x 3.9 m.

13.4 Minimum standards for loose boxes

13.4.1 Each horse accommodated in a loose box must have sufficient room to lie down, readily rise and turn around in comfort.

13.4.2 Loose box floors must have a non-slip surface.

13.4.3 When any horse is kept in a loose box with a concrete or similarly hard floor for more than 6 consecutive hours, an adequate layer of clean, dry bedding must be spread over the floor. On dirt floors, bedding must be provided if the horse is to be housed for more than 8 hours.

13.4.4 Bedding must be clean, dry and sufficiently thick to allow the animal to rest, protect it from abrasion and provide a warm bed. Example; straw bedding, deep litter beds of untreated wood shavings, sawdust or bark.

13.4.5 Mucking out and bedding down must be done once a day to maintain clean and dry bed.

13.4.6 The interior of the loose box must not contain any rough edges or projections which may injure the horse.

13.4.7 There must be a minimum 60 cm of clear space above the poll of the animal when it is standing in its normal position.

13.4.8 Ventilation must provide good air circulation within the loose box without directing draughts on to the horse.

13.5 Stalls

13.5.1 Some horse premises provide covered stalls for the temporary accommodation of individual horses.

13.5.2 Stalls are ideal for providing a sheltered standing area for horses where separation from others is desirable. Because of their small size, most stalls are unsuitable for overnight accommodation.

13.5.3 A stall must provide sufficient space for a horse to be led in and turned around to reduce possible injury associated with moving horses backward into position. The minimum width and length should be 1.5 m and 2.1 m respectively.

13.5.4 The floor must have a non-slip surface and should drain freely.

13.5.5 Horses in stalls can become irritable, due to their inactivity. Precautions should be taken to prevent horses in stalls kicking and biting adjacent animals, or damaging themselves. Horses should be cross-tied, with leads attached from the head collar to each side rail.

13.5.6 Manure must be removed daily.

13.5.7 The roof should be constructed to allow adequate ventilation and its height must provide a minimum clear space of 60 cm above the poll of the animal standing in its normal position. Ideally, the clear space above normal head position should exceed 1 metre.

13.5.8 The maximum continuous period for leaving a horse standing in a stall is 6 hours, except where the animal is being confined under veterinary supervision.

13.6 Minimum standards for stalls

13.6.1 Stalls must be soundly constructed, with no exposed surfaces or projections likely to cause injury to horses.

13.6.2 Stalls must provide adequate room for horses to be led in and turned around.

13.6.3 There must be a minimum 60 cm of clear space above the poll of the animal when it is standing in its normal position.

13.6.4 Ventilation must be provided to ensure good air circulation, without directing draughts on to the horses.

13.6.5 Horses must be confined within stalls in a manner which revents them causing injury to themselves and to adjacent animals.

13.6.6 Stall floors must have a non-slip surface and should drain freely.

13.6.7 Manure must be removed daily.

13.6.8 Horses must not be continuously confined in any stall for longer than 6 hours unless under veterinary supervision.

14.0 FEEDING

14.1 Calculating Horse Bodyweight

14.1.1 The bodyweight of the horse must be estimated and assessed before doing feed calculations.

14.1.2 The objectives are to improve feed efficiency, growth rates and performance, and also in the treatment of many parasitic and disease conditions.

14.1.3 The easiest, most accurate method of determining bodyweight is the use of electronic scales.

14.1.4 When using scales, weighing the horse must be done before feeding and watering to minimise the variation.

14.1.5 For those without scales, this code includes a condition scoring method and charts which enable the average horseman to establish a horse's weight by relating height and condition score or girth and length. The girth-length method must be used when assessing the bodyweight of racehorses in full work - the other method will over-estimate their weight.

14.2 General Feed Requirements

14.2.1 In its natural state, the horse eats a variety of forages (mainly grasses) to meet its nutritional needs. Due to the small size of its stomach, the horse will normally consume its daily intake over 16-20 hours.

14.2.2 When the energy requirements are low, such as for horses in light work, dry broodmares and non-working horses, fresh forage can provide most of the horse's needs. When pasture is limited, however, the diet should be supplemented with dried forage, i.e. hay or chaff.

