



# **Companion Animal Welfare Certification Standards**

## **Equine and Canine**

**05/27/25**

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## **American Humane Working Animals Certification Program**

As the nation's voice for the protection of animals, American Humane reaches millions of people daily via groundbreaking research, education, training, and services that span a wide network of organizations, agencies, and businesses. From its beginning, American Humane has been at the forefront of every major advancement in protecting animals from abuse and neglect as well as promoting the human-animal bond.

### **American Humane Working Animals Certification Program**

To be eligible for certification, a facility's locations and sampling of public events must be audited and found to be in compliance with the certification standards. American Humane's Working Animals Certification program audit is focused on assessing the condition, well-being, and welfare of domesticated animals trained to perform certain specialized tasks, which may appear at public demonstrations, performances and/or appearances. On-site audit questions focus on housing/enclosures, veterinary care, behavior, nutrition, and safety at facility locations as well as off-site events. Core principles set the stage for a set of detailed questions aimed at confirming that the animals are not only in good condition physically but have overall good welfare.

A facility will not be awarded certification if any location or offsite event has failed an audit unless and until the cause of the failure is resolved to American Humane's satisfaction. If a location or performance fails an audit or otherwise is found to have fallen out of compliance, American Humane has the right to cease the facility's animal interactions with the public until the facility has taken corrective action to resolve the cause of the failure to American Humane's satisfaction.

### **Core Principles**

These principles represent criteria that are essential as indicative of an animal's welfare. They are animal-centric with the goal of confirming good welfare and humane treatment of all animals located at a facility. These core principles must be met in order to pass the certification audit. They underlie the entire audit and are not simply assessed once at the start of an audit but can be reviewed at any time during an audit. Failure of these non-negotiable requirements will result in failure of the audit.

#### **1) No Animal Abuse or Neglect Observed During Audit**

No observations of willful acts or unintentional signs of abuse or neglect by any person at the working animals location are acceptable. Observation of such acts will automatically result in failure of the audit.

Animal Abuse

☐ PASS

☐ FAIL

#### **2) Appropriate Veterinary Care Plan**

The audit will identify whether a facility has a relationship and plan in effect regarding sick/injured animals with a qualified and licensed veterinarian. Review of the plan (if a physical document exists) and discussion with staff that such a plan exists is required. Failure to provide confirmation of a veterinary care plan will result in failure of the audit.

## Approved Plan

☐ PASS

☐ FAIL

### 3) **Staff Conduct that Promotes Animal Welfare**

Staff must be aware of the facility's protocols and procedures as well as conduct themselves in a manner that promotes animal welfare.

Failure to do so, or observations of blatant abuse (see #1 above) will result in failure of the audit.

## Staff Conduct

☐ PASS

☐ FAIL

## **Welfare Indicators Checklist**

Welfare indicators for the American Humane Certification audit are presented generally with respect to direct and indirect information. Direct information includes aspects of welfare that are observable for the animals being assessed by an auditor while indirect information includes information obtained from staff (e.g., maintenance, feeding procedures, isolation area/procedures).

In addition to the three pass/fail core principles, items related to housing/environment, appearance/behavior, nutrition, health/veterinary care, and cleaning/sanitation will be reviewed and documented. Records and staff knowledge/training will be reviewed during an on-site assessment.

In order for a facility to pass the American Humane Certification audit, they must meet the requirements of the three core principles and comply with all items on the audit checklist or provide an approved Corrective Action Plan on how the location has complied and/or will comply with missed audit items from the checklist.

### **Non-Compliance Issues**

Any checklist items that do not meet American Humane Standards during an on-site audit will be described in an Audit Summary Report made available within 10 days of completion of the on-site audit. A Corrective Action Plan must be submitted to American Humane within 14 days of the Audit Summary Report date. The Corrective Action Plan describes the missed checklist items identified through the audit process and the corrective actions that will be completed by the facility with a proposed timeline and including any supporting documentation (e.g., photos, documents detailing compliance acts, etc.).

The Corrective Action Plan must be approved by American Humane. The Corrective Action Plan is to be completed within the timeline that was outlined in the plan by the facility and approved by American Humane. The facility is subject to a re-audit at the discretion of American Humane after plan completion. Variances are permitted through written submission to American Humane

and upon prior written approval. Facilities are encouraged to report their progress on corrective actions throughout the correction period.

