



**Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries
Standards of Excellence**

EQUINE CARE STANDARDS

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EQUINE CARE STANDARDS

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A. HOUSING

1. Space

- a. Several types of space are needed to house equines. Unless otherwise directed by a veterinarian, equines are provided sufficient opportunity and space to exercise daily and have freedom of movement so as to reduce stress and maintain good physical condition.
 - i. Pasture
 1. Functions as the primary housing space. Grazing up to 20 hours a day is normal, thus pasture is ideal if available.
 - ii. Paddock/Yard
 1. Smaller outdoor containment area
 - iii. Stall
 1. Provides secure shelter during inclement weather (note: equine should not be stalled during hurricanes or tornados)) during which outdoor containment could be compromised; provides alternative housing for sick or injured individuals while in close proximity to the social group.
 - iv. Dry Lot
 1. Small area for equine management needs including introduction of new individual to a group; an outdoor space for equines temporarily separated from the main group for health or social reasons and for weight management

2. Dimensions

- a. Paddock/Yard
 - i. Outdoor yards are at least 2500 sq. ft. (232.3 sq. m.) (50 ft. x 50 ft.; 15.2 m. X 15.2 m.) for a single animal plus 2500 sq. ft. (232.3 sq. m.) per additional equine. Since equines are not kept as single animals, this is only for calculation purposes.
 - ii. Ideally, equines will be released to a larger pasture for greater freedom of movement, socialization and grazing. Where release to pasture is not possible, equines are exercised through riding, line work, etc., unless a veterinarian or other expert instructs otherwise due to health reasons.
 - iii. Enclosure shape may be variable to take in natural features in the landscape such as rock formations, hills and trees.
- b. Stall
 - i. If equines are kept indoors, they are provided with enough room to move about and lay down without restriction.
 - ii. The absolute minimum for indoor enclosures is 10.5 ft. x 10.5 ft. (3.2 m. X 3.2 m.). This is only for short-term confinement and does not comprise the primary housing for equines.
 - iii. Minimum vertical dimension of 12 ft. (3.6 m.).
 1. Large equine can reach heights of 8 ft. (2.4 m.) head height. All equine can rear up on their hind legs and this is

- considered in regard to any lighting, fans, plumbing etc., placed above equine enclosures.
- iv. Whenever possible, separated equines have visual and tactile access to group members.
- c. Dry Lot
 - i. Ideally, sanctuaries have an area large enough (2,500 sq. ft. to 5,000 sq. ft.; 232.3 sq. m. to 464.5 sq. m.) for management purposes to facilitate new introductions, isolate a small number of equine from the rest of the population as necessary or for other medical reasons.
 - ii. Whenever possible, separated animals have visual and tactile access to group members to better facilitate reintroduction.

3. Containment

- a. Pasture Fencing
 - i. Where fences are used to enclose equines, the supporting posts are firmly fixed into the ground. Fence material is sufficiently secured to supporting posts in such a way that the weight of the equine enclosed could not detach it from the support nor dislodge the supporting posts.
 - ii. Fencing is of sufficient strength and dimension to safely contain equine.
 - iii. Fencing is of solid construction, without sharp edges, and visible to equine.
 - iv. Electric wire or tape fencing may be used, but is visibly marked for equine (via brightly colored hanging streamers or ties) and humans (via signage). It is used in a safe and humane manner so as to protect the equines contained therein as well as prevent potential access.
 - v. Barbed wire and high tensile wire fencing pose serious safety risks and are never used as fencing for equine. The sharp points and twisted barbed wire can injure even when the fence is well maintained. Both barbed and high tensile wire can cause severe damage to an equine's legs and even cause broken bones if the equine should get caught in downed or sagging sections of fence.
 - vi. All fencing is monitored on a regular basis to ensure its safety and effectiveness is maintained.
 - vii. Equine containment barriers for incoming studs, recently gelded males and aggressive or fearful equine are in good condition and able to prevent escapes.
 - viii. A wide variety of building materials can be used as long as they are able to withstand the equines' strength, contain the equine in a specific space, and prohibit direct contact between equines and the public.
 - ix. Equine fences are at least 4 ft. (1.2 m.) in height. In cases where the equine have not been domesticated, fences should be 6 ft. (1.8 m.) tall.