14.2.3 Provided the stocking rate is correct, most broodmares can meet their energy, protein and mineral demands from an adequate supply of good quality pasture, since they have adequate time to consume the quantities required.

14.2.4 When a horse is working, its feed demands increase and a pasture-only diet may not be sufficient to meet the increased needs. Forage takes a long time to digest and the horse may not physically be able to eat enough to sustain its needs. Horses in moderate-to-heavy work generally need supplementary feeding in the form of grains or concentrates.

14.2.5 To avoid major health problems, any changes in the type and quantity of feed should be introduced gradually over a period of several days.

14.2.6 When working horses are given a "rest" day (i.e. A day without any work), it is important to reduce the concentrate or grain part of the ration by approximately one-third. Failure to do this is likely to result in energy overloading and "typing up".

14.2.7 Hay generally contains about 15% water, whereas grass has levels as high as 80%. Most grains contain less than 15% water. For this reason, food intake is best expressed in terms of kilograms of dry matter (kg DM). This is the feed content less the weight of the water.

14.2.8 It is important to think about feeding in terms of weight rather than volume, as different feeds have different densities, as well as the different water contents mentioned. A feed dipper of oats, for example, will weigh less than one of maize and far more than the same one filled with chaff or bran.

14.2.9 The seeds or grains provide more energy per kilogram fed than forages (pasture, hay or chaff). However, some forage (fibre) must be fed to aid. Digestion and keep the horse healthy. The minimum daily intake of fibre for horses should be 1 kg DM/100 kg bodyweight.

14.3 Supplementary Feeds

14.3.1 When considering the supplementary feeding of horses, an important point to note is that horses tolerate poor feed poorly. Horses will not thrive unless they are fed good feeds in the right quantities.

14.3.2 Supplementary feeds may include dried forages, cereals, oats, maize, barley's, wheat, bran, linseed and soya bean, commercially blended feeds, salt (sodium chloride) and selenium.

14.4 Specific Feed Requirements

14.4.1 The amount of feed required by the horse is made up of two factors which are maintenance needs and activity needs (which include rate of work, growth, lactation and pregnancy). Both requirements must be satisfied to maintain body condition and weight.

14.4.2 Maintenance feeds are the amount required to maintain the horse at rest. "At rest" means that the work required of the horse is no greater in physical activity than that expected of a healthy horse grazing freely in a paddock. This includes horses being spelled from their usual work, learners' horses which rarely get into a canter, and pleasure horses ridden carefully at a relaxing pace for no more than 1 hour/day.

14.4.3 The average horse will consume 2% of its bodyweight, as dry matter, to meet daily maintenance requirements. Regular condition scoring or weighing will help establish any individual variation required from the 2% bodyweight guideline. For example, a 500 kg horse therefore needs a maintenance ration of 10 kg DM.

14.4.4 Individual horses have varying digestive capabilities which affect maintenance requirements. Temperament is a further factor to be taken into account, as nervous or highly strung horses consume far more energy than do quiet horses of the same bodyweight.

14.4.5 The non-working pregnant dry mare does not require an increase in feed above maintenance during the first 8 months of pregnancy. After that, during the last 3 months of pregnancy, the activity (extra energy) requirement is about 0.5% of bodyweight, as dry matter, so the total dry matter feed requirement becomes 2.5% of bodyweight.

14.4.6 It has been estimated that a normal mare will produce milk equivalent to 3% of bodyweight in early lactation and 2% in late lactation. The milk production of pony mares is estimated at 4% in early lactation and 3% in late lactation. For example, this means a 500 kg mare should produce 15 litres of milk/day in the first 3 months and 10 litres/day from 3 months to weaning.

14.4.7 In dry matter intake, the lactating mare's activity needs are between 1% and 1.5% bodyweight. Total DM intake should therefore be 3.0-3.5% of her bodyweight.

14.4.8 The activity requirements of the working horse depend on the intensity and duration of the work, or the load carried or drawn, and the size of the horse. Exercise increases the energy expenditure, water requirements and electrolyte requirements (the latter due to sweat losses).

14.4.9 The general rule of thumb for working horses is:

a. Light work requires an extra 25% energy (above maintenance).
b. Moderate work requires an extra 50% energy (above maintenance).
c. Heavy work requires more than an extra 100% energy (above maintenance).