## Maintaining Certification

Facilities are expected to maintain high welfare standards throughout the term of certification. **American Humane will continue to audit locations and performances and reserves the right to perform spot checks at any time during the certification period with reasonable notice. American Humane may suspend or revoke certification at any time if the requirements of the certification program are not being met by the facility.**

## **Working Animals Standards – EQUINE**

### **Environment**

#### **General Housing**

- All facilities must comply with The Horse Protection Act, U.S. Code Title 15, Chapter 44 -- Protection of Horses - Sections 1821-1831.
- All animals must be housed under conditions that provide sufficient space as well as supplementary structures and resources required to meet physical, physiological, and behavioral needs with consideration of nutrition, environment, health, behavior and mental state.
  - Physical space must provide opportunities for the equine to roam, graze, play, roll and interact with other equines.
  - The physical space must not create 'dead ends' potentially inhibiting the freedom of movement of subordinate individuals.
- Facility design must consider caregiver and equine safety.
- The habitat must provide security from predators and unauthorized human access.
- Safe and appropriate areas must be maintained to secure equines. All cross-ties and other ties should have safety release snaps.
- The facility must have an indoor designated isolation area for ill animals being treated for communicable diseases or in need of convalescence.
- Temperature and humidity gauges must be in every horse barn to monitor the temp/humidity. The gauge can be placed so only facility employees can read the gauge.

#### **Horse Barns/Stalls**

- Indoor housing must provide secure shelter and protection for equines during inclement weather as needed.
- Grooming and wash stalls must be in open areas and be clean and well-drained to prevent wet and/or icy floors.
- Indoor housing must provide alternate temporary placement for sick, injured and compromised animals.

- Stalls must be available inside the barn to house sick/injured animals and accommodate a companion as needed.
- Separated animals must have visual and tactile access to group members, unless tactile contact increases the risk of disease transmission between animals.
- Indoor spaces must be large enough to allow all animals to comfortably move around and to lie down.
  - The ability of equines to rear up on their hind legs must be taken into consideration in the placement of lights, fans, plumbing, etc.
- Stall dimensions are dependent on intended purpose and/or duration of confinement. Stall sizes must meet American Humane Stall guidelines:
  - Minimum size 12.0 ft. x 12.0 ft (3.7 x 3.7 m) for permanent confinement for 1000 lb. horses and above. Minimum vertical dimension of 15 feet (4.6 m.).
  - Minimum size 10.0 ft. x 10.0 ft (3.0 x 3.0 m) for donkey and smaller equine species confinement. Minimum vertical dimension of 12 feet (3.7 m.).
- Stall floors must absorb some of the impact and weight of a horse to reduce stress on the horse's legs and ease foot problems. The floor must be nonslip to prevent injuries, non-odor (ammonia) retentive, and nonabsorbent.
- Absorbent bedding (i.e., shavings, pellets, straw) must be used on top of stall floors. Amount must be appropriate to provide comfort for the animal, absorb urine and reduce ammonia odors. Soiled bedding must be removed and replaced daily.
- A ring for tying the horse must be placed at or above horse wither height. Place the ring away from the feed and water buckets and toward the back on one of the sidewalls. The wall must be strong enough to withstand resistance from a horse, and fasteners must be smooth on both sides of the wall.
- Partition height must be at least 8 feet to prevent horses from getting legs over the wall.
- The stall doorway opening of 8-foot-tall by 4-foot-wide is preferred. A stall door must be a minimum of 7 feet high and 45-inch width.
- Stall and pen walls must be smooth, free of all projections, sharp or jagged corners and of adequate size and design to prevent casting.
- Stall doors must have secure latches and either slide or swing outward.
- Swing doors must open into the aisle rather than into the stall.
- Must have a 6 ft vegetation free/fire break clearing around the barn as fire prevention/wildfire protection in high-risk fire areas.

## **Mixed Species Housing**

- Where multiple species share an outdoor enclosure, the total dimension is adjusted to reflect the minimum spatial requirements of each species housed.
- Minimum indoor dimensions remain unchanged for each species.
- Mixed species groupings must be appropriately researched to ensure compatibility and to avoid unnecessary stress for all species.

## **Cleaning**

- All stalls with animals in them must be mucked out a minimum of once daily.