- x. The perimeter boundary, including access points, is designed, constructed, and maintained to discourage unauthorized entry and so far as is reasonably practicable, as an aid to the safe confinement of all the equines within your sanctuary.
- xi. Exits through the perimeter fence are suitably located and adequately designated and secured.
- xii. Each exit from your sanctuary is kept clear and is capable of being easily opened from the inside to allow the release of staff.
- xiii. All such gates are capable of being closed and secured to prevent the escape of equines and entry of unauthorized animals and visitors.

b. Stalls

- i. Walls between stalls can be constructed of wood, or other synthetic, non-toxic wood substitutes.
- ii. Walls are of sufficient strength to contain equine.

4. Ground

a. Pasture

- i. Pasture surfaces are made of natural substances (e.g. soil, sand, grass) that provide good drainage, and have a generally dry area that can be raked or otherwise kept clean of debris for feeding purposes.
- ii. All outdoor enclosures have a natural substrate
- iii. The ground can be amended with organic materials including but not limited to soils, grasses.
- iv. Varying topography, i.e. trees and hedges, can provide natural windbreaks and shelter but generally speaking is not sufficient as the sole source of shelter.

b. Stalls

- i. Stalls may have floor surfaces that are made of dirt or clay. While not ideal, if manmade surfaces are used, they are smooth, but not slippery. Conversely, very rough surfaces may cause excessive wear or irritate footpads and are avoided. The use of rubber mats of cement can address these needs.
- ii. Stalls are designed to accommodate a deep litter substrate and bedding materials are provided in sufficient amount/depth to provide adequate cushion. The ground can be covered with organic materials including but not limited to soils, grasses, straw, wood shavings
- iii. Floors are quick to dry, and sloped to a drain.
- iv. Standing water in indoor floor areas can cause foot problems and become a breeding ground for bacteria.
- v. Bedding material suitable for equines includes but is not limited to wood shavings, straw, sawdust, shredded cardboard, commercial bedding products
- vi. All equine are observed to insure that bedding is not ingested.

5. Doors and Gates

- a. Doors and gates are carefully constructed and engineered to prevent any protrusions that may injure an equine.
- b. Stall doors and pasture and dry lot gates are of sufficient size to allow safe passage of equines and necessary vehicles.
- c. Gates and doors are at least as strong, and as effective in containing the equines as the rest of the enclosure barriers. In particular gates and doors are designed and maintained so as to prevent equines from lifting them from their hinges or unfastening the securing device.

6. Shelter

- a. Shelters are carefully constructed and engineered to prevent any protrusions that may injure an equine and secured from wind gusts.
- b. Equine are provided with man-made shelter that provides each equine protection from extreme weather (including, but not limited to, prevailing wind, snow, sleet, rain, sun, and temperature extremes).
- c. Run-in shelters consisting of a roof and three sides are versatile and inexpensive to construct.
- d. Run in sheds allow equine shelter from the elements, while sides may be removed as needed in warmer weather, with the remaining structure offering shelter from the sun.
- e. Shelters are constructed to provide sufficient space for each equine to turn around, lie down, move his or her head freely, etc.
- f. Shelters are constructed or modified to allow free airflow to control humidity, avoid temperature extremes, reduce airborne contaminants, and prevent air stagnation. As a general rule, ventilation is not sacrificed for warmth.
- g. Shelter does not create or result in 'dead ends' in which subordinate individuals can be trapped by more dominant troop members.
- h. Shade and shelter are provided in multiple locations within enclosures to insure that all troop members simultaneously have access to shade/shelter throughout the day/night.
- i. Enclosure furniture - Pastures
 - i. Plantings
 1. All pasture includes living or fresh vegetation.
 2. All plant materials in an enclosure are evaluated for potential toxicity, including leaves, buds, seeds, fruit, bark and flowers.