The following explanation provides objective measures for light, medium and heavy work.

i **Light** - repetitive daily work that causes increased and noticeable sweating on the neck, and a slight increase in breathing rate at the end of exercise or training period. Expected gaits would be slow trotting and cantering.

ii **Moderate** - repetitive daily work that causes sweating on the sides of the neck so as to be white in color in some areas, due to salt and electrolyte excretion, and mild but observable sweating under the flanks and between the chest and forelegs. Respiration rate at the completion of exercise is increased to the stage that recovery to normal takes at least 5 minutes. Expected activity would be fast trotting, cantering and some jumping.

iii **Heavy** - repetitive daily work that causes active sweating on the neck, flanks, under the forelegs, and over the body, with noticeable white salt and electrolyte secretions in all areas of sweat but especially on the neck and body. Respiration rate is increased noticeably and recovery to normal takes at least 10 minutes after cessation of work. Samples for feed calculation as shown below:

iv. **Feed calculation**

a. Maintenance requirement
(500kgx2%) = 10kg DM
b. Plus activity requirement
(maintenance x 50%) = 5kg DM
c. Total dry matter intake = 15kg DM

14.4.10 During the breeding season, stallions usually require 25% above maintenance feed, although this will vary depending on the number of mares covered. During the rest of the year, feeding must be related to work load.

14.4.11 Growing horses need feeding above maintenance to supply the "building blocks" for growth. The feed required varies with the expected mature weight, growth rates, age and exercise.

14.4.12 Young horses have a higher protein requirement than mature horses. Their feed should consist of 13 - 15% protein. Lower protein feeds can be used if young horses are lightly exercised, because exercise increases appetite, which in turn lifts the total intake of protein. The guideline for feeding young horses is that they need about 3% of their bodyweight as dry matter intake.

14.4.13 When horses show abnormal loss of bodyweight, despite being fed a diet based on maintenance and extra energy requirements, a veterinarian's advice should be obtained and followed. A veterinary surgeon's advice may also be required to work out special feed requirements for sick and injured horses.

14.4.14 Horses with abnormalities of the mouth may find normal grazing of pasture difficult and will have a greater reliance on supplementary feeds to maintain bodyweight. This problem is common in older horses.

14.4.15 Some horses, particularly ponies, are able to utilise energy in feeds very efficiently, and can suffer from severe energy overloading. This is one of the causes of a common and crippling disease, laminitis. Founder is a commonly used name for this condition. It is important to note, however, that other causal agents include stress, a sudden increase in work, excessive concussion, and drinking large amounts of cold water when hot.

14.4.16 Signs that a horse may be developing severe laminitis are an inability or reluctance to move, refusal to get up, distress, rapid breathing, sweating and high temperature. The feet will be particularly hot around the coronary band and the front feet will be stuck out in front of the body. (The coronary band is the ring of soft tissue at the junction between the wall of the hoof and skin on the lower leg.)

14.4.17 Horses should not be permitted become over-fat. Control of over-weight horses using starvation diets is unacceptable. These horses must be supplied with a balanced reduction diet of food and water.

15.0 WATER REQUIREMENTS

15.1 A horse's daily water requirements may range from about 20 to about 70 litres, depending on air temperature and humidity, bodyweight, level of activity and health. As these include similar factors to those determining feed intakes, water needs are closely related to dry matter feed requirements.

15.2 As a general guide, horses need 2-4 litres of water/kilogram of dry matter intake. This requirement increases with air temperature, e.g. An increase in ambient temperature from 13°C to 25°C adds 15 - 20%.

15.3 The basic water requirement for maintenance may be worked out at 52ml/kg bodyweight/day, or in rough figures. Sample for maintenance water requirements of horses as shown as below:

Maintenance water requirements of horses

Bodyweight	**Water requirements**
200 kg	10 litres
300 kg	15 litres
450 kg	25 litres
500 kg	30 litres

15.4 Rapid loss of water and essential electrolytes can result from severe diarrhoea, obstructive colic and other bowel diseases. Emergency replacement should be administered urgently by a veterinarian to overcome dehydration.