- Manure from the stables/barns must be removed as needed to maintain a clean facility (minimally once daily) and taken to an area away from the structures and animals.
- Must have fly control program to reduce flies in the manure storage areas.
- The floors must be dry prior to bedding being reapplied on the floors.
- A stall must have no more than 20% of the bedding soiled/dirty at any time.
- Ambient ammonia ( $\text{NH}_3$ ) levels in the stalls/facility must not exceed 10 ppm.

## Building Construction

- All buildings must have lightning rods and be properly grounded in areas where lightning strikes are prevalent.
- Doorways and aisles must be free of obstructions and sharp projections (e.g. hardware) and be 10 feet wide in horse barns.
- Ceilings must have a minimum height of 12 feet. Door frames must be a minimum of 8 feet high with a minimum width of 4 feet and aisles must be at least 10 feet wide.
- Windows must be inaccessible to horses and working stock, covered with bars or screening, and made of safety glass.
- Flooring must be easy to keep clean and provide traction for animals. Damaged flooring must be repaired immediately, and horses removed from the area until the repair has been completed.
- Low beams and pipes (under 7 ft. clearance), steps, or uneven floors must be clearly marked.
- Tack rooms must have adequate racks and storage areas to keep equipment off the floor and out of the path of traffic.
- Storage areas must be large enough to keep shovels, pitchforks, wheelbarrows, etc. Safely stored away from animals.
- Wheelbarrows for manure and feed must be color coordinated and stored in separate areas.
- Isolation room lighting cycles must support the animal's normal circadian rhythm and be able to be effectively disinfected.

## Barn Lighting and Ventilation

- Underwriters Laboratories (UL) approved lighting must be available for maximum visibility around the exterior of the building and throughout the interior. Wiring and switches must be encased in metal, or other approved weatherproof boxes, and out of reach of horses.
- All electrical wiring in the barn must be housed in metal or hard plastic conduit since rodents may chew unprotected wires, creating a fire hazard. Metal conduit can be used but has the tendency to rust. Position electrical wiring out of reach of horses.
- Fresh air must be available to every horse for good respiratory health. Provide 4 to 8 air changes per hour as needed to reduce mold spore contamination, minimize condensation, and reduce moisture, odor, and ammonia accumulation.
- Areas around vents and fans must be kept clear. Fans must be properly maintained and cleaned frequently. Fans located in horse barns and other dusty areas should be totally enclosed air over motors.

## Food/Water Location/Receptacles



- Feed tubs and water buckets must be smooth, clean, and placed securely at the proper height so that the animals cannot become entangled. Water tubs and buckets must be cleaned a minimum of every two weeks.
- Water sources must be grounded to prevent accidental shock and stray voltage concerns.
- Hay storage must be away from heat and electrical sources, and if at all possible, kept in a separate building from where working stock and horses are housed.
  - Storing hay and bedding over the top of the stalls is not recommended.
  - Hay storage should be off the ground when possible.
- Hay and bedding must be stacked so as not to topple readily.
- Water hoses must be neatly hung in wash rack areas so that people and animals cannot become entangled in them. The storage area must have adequate drainage.
- Grain storage systems must be rodent-proof, weather-proof, and not accessible to horses and working stock. Grain must be stored in sealed containers and grain expiration dates/tags maintained within 6 months of purchase.

## Environmental Safety

- No unnecessary trash or debris lying around inside or outside of buildings.
- Garbage receptacles must be available for the deposit of refuse, baling twine, and wire.
- All ornamental shrubbery around the exterior of the barn must not be poisonous/toxic to working stock.
- The correct size and type of fire extinguisher must be located at every exterior door, in the middle of long aisles, and next to the main electrical panel box. Fire extinguishers must be in proper working order and fire exits must be clearly marked.
- Management must have a no smoking policy for barns and indoor enclosures.
- Barns and indoor enclosures must have fire alarms installed, and an evacuation plan posted on premise.
- Every farm/stable must have an emergency first aid kit for both humans and horses/working stock. A phone with posted emergency numbers must be easily accessible.
- Insecticides/pesticides and herbicides must be correctly labeled and stored separately from all other products.