3. Equine can consume large quantities of acorns. Pastures and lots with a heavy acorn load are cleaned with an acorn roller or other method.
 4. It is advisable to plant pastures with grasses recommended by local Cooperative Extension Agents specializing in equine care.
- ii. Trees
1. Large trees can provide important shade areas.
 2. All trees in an enclosure are evaluated for potential toxicity, including leaves, buds, seeds, fruit, bark and flowers.
 3. Equine will damage bark by chewing, rubbing, scratching and breaking branches
 4. Key shade trees within an outdoor enclosure are identified and protected from damage.

B. SANITATION

1. Sanitation

- a. All enclosures and shelters are kept in good repair and free of standing water, accumulated waste, sharp objects and debris.
- b. Interior barn surfaces are impervious to water, and cleaned thoroughly on a daily basis.
- c. Frequent manure removal is necessary particularly during periods when the equine are kept indoors for extended periods.
- d. Stalls are cleaned at least once daily and feces removed to avoid unsanitary or unsafe conditions.
- e. Stalls are cleaned several times daily if equine are housed indoors for extended periods.
- f. Equine are transferred from stalls prior to cleaning.
- g. Care is taken to minimize exposure of equines in adjacent spaces to over spray, disinfectants or waste materials.
- h. Daily removal of uneaten food
 - i. Enables care-givers to monitor changes in food consumption.
 - ii. Minimizes risk for consumption of spoiled food items.
- i. Daily removal of animal waste
 - i. Is an important element of pest control and disease prevention
 - ii. Enables keepers to monitor animal health
 - iii. Enables keepers to collect fecal samples in a timely manner.

- iv. Can reduce or help minimize occurrence of intestinal parasites.
- j. Soiled bedding material and substrate are removed and replaced with fresh materials as needed.
- k. Damaged and soiled enrichment items are removed daily.
- l. Tools
 - i. Ideally, each barn area has dedicated tools to prevent cross contamination.
 - ii. When resources restrict ability to have dedicated tools, tools are disinfected between enclosures to prevent the spread of parasites and disease.
 - iii. Tools are labeled when use is restricted to identified areas.
 - iv. Sanitation tools or equipment, including wheelbarrows, are not used for transport or storage of foodstuffs or bedding.
- m. Disinfection and Sanitizing
 - i. All hard surfaces including walls, floors, sinks, wash stalls and work areas are sanitized regularly to the extent possible.
 - ii. Staff follows proper disinfecting procedures when moving between enclosures.
 - iii. Disinfectants used in outdoor areas do not accumulate in soil and pose hazards to enclosure occupants or to the environment.
 - iv. Disinfectants used in indoor areas are rotated on a regular basis.
 - v. Disinfectants are evaluated for hazards to both staff and equines.
 - vi. Buckets and other containers used for cleaning and disinfection are not emptied or rinsed in areas where equine may graze.
 - vii. Disinfectants are used in well-ventilated areas and label instructions for proper use and safety are observed.
 - viii. An MSDS sheet is readily available for all cleaning products in use.
 - ix. All containers are properly labeled as to contents.
 - x. Disinfectants and other cleaning products are stored separately from foodstuffs.
 - xi. Food containers are sanitized daily.
 - xii. Water containers, drinkers are cleaned on a regular basis.
- n. Local, county, state laws regarding proper waste removal are observed.
- o. Composting regulations are reviewed prior to composting.