15.5 Horses must not be given access to cold drinking water when overheated and blowing immediately after exercise; they should first be allowed to cool down to avoid the risk of colic.

15.6 Water troughs and containers should be regularly cleaned to prevent algae build up.

16.0 HUSBANDRY

16.1 Every person responsible for the supervision of horses must be able to recognise signs of ill health, have knowledge of basic equine first aid, and have access to a veterinarian to diagnose and treat any serious illness or injury.

16.2 Sick horses may show any or a combination of the following signs:

a. Lack of energy and loss of condition, which may be due to a variety of causes, e.g. Internal parasites, poor condition of teeth or insufficient or unsuitable food.
b. Digestive upsets, seen as a loss of appetite, diarrhoea (fluid droppings), soiled tail and hind legs, or constipation.
c. Abdominal pain or colic, which may be shown by the horse being reluctant to move or being restless, looking or kicking at its stomach, attempting to lie down or roll, straining as though attempting to urinate, grinding its teeth, and sweating in patches.
d. Lameness, due to injury, laminitis (founder), foot abscess or improper hoof maintenance.
e. Discharges from the eyes, nostrils or swollen glands under the throat, which may be signs of a respiratory disease and may be accompanied by a cough, fever, and loss of appetite.
f. Abnormal vital signs - unusual variations from the normal ranges for temperature, respiration and pulse.

16.3 The frequency and level of supervision of horses should relate to the likelihood of risk to the welfare of each animal. The factors which must be taken into account are:

a. Stocking rate and availability of feed.
b. Breed, type, nature and disposition.
c. Age and pregnancy status.
d. Nature of fencing and reliability of water supply.
e. Likelihood of injury from natural features of landscape.
f. Activities on adjacent properties with potential to alarm horses and cause injury.

16.4 Steps should be taken to ensure horses can be attended to promptly in the event of fire, flood or emergency.

16.5 Horses kept under intensive management in stables and yards must be inspected, fed and watered at least twice a day.

16.6 Horses turned out in paddocks must be inspected at least weekly. It is recommended, however, that they should be checked daily, at least from a distance.

16.7 Mares in late pregnancy must be observed at least daily for signs of impending foaling.

17.0 PREVENTIVE HEALTH CARE

17.1 Horses that are sick, suffering, injured or diseased must be provided with prompt veterinary or other appropriate treatment.

17.2 Horses losing body condition that do not respond to special feeding must be examined by a registered veterinary practitioner.

17.3 Conditions that may require prompt veterinary attention:

a. Acute abdominal pain or colic seen as pawing, kicking at the stomach or rolling, often accompanied by straining, teeth-grinding and patchy or generalized sweating.
b. Serious injuries, including deep wounds, severe hemorrhage, suspected bone fractures, or eye injuries
c. Straining for more than 30 minutes by a mare that has not foaled.
d. Inability or difficulty rising or standing.
e. Retained foetal membranes.
f. Marked lameness or injuries not responding to treatment within 24 hours.
g. Signs of respiratory disease (colds) such as discharges from eyes, nostrils, or swollen glands under the throat; these are indications of respiratory disease and may be accompanied by a cough, fever, loss of appetite.
h. Diarrhea or persistent weight loss.
i. Constipation.
j. Signs of laminitis, including lameness, increased pulse to the affected hooves, reluctance to stand on affected feet and reluctance to move.
k. Inactivity or unresponsiveness.

17.4 Routine vaccination of horses against tetanus is recommended. Owners should seek veterinary advice about vaccination against other diseases.

17.5 Prompt appropriate preventive treatment should be given to horses for diseases that may be common in a district or occurring in a mob.

17.6 A new horse to a property should be quarantined away from the established group for 10-14 days to reduce the risk of introducing disease.

17.7 Appropriate regular treatment for internal worm parasites and early treatment of external parasites such as lice, should be practised. The effectiveness of treatment should be evaluated by veterinary examination if the response to routine treatment is poor.

17.8 Good hygiene and cleanliness in and around stables, yards and paddocks, including disposal of effluent and litter, will reduce the risk of parasitism and disease.

17.9 Aged and geriatric horses should be assessed by a registered veterinary practitioner or person experienced in the care of horses for general health, and be given a full dental examination and treatment, every 12 months.