## Turnouts and Pastures

- Pasture provides primary housing, freedom of movement, and allows socializing. Grazing opportunity should be provided to those horses able to tolerate fresh grass. Up to 20 hours per day is normal but may not be possible in certain climates/areas. Pastures must have sufficient area per animal to accommodate normal individual and group behavior.
- Population density must allow for 1/2 acre per individual to provide freedom of movement and 2 acres per individual if pasture is designed to be a major source of nutrition as well as activity. The amount of space per animal should be standardized to the AU – Animal Units for the region.
- Turnout paddocks and pasture fencing must be sturdy, 4–6 feet (5 ft minimum for draft horses) in height, and able to keep working stock in and unwanted “visitors” out. Any protrusion on which stock may become caught must be removed. Fencing material must be



suitable for the type of working stock being housed. Loose wires and broken boards or rails must be attended to immediately.

- Gates must be a minimum of 4 feet wide, swing freely, and have no sharp edges or corners.
- Footing must be well-drained and free of ruts and stones.
- If release to pasture or open spaced areas is not possible, equines must be exercised, as appropriate, through line work, riding, etc., unless a veterinarian or other expert instructs otherwise for health reasons.
- Design must allow for regular inspection of animals and facility maintenance as needed. In instances where pasture or open space settings are the primary housing, the following must be provided:
  - A man-made shelter which provides protection during inclement and extreme weather. Shade may be solely from a man-made shelter.
  - Shade structures must be smooth, free of all projections, sharp or jagged corners.
  - Alternate housing for sick, injured or compromised individuals.
  - All animals with physical limitations have easy access to water, feed sources and shelters.
- The design of outdoor paddocks, yards and dry lot enclosures must include:
  - Minimum dimensions of 240 square feet (12 ft. x 20 ft.) for a single equine plus 240 sq. ft. for each additional equine. Enclosure shape may be variable to take in natural features in landscape such as rock formations, hills and trees.
  - Whenever possible, more space should be provided to allow for movement, grazing and play behaviors.
  - Alternate housing for sick, injured or compromised individuals.
  - Separate area for introduction of a new individual to a group or temporary isolation of an equine for health or social reasons or weight management.
- Pastures/turnouts must be free of debris, foreign objects, and toxic plants.
- Machinery and equipment must not be left in pastures and turnouts.
- Ponds, irrigation, and open drainage ditches must be fenced.
- Fallen branches and tree stumps must be removed.
- Washouts must be fixed promptly.
- Any bridges must be strong enough to support horses and machinery.
- Regular pasture checks must be made with veterinary team to ascertain that no poisonous plants are growing in or around the pasture area.
- When possible, standing water must be eliminated to prevent the spread of mosquito-borne diseases such as West Nile Virus and equine encephalomyelitis.

**Electric fencing** (barrier that uses electric shocks to deter animals from crossing a boundary)

- Electric fencing must not be used as the primary enclosure or permanent fencing.
- It is recommendation the electric fencing material have good visibility such as wider, braided rope or tape.

- The voltage should properly correlate with the length of fencing (3000-8000 volts), must be pulsating current and be less than 120 mA (milliamps).
- Electric fencing may be used as a top strand on permanent fencing to create a psychological perimeter to deter fighting, leaning/rubbing and cribbing.
- Electric fencing must be UL-approved and work on an intermittent pulse basis.
- Electric fencing and the installation must follow all state and local regulations.

## Roadways

- Roads and driveways must be wide and free of deep ruts and bumps.
- Low-hanging tree branches and shrubs must be trimmed back.
- Overhead wires must be high enough for trucks, trailers, tractors, and other equipment to pass under.
- There must be 20-foot-wide fire/emergency lanes around all buildings and structures.
- Vehicles must only park in designated areas to keep roadways open for emergency vehicles.
- Vehicle and trailer parking must not be permitted next to barn/stable.
- Vehicular traffic must proceed slowly and with caution.
- Speed limit signs of 15 mph or lower must be posted and enforced. "Caution: Horse Crossing" signs are recommended.

## Arenas and Jump Courses

- Arenas and courses must have ample, suitable footing free from ruts, holes, and unevenness.
- Riding ring fencing must be a minimum of 4 feet high and of adequate strength except for dressage arenas.
- All overhead and protruding branches must be cut back so as not to be a hazard.
- All accessory equipment (e.g., jumps, trail obstacles, barrels, poles) must be in good condition. Any broken or unstable items must be fixed or replaced immediately. It is important that all equipment be built and maintained according to good safety practices and that items such as jump cups easily break away if a horse or rider falls on them.
- Rings and jump courses must not be available to skateboarders, dirt bikers, or all-terrain vehicle riders.
- Gates must be secured to deny entry to unauthorized users.
- Some form of dust suppression or irrigation should be employed if the arena is dusty.