C. TEMPERATURE, HUMIDITY, VENTILATION, LIGHTING

1. Temperature

a. Pastures and Dry lot

- i. Equine typically can tolerate temperatures near freezing for periods of time.
- ii. However, they have access to sheltered areas when outdoor temperatures, adjusted for wind chill, drop below 30° F (-1.1° C).
- iii. Weather is considered in addition to temperature. Wind and rain reduce the temperature range that can be comfortably tolerated.
- iv. Allowance is made to accommodate individual equines not able to tolerate temperatures above or below the usual range of comfort
- v. Blanketing can extend the time spent outdoors during cooler seasons.
- vi. Equine who do not have a heavy winter coat may require blanketing.
- vii. Care is taken to prevent direct animal contact with heat sources.
- viii. Infrared bulbs or 'heat lamps' are not recommended as heat sources due to risks associated with bulb breakage and tissue damage in animals.
- ix. Run-in sheds are sufficient in number to accommodate all equines simultaneously with consideration for social structure and relationships in a herd.
- x. Shade is available throughout the day in a number of areas and adequate size space to accommodate all equines simultaneously with consideration for social structure and relationships within a herd.

b. Stalls

- i. When ambient temperatures rise above 75° F (23.8° C) fans or similar relief are provided for equine in stalls.
- ii. Individuals with health concerns, aged individuals and infants typically require warmer temperatures and may require blanketing.

2. Humidity

- a. Excessive levels of indoor humidity are avoided.
- b. When humidity exceeds 70%, fans and proper ventilation can offer relief.

3. Ventilation

- a. All barns and stalls are well ventilated.
- b. Ventilation is generally considered more important than warmth.
- c. Barns are not drafty.

4. Lighting

a. Pastures and Dry Lot

- i. While not necessarily required, consideration is given to supplemental lighting or power sources for use in outdoor areas in event of emergencies.
- b. Stalls
 - i. Equine kept in stalls for extended periods of time (i.e. medical treatment, weather induced or other emergencies), are provided with adequate natural and/or artificial light to emulate normal photoperiod.
 - ii. Natural lighting is optimal and can be obtained from skylights, windows, roll-up doors or other means.
 - iii. Supplemental lighting is provided to insure adequate lighting for caregivers to observe equines, clean stalls and perform related equine care tasks.
 - iv. When needed, fluorescent lighting is an efficient light source.
 - v. An artificially shortened day length period can adversely impact food consumption and other natural behaviors.

D. NUTRITION

1. Water

- a. Fresh clean water is available at all times.
- b. Most equine will drink 3 -10 gallons (11.4 liters to 37.9 liters) of water per day.
- c. Water intake during lactation increases 50 to 70 percent, while working horses will require a substantial increase (20 to 30 percent) in their need for water.
- d. Equines are separated as needed during feeding times to avoid aggression and injury.
- e. Water containers are also cleaned daily and disinfected as needed.
- f. Equines who are being trained, worked, ridden or transported are provided water as often as necessary for their health and comfort.
- g. Activity levels and climatic conditions such as relative humidity and air movement are also considered when determining daily water intake.
- h. All water receptacles are inspected daily, kept clean and free of hazardous contaminants, and are positioned to minimize spillage.
- i. Water receptacles are cleaned, filled and water lines checked for normal operation on a daily basis.
- j. A suitable method is provided to rapidly eliminate excess water.

- k. Your sanctuary's method of drainage complies with applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations relating to pollution control or the protection of the environment.
- l. Where possible, water receptacles are placed in shaded areas in warm climates.
- m. Use of defrosters to prevent possible freezing of drinking water in inclement weather is recommended, and wiring is secured out of any equine's reach.
- n. Any ice that forms is broken and/or removed regularly, every few hours, so as to allow equine constant access to water.
- o. Potable water sources are tested for contaminants annually.
- p. Automatic watering devices used as the sole water source are checked on a daily basis to ensure proper function, and cleaned daily.
 - i. Some devices can be installed with heat sources to prevent freezing and to insure water consumption does not decrease with lower ambient air temperatures.
 - ii. It is not possible to monitor individual water consumption using automatic devices. When monitoring of water consumption is required, alternative means of providing water are devised.
- q. Some equines may choose to soak their feet, drop grain or hay or defecate into water tubs. This is closely monitored to insure their pasture mates have constant access to clean water.