17.9 Paddocks used for grazing horses should be managed in such a way that contamination by parasites or other agents is minimised. Good management practices include spelling paddocks for intervals of at least 6 weeks and preferably 12 weeks, or grazing with other species such as sheep and cattle.

17.10 Unhealthy horses should not be offered for sale.

18.0 FOOT CARE

18.1 Horses' hooves must be maintained to permit normal mobility and to maintain hoof shape and function.

18.2 Horses with a hoof injury, overgrowth, infection or laminitis must be provided with veterinary or other appropriate treatment.

18.3 Horses ridden or driven on rough or stony surfaces should be shod or have been accustomed to being unshod on such surfaces.

18.4 Shoeing or trimming should not cause any abnormality of gait or conformation. Shoeing should be practised only by experienced farriers.

18.5 Hooves of horses in work should be inspected each day for signs of injury, loose shoes or impacted stones.

18.6 Loose shoes and those with risen clenches (shoe nails) should be promptly removed, to prevent possible foot injury. Clenches remaining in the hoof should be promptly removed. The shoes should be replaced prior to work on roads, stony or hard surfaces.

18.7 Shoe horses should be inspected at least every six weeks for replacement or adjustment of shoes. Shoes should be removed or inspected regularly when horses are not in use for a particular purpose.

18.8 When unshod, hooves should be trimmed as required to permit normal mobility. Horses ridden or driven on roads or hard, rough, surfaces must be properly shod by a farrier or competent horseman. Heavy horses pulling loads on roads or paved surfaces must be shod.

18.9 Hooves of horses in work should be examined daily for signs of injury and other abnormalities, loose shoes and impacted foreign material.

18.10 Hooves of horses not in work should be examined weekly for signs of injury, abnormalities, loose shoes and impacted foreign material.

18.11 Where abnormal heat or painful pressure points are found in the hoop, the cause should be investigated by either a competent farrier or registered veterinary surgeon.

18.12 Thrush, a smelly condition of the frog and the central and collateral grooves, may be best treated with a mixture of 1/3 bleach 2/3 water applied with a ketchup or mustard type nozzle bottle along the collateral groove, and significant improvement should be apparent in up to three days, and cleared in five days. Do not get the solution on the frog because it will tend to shrink a frog. If the condition does not improves, it should be referred to a registered veterinary surgeon.

18.13 Loose shoes, and those with risen clenches, should be promptly removed, to prevent possible foot injury. The shoes should be replaced prior to work on roads or hard surfaces.

18.14 Shoes should be removed and adjusted or replaced at least every 6 weeks unless a farrier or veterinary surgeon has instructed otherwise.

19.0 DENTAL CARE

19.1 A person must not provide any dental treatment that causes modification, damage or injury which results in a negative impact on the welfare of the horse. A person must not attempt any dental procedure that they are not competent to perform.

19.2 The need for analgesia or an anaesthesia must be considered before undertaking any equine dental procedure, and dental procedures likely to cause unreasonable pain must be performed with suitable analgesia or an anaesthesia under the supervision of a registered veterinary surgeon Drugs used for sedation must be administered in accordance with the Poisons Act 1952, Sales of Drugs Act 1952 or Dangerous Drugs Act 1952.

19.3 Horses' teeth should be checked at least once a year by a personsuitably skilled and experienced in equine dentistry. The frequency of checks should be increased for young horses, stable fed horses and aged horses.

19.4 Any person performing dental tasks on a horse should have sufficient experience, knowledge and skill to:

a. Handle a horse in a safe, humane manner. Identify relevant anatomy, both normal and abnormal.
b. Recognise and understand complications of the procedure and know when to refer cases to an appropriately qualified person.

19.5 Good equine dental service may include:

a. Inquiry into the horse's general and dental history

    a. Full mouth examination with assistance of palpation, illumination, mirror and probe.
    b. Diagnosis of, and advice on, all detected abnormalities.
    c. Advice on treatment options and further investigation procedures.
    d. Completion of the above or referral to other appropriate practitioners where agreed and indicated.