## Surrounding Acreage

- Areas around the barns, rings, and pastures must be free from debris.
- Ponds, large water storage tanks, and waterways must be fenced.
- Hazardous passageways, hay drops, manure pits, etc. must be properly fenced and maintained.
- Ladder fuels and flashy fuels should be managed in fire prone areas.

## **Appearance & Behavior**

### **Equine Appearance**

- Appropriate size and weight for the animal's age with BCS 4 or greater
- Healthy, smooth coat appropriate for season. Any wounds or sores should be medicated with a written treatment plan from the veterinary team.
- Grooming and sheath cleaning are performed regularly.
- Eyes bright and fully open, not swollen or cloudy; no discharge (some eyes will scar with corneal opacity)
- Nose free of discharge; no labored breathing
- Ears free of discharge; no cuts or scabs
- Must have an effective fly/parasite control program.
- No external parasites
- No evidence of diarrhea
- Alert and active with no evidence of lameness at the walk and no head tilt

### **Equine Behavior**

- No evidence of stereotypies/stereotypic behaviors such as cribbing, weaving, stall walking, significant separation anxiety, or unprovoked fear upon approach. (Some horses will show aggression to unfamiliar handlers or to approaching equines- this can be normal).
- Appear to be appropriately socialized with other animals
- Exhibiting "normal" behavior for the species
- Enrichment opportunities are available
- Animals are handled safely
- Animals appear to be free from stress
- If stereotypies/stereotypic behaviors are evident, veterinary language to support current management of the issue(s).

## **Nutrition**

### **Food, Feedings and Water - General**

- Feed management for all equine species must meet or exceed USDA Technical Note No. 190-NM-10.
- Food must be palatable, wholesome, nutritious, species specific, and available as appropriate for each species.
- All food must be provided in sufficient quantity and frequency to meet the normal daily requirements of each animal and maintain an ideal body condition score of 4-6.
- Employees must track feeding schedules.
- Feedings must only be done by trained employees.
- Food/water containers must be cleaned/disinfected regularly as needed.
- Food containers must be cleaned before adding fresh food to container.

- Fresh food must not be placed on top of existing food in containers.
- Food/supplement containers and/or bags must be appropriately labeled and include an expiration or manufactured date.
- Sodium chloride must be provided in food rations, as a supplement, or offered as free choice.
- Fresh water must always be available to animals as appropriate for each species.

## Grain and Water

- Feed and water stations must be separated in the stall to reduce horses from dropping grain into the water bucket as they chew their ration.
- Water and feed buckets must be fastened to the wall rather than placed on the floor where they can be tipped over. The bucket rim must be positioned just above horse chest height at nose level.
- Fixtures to hang buckets must be smooth, free of gaps, and fastened securely to the wall.
- The hardware should be equally safe whether the bucket is present or not. Fasteners must allow easy bucket removal for frequent cleaning.
- Automatic waterers/drinkers may be used and must be positioned just above horse chest height at nose level. These should be cleaned a minimum of every 14 days.

## Hay Feeding

- Hay must not be fed directly off of a **contaminated** area of the ground, as it allows the forage to come in contact with waste, dirt, sand, and to be mixed with the bedding.
  - A corner apron of concrete or a rubber mat can minimize contact with a dirty floor.
  - A primary advantage of floor feeding is that it allows the horse to eat in a natural position.
- When a hay rack, net, or bag is used, the bottom end must be at wither height for the horse. Too high and hay dust falls into the horse's eyes and nostrils; too low and the horse may become tangled. All welded joints on racks must be strong and smooth with rounded corners.
  - Hay fixtures must be used with extreme caution as a horse's leg may become caught if the horse kicks or rears near the rack or net. Consider the horse's habits, personality, and behavior before selecting a fixture.
- When a hay manger is used instead of a rack or net, it must start flush with the floor, and end above horse chest height. Hay chaff and dust can accumulate in the bottom of the manger and must be removed regularly.
  - The manger must be maintained to eliminate sharp and worn edges/areas that may cause damage to the animals using the manger.