2. Commercially Milled Grains

- a. Mixed grain diets, in conjunction with hay, can serve as the core nutritional source of the diet and is fed at the rate of 0 lbs. to 1.50 lbs. (0 Kg. to .7 Kg) per 100 lbs. (45.4 Kg) of body weight.
- b. If the mixed grain diets exceed 5 total lbs. (2.3 Kg) daily, it is recommended that the grain mixture be divided into two feedings, morning and night.
- c. Equines are not fed grain on the ground due to waste, contamination and increased possibility of colic and parasite and disease transmission.
- d. Geriatric equine (those more than 20 years of age) may require a special grain mix to maintain their body condition.
- e. Consideration may be given to offering two types of grain daily to avoid dietary disruption if one product becomes temporarily unavailable.

3. Forage

- a. Equines are fed free-choice hay or pasture. If free choice is not possible, they receive at least 1 to 1½ percent of their body weight in forage each day. For a 1,000 lb. (453.6 Kg) equine, it would take 10 lbs. to 15 lbs. (4.5 Kg to 6.8 Kg) of hay or pasture per day to meet the forage requirements
- b. Under normal circumstances, equines receive a minimum of the equivalent of 1.5 percent to 2 percent of their body weight in high quality forage per day, unless otherwise directed by a veterinarian.
- c. If natural forage is insufficient in quality or quantity, quality hay supplements the diet.
- d. Nutritious grain may also be used to supplement the diet.
- e. All caregivers are trained as needed to identify safe non-toxic plant species appropriate to feed

4. Vitamin Supplements

- a. Prior to offering supplemental vitamins, the health and condition of the individual equine, as well as the diet, is reviewed with a nutritionist or with the attending veterinarian.

5. Treats or ‘Enrichment’ Food Items

- a. Treats may be fed in small amounts.
- b. Equines are offered treats at infrequent intervals and in small volume due to the typically high fat content of these items.

6. Food Presentation

- a. Equines are separated as needed during feeding times to avoid aggression and injury.
- b. Diet is planned with consideration for the age, breed/type, condition, size, and activity level of the equine.
- c. Pregnant or lactating mares require significantly more feed to meet their nutritional needs, and their diets are adjusted accordingly.
- d. Starved equines receive a starvation re-feeding diet, as directed by a veterinarian.
- e. High quality, clean, contaminant-free and nutritionally correct food is provided in sufficient quantities to maintain equine health and appropriate weight given the animal’s age, breed/type, condition, size, activity and any known medical conditions.

- f. Hay and grain are formulated to provide a complete diet as recommended by a veterinarian.
- g. Diets, including hay, grain, produce, and vitamin and mineral supplements are developed and monitored.
- h. Equines are offered their diet a minimum of twice daily; early in the morning and late in the day with sufficient daylight hours remaining to allow necessary forage time.
- i. Food items are placed above floors to minimize contamination from urine and feces.
- j. Supplemental hay is dispersed widely throughout pastures and dry lots to reduce or eliminate aggression that results from competition for food.

7. Diet Increases or Decreases

- a. Adjustments made to an already formulated and nutritionally balanced diet insure continued nutritional balance.
- b. Hay and grain are formulated to provide a complete diet as recommended by a veterinarian.
- c. Considerations for diet increase include weight and condition, age, overall food consumption, activity level, and medical or behavioral considerations.
- d. Diet increases or decreases are made in modest increments with animal response to the change assessed for a minimum period before additional changes are made.
- e. Underweight equines experiencing health or behavioral problems may be separated for supplemental feeding as needed to avoid undesirable weight gain in pasture mates.

8. Food and Preparation Area

- a. Supplies of perishable food, drink, and medications are kept under refrigeration.
- b. Separate and secure facilities are provided for proper and hygienic storage of food.
- c. Equine diets are prepared and stored in a safe and hygienic manner to reduce the possibility of contamination or spoilage.
- d. Feeding and drinking receptacles are placed in positions that minimize the risks of contamination from soiling by the equines, wild birds, rodents or other potentially invasive species.