19.6 Use of power tools:

a. Due to the danger of tooth fracture and pulp exposure, the use of dental shears, molar cutters and inertia hammers should be avoided.
b. Great care should be taken with the use of power tools due to the risks of thermal damage, pulp exposure and tooth damage.

19.7 If a pulp horn or cavity is accidentally exposed, it should have a pulp capping procedure performed immediately.

19.8 Removal of any cheek teeth overgrowths need to be performed with great care to avoid pulp exposure.

19.9 Removal of large dental overgrowths should only be performed by a person trained and competent to visually monitor cheek teeth (via methods such as sedation, illumination and mirror) to manage risks, and recognise and treat pulp exposure.

19.10 Indications for removal of 'wolf' teeth (PM1 or premolar 1) are:

a. Abnormally large or displaced PM1.
b. Horses that require PM2 rostral border reshaping ('bit seating') such as those ridden in double bridles.
c. Loose or diseased PM1 (inflamed, painful or discharging adjacent soft tissues).

19.11 Shearing off or filing off 'wolf' teeth is not recommended. Negative welfare impacts to a horse caused by dental treatment may include the horse being unable to eat within a reasonable time of the treatment, or creating an abnormal bite that affects the horse's ability to effectively chew its food.

20.0 WORKING WITH HORSES

20.1 Discipline and restraint methods

20.1.1 Abnormal physiological and behavioural responses to handling, training and confinement should be recognised and measures taken to correct them. These responses may include aggression, biting, pawing, kicking, weaving, pacing, crib biting or wind-sucking.

20.1.2 Occasionally, disciplinary measures may be necessary with certain horses, to ensure compliance with the trainer's commands or to discourage undesirable habits and responses. Discipline, if appropriate, must be administered immediately following an act of misconduct, and must be no more severe than is necessary and reasonable to achieve the trainer's objectives.

20.1.3 Similarly, any restraint method used to assist normal management or treatment of the horse should be the most mild and effective method available, and should be applied for the minimum required period. An example of this is the use of the twitch, which should be applied with reasonable pressure to the nose only, and for the minimum time required to induce compliance.

20.1.4 Practices which cause pain or distress should not be carried out on horses if milder alternative treatment methods can be adopted. Practices which cause marked pain or distress should be performed only under the influence of suitable anaesthesia or analgesia, administered by a registered veterinary surgeon.

20.2 Education and training

20.2.1 Training methods which involve cruelly ill-treating horses are unacceptable. Vigorous training of horses during the hottest time of the day is discouraged as it may lead to heat stress.

20.2.2 Basic education of young horses (under 2 years old), while desirable, should also be minimal, to reduce the risks of injury and growth abnormalities. These animals should not be given heavy work.

20.2.3 To minimise the risk of injury and distress to young horses, the following recommendations are made:

a. Foals less than 4 or 5 months old should be handled to accustom them to being caught and led, and to being confined within a yard, loose box or horse float, when on their mothers.

b. After weaning (usually between 5 and 7 months old), foals should be introduced to having their legs and feet handled, and to being tied up and confined alone.
c. When first introduced to new harness, equipment or unfamiliar surroundings, the young horse must be kept under close supervision to prevent injury.
d. Horses must not be ridden under 15 months old; the preferred minimum age is 2 years.
e. Only competent persons should ride or drive horses under the age of 2 years, or any unbroken horse of any age.

20.2.4 After being spelled for more than 4 weeks, horses must be given a graduated programme of light and moderate exercise over a period of weeks, before they are exposed to heavy work. This conditioning period should be lengthened for over-weight horses and those spelled from work for longer periods.

20.2.5 People involved in educating and training horses for competitive purposes should be familiar with the average industry or organisational practices with regard to age, fitness and the suitability of breeds of horses.

20.2.6 Even well-trained horse can be over-ridden. Only experienced and skilled riders and drivers be employed in competitive horse events to ensure their horses do not suffer avoidable injury, distress, illness or death.

20.2.7 Successful trainers adapt their training methods to suit the individual horse in accordance with its fitness and, if in doubt, should seek advice from an experienced horseman.

20.3 Saddlery and equipment

20.3.1 Ropes used for training, breaking and restraining horses should be pliable, at least 15 mm thick and should be made of hemp rather than nylon. Except during emergency treatment, ropes should not be attached directly to a horse's legs. Leather straps, preferably felt-lined, should be used where leg restraint is essential.