- e. Receptacles for equine food and water are designed to minimize spillage and are not be used for any other purpose. (Note: Feeding chutes or feeding boxes may be used as a means to safely distribute feed.)
- f. Food, water and other receptacles, where used, are cleaned daily, as needed.
- g. Food is protected against dampness, deterioration, and mold or from contamination by insects, birds, rodents or other animals.
- h. No food that is spoiled or otherwise contaminated is served.

9. Food Handling Protocols

- a. Food preparation surfaces are thoroughly cleaned after use.

10. Food Storage Protocols

- a. Grains
 - i. Grain is stored so that it does not mold.
 - ii. Grain bags are stored in clean, dry storage areas on pallets.
 - iii. Products are dated and rotated to use oldest stock first.
 - iv. Expired food is discarded.
 - v. Grain bags damaged by pests are discarded.
- b. Forage
 - i. Grass hay, alfalfa, straw and other baled products are stored in a sheltered area, preferably on pallets.
 - ii. Oldest stock is used first.
- c. Produce
 - i. Is stored in a clean, dry refrigerator.
 - ii. Order in increments that can be used prior to spoilage.

11. Henneke Body Condition Scoring

- a. All equines maintain a body condition of no less than a score 4 on the Henneke Body Condition Scoring System. (1-9).
- b. Exceptions are made for equines having been at the facility for less than six months and showing continued and documented improvements and for equines under the regular care of a veterinarian.
- c. Photographic and written records of the equine's condition over time include body condition, weight fluctuations, feeding program and veterinary care.
- d. This documentation is strongly recommended for any equine arriving at the facility in a poor condition or for any equine failing to reach a score 4 on the Henneke Body Condition Scoring System within six months of arrival at the facility.

E. SOCIAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, PHYSICAL AND BEHAVIORAL WELL-BEING

1. *Social Housing and Management*

- a. Equines are not housed as single animals unless for a short period of time as indicated by the veterinarian or during quarantine or introduction.
- b. Sanctuaries strive to hold no less than three equines wherever possible.

2. *Species Appropriate Housing*

- a. Equines are high social animals and are allowed to graze together and form natural bonding groups. Gelded males and females are allowed to stay together.
- b. Equines are highly social animals and develop complex relationships among themselves.
- c. Provided the health and safety of any equine is not compromised, compatible equines are group pastured to allow social interaction. Equines pastured together are monitored to ensure that more dominant equines do not prevent others from accessing shelters. If this occurs, the animals are separated as necessary to ensure the safety and welfare of each equine.
- d. It is recognized that some socially aberrant adult equines currently exist and these equines can be managed singly if the rescue has made every effort to introduce them to a social group and the anti-social behavior is not correctable.
- e. When forming new herds, large and miniature equines are not placed together in the same enclosure as behavioral differences between the two species may lead to problems with dominance and aggression.
- f. The minimum age offspring remain with their mothers is four months. Some flexibility is necessary in cases of maternal rejection and when infants cannot be reestablished in their social group.
- g. All equines are kept outside on natural ground much as possible, ideally with 24-hour access to the outdoor yard unless otherwise recommended by the veterinarian.
- h. Sanctuaries have the ability to manage social compatibility as well as dominance and aggression among an equine group.
- i. Sanctuaries provide an opportunity for each equine to exercise and interact socially with other equines.
- j. Mares and foals

- i. Following birth, it is recommended that mother and foal shall be allowed to stay together for a minimum of four months, unless otherwise directed by a veterinarian.
- ii. A veterinarian is consulted in any event and can offer advice on safe weaning to minimize stress and digestive upset, and sound nutritional advice for pregnant or lactating mares, which require sufficiently more forage than normal.

3. Mixed Species

- a. Equines have been successfully pastured with
 - i. Cattle
 - ii. Goats
 - iii. Llamas
 - iv. Other equines

4. Solitary Housing

- a. Is temporary and reserved for situations including but not limited to:
 - i. Quarantine
 - ii. Medical assessment
 - iii. Medical care
 - iv. Lack of appropriate social partners
 - v. Need to spend time in dry lot
- b. Singly housed equines
 - i. Have visual access to other equines
 - ii. Are closely observed for distress at separation from pasture mates

5. Introductions of Unfamiliar Individuals

- a. Sanctuaries have the ability to manage introductions and separations of a new animal to a herd.
- b. Staff is aware of each animal's social compatibility and the dominance hierarchies of the herd.
- c. The plan establishes behavioral goals for introductions and is not driven by schedules imposed by caregivers.
- d. All caregivers have a clear understanding of the plan, contingencies for problems that might occur and are empowered to take appropriate action.

6. Equine – Caregiver Relationships

- a. Positive relationship between the equine and regular keepers, animal manager and veterinary staff is essential to well being.
- b. Physical abuse, deprivation of food or water and other forms of negative reinforcement or punishment-based training is not used to train, work or otherwise handle animals.

- c. The animals do not become fearful or aggressive in response to human presence or routine care procedures.
- d. Where possible, animals become familiar with the veterinary staff, allowing close observation.
- e. Facility design plays a key role in keeper-animal safety and the ability to maintain a positive relationship.

7. Handling and Restraint

- a. Because of this species large size, strength, and specialized needs, equine care facilities are prepared to meet all their care requirements.
- b. Interactions or handling for management purposes or veterinary care is done as expeditiously and carefully as possible in a manner that does not cause trauma, overheating, excessive cooling, physical harm, or unnecessary discomfort, and minimizes physical and psychological stress as much as possible. Negative interactions are avoided. However, when they occur, efforts are made to recover trust and a positive relationship.
- c. For wild equine normally handled, direct physical interaction is prohibited unless the animal is appropriately restrained in order to perform essential veterinary or management activities only. When such handling is deemed necessary by the Sanctuary Director or the attending veterinarian, only trained personnel are allowed to do so.
- d. Chemical restraint is performed only by or under the guidance of a licensed veterinarian. Specific anesthetic protocols, including record keeping are adhered to. Chemical restraint is not used when multiple equines are in an enclosure unless in an emergency situation and safety measures are taken.
- e. Manual restraint is not attempted when multiple equines are present within an enclosure, unless in an emergency situation and safety measures taken.
- f. Injection training of individuals is an effective means to safely deliver anesthetic to an equine.

F. RECORD KEEPING

1. Record Keeping

- a. Detailed individual and group records are necessary for good husbandry, management and veterinary care.

- b. All records as required by local, state and federal regulations are maintained.
- c. An electronic database format is recommended for most record keeping.
- d. A behavioral profile is maintained for each individual equine and updated annually.
- e. A complete set of photos (front, both sides and rear), of each equine is made upon arrival at the sanctuary.
- f. Permanent records are kept of each equine beginning at the moment the equine becomes the responsibility of the sanctuary/rescue/shelter, and to the extent possible include: origin, age, species, gender, the method of acquisition, documentation showing condition, complete medical history and treatments, and all other pertinent information.
- g. Although not available in many cases, other important information that should be sought at acquisition and maintained on a regular basis includes: individual veterinary record, reproductive history, contraception records, current diet and record of diet changes, food consumption and preferred food items, weight history, daily enrichment, training record to show completed behaviors and those in development, social group and historic social partners, introduction record and response to various phases of introduction and response to other individuals.

G. CONTRACEPTION

1. Contraception

- a. Equines do not reproduce at the sanctuary.
- b. Mares
 - i. If mares arrive at the facility pregnant, a veterinarian provides necessary care and the mare is allowed to deliver unless there are valid health reasons for terminating the pregnancy.
- c. Stallions
 - i. All studs are gelded, except when determined by a veterinarian to be medically dangerous for the equine.
 - ii. Studs unable to be gelded are kept separate from mares
 - iii. If pastured, studs are physically separated from pastured mares by a buffer zone or aisle between each pasture wide enough to prevent nose-to-nose contact and/or fighting.

H. DENTAL AND HOOF CARE

1. *Dental Care*

- a. Equines receive regular dental check-ups and treatment as necessary to facilitate proper and adequate food digestion.
- b. Equines up to 5 years of age and over 15 years of age receive dental check-ups twice annually.
- c. Equines 5 to 15 years receive dental check-ups once a year.
- d. Equines with dental problems are examined by a veterinarian and receive treatment as needed.

2. *Hoof Care*

- a. Equines receive hoof care, maintenance and trimming every six to eight weeks, or as directed by a veterinarian or qualified farrier, to allow them to stand in a normal posture and move at all gaits without discomfort.
- b. Hoof care is performed by a qualified farrier or other experienced person knowledgeable in farrier practice.
- c. Exceptions may be made when a veterinarian determines that such care would endanger the equine and/or his caretaker(s), i.e., in the case of a newly arrived equine, or in the case of a wild equine who is pastured in sufficiently rocky or rough terrain so as to be able to virtually self-maintain his or her hooves.
 - i. Whenever such exceptions are made, regular photographic and written documentation of hoof condition is recommended.

I. COMPROMISED EQUINE CARE

1. *Compromised equine*

- a. Compromised equines are treated under a veterinarian's guidance
- b. If emaciated, the equine receives a starvation refeeding diet, along with other necessary veterinary care.
- c. An incorrect refeeding program can cause the death of an emaciated equine within 2-3 days.
- d. New arrivals who are debilitated, untamed or otherwise difficult to handle need not be vaccinated immediately, nor should they be bathed, groomed or have their hooves trimmed unless they have a medical condition for which these are treatments prescribed by a veterinarian. Such equines are often best cared for through relative isolation, rest and care from one

or two people.

- e. Deworming of an equine with unknown deworming history and who is in a debilitated state is performed according to the direction of a veterinarian.
- f. Equines with certain chronic health conditions may be in lower body condition scores and still be acceptably nourished.
- g. Equines more than 20 years of age may not maintain their body condition well even with special feeds.

J. ADOPTIONS AND FOSTER CARE

1. Adoptions

- a. All equine adoptions are accompanied by a legally binding document prohibiting the adopter from selling or placing the equine in question with another owner or facility without first contacting the primary equine sanctuary/rescue from which the equine was adopted. The original owner may then allow said facility the opportunity to assume possession of the equine.
- b. All equine adoptions are through a legally binding contractual agreement specifying the duties and expectations of each party, including no breeding of the adopted equine, and contain wording related to the recovery of the equine should the adopting party fail to abide by such duties and expectations.
- c. Equine adoption agreements specify the methods wherein the primary equine sanctuary/rescue facility may inspect the adopted equine to insure compliance with the terms of the agreement and the length of time such agreement shall be binding.

2. Foster Homes

- a. All equine foster homes provide physical facilities and levels of care equal to or above that of the primary equine sanctuary/rescue facility. No equine will endure less adequate housing or care as a result of foster care.
- b. All equine foster care placements are accompanied by a legally binding document specifying the duties and responsibilities of each party, making clear the responsibilities of the foster care home, and the steps to be taken should any equine show signs of illness or heightened distress, and under what conditions, if any, the foster care-givers may take the equine off the property.
- c. All equine foster care agreements contain wording related to the recovery of the equine should the foster home fail to abide by such duties and expectations, or if the foster home can no longer keep the

equine.

- d. Equine foster care agreements specify the methods wherein the primary equine sanctuary/rescue facility may inspect the fostered equine, in person or virtually, to insure compliance with the terms of the agreement.
- e. Equine foster care agreements specify how potential adopters will be able to visit the equine and under what circumstances and conditions.
- f. Equine foster home caregivers have access to veterinarians able to make emergency calls, and the names and telephone numbers of those veterinarians are kept on file with the primary sanctuary/rescue facility.