20.3.2 Leather and synthetic harness and equipment should be maintained in clean, supple condition, free from cracks and other features likely to cause chafing, burns and abrasions. Disinfection of gear is recommended between its uses on different horses, to prevent the transfer of infectious conditions from one animal to the other.

20.3.3 Halters left on horses should be checked weekly for damage, signs of chafing or injury and fit. Young horses outgrow their halters rapidly, causing pressure injury if they are not adjusted and changed as necessary.

20.3.4 Covers are a form of artificial shelter and should be used on non- acclimatised, sick, injured and very old horses for warmth during cold weather and rainy season. Unclipped horses, turned out in paddocks with reasonable shelter, generally adapt well to their environment and when fully acclimatised do not require covering. If worn during inclement weather, covers must be maintained in a waterproof condition. Covers should be kept correctly fitted to prevent rubbing, hair loss and abrasions. Covers should be removed at least every week for airing, and for the removal of loose hair and caked-on dirt from the cover.

20.3.5 Bits should contain no rough or sharp surfaces which may cause damage to the mouth.

20.3.6 Whips and spurs should be used on horses only by, or under the direct supervision of, competent horsemen. Their purpose is to reinforce normally used aids such as the voice, hands, seat, legs and heels. They should be used only when the horse has failed to respond to the correctly applied aid.

20.3.7 Whips and spurs do not achieve their intended purpose as training rather than punishment tools unless they are applied immediately the disobedience or resistance occurs. When they are used in the correct manner, the horse learns to respond to the more acceptable gentle aid, and after the initial use the mere presence of the whip or spurs should be sufficient reminder to ensure compliance.

20.3.8 The maximum permissible number of consecutive whip strokes applied in response to any disobedience or resistance is three. In most cases, one firm stroke should be sufficient.

20.3.9 In extreme cases, where the horse persists with any serious disobedience or resistance immediately following the first application, the whip may be used for a further maximum sequence of three strokes. Continued failure to comply is unlikely to be corrected with extended use of the whip, and alternative training measures should be employed.

20.3.10 Horses must not be struck around the head or genitals with any whip, lead or other object.

20.3.11 Spurs should not be used as a punishment, and they must not be used in a manner which causes skin abrasion or puncture.

21.0 REFFERENCE

21.1 Easely J. 1998. Dental Care and Instrumentation. Veterinary Clinics of North America Equine Practice.

21.2 Practical Guidelines on The Watering of Equine Animals Transported by Road.

21.3 MSD Vet Manual.com/Management and Nutrition Requirements of Horses.

21.4 Valestables.com Horse Stable Requirements.

21.5 The Essential Hoof Book: The Complete Modern Guide to Horse Feet - Anatomy, Care and Health, Disease Diagnosis and Treatment Hardcover by Susan Kauffmann, Christina Cline and Gene Ovnicek.

21.6 Equine Dentistry, 3rd Edition Editors: Jack Easley Padraic Dixon James Schumacher.

21.7 Horse and Stable Management, 4th Edition, Jeremy Houghton Brown, Sarah Pilliner, Zoe Davies.

Appendix 1

EMERGENCY KIT
Guidelines for completing an emergency kit box:

1. Scissors
2. Ribbons
3. Slip Gel
4. Nail clippers
5. Blankets of anxiety
6. Examination gloves
7. Non adhesive dressing
8. Antiseptics
9. Cotton
10. Forcep
11. Normal saline
12. Thermometer
13. Swab gauze
14. Penlight
15. Sanitizer
16. Bandage

Appendix 2

PREVENTIVE PREPARATION AND PREPARATION OF FIRE.

1. Identify an emergency exit to remove animals from within the premises during the fire.
2 Provide fire extinguishers or fire hose reels to fit all animal enclosures.
3. Flammable items are stored in separate areas of animal enclosure
4. Install adequate smoke detectors for closed enclosure premises.
5. Smoking is not allowed at animal enclosure / exhibition premises.
6. "Smoking prohibited" sign in easy places in animal shelter / exhibition premises.
7. Fire extinguisher used shall be inspected and approved by the Fire and Rescue Department.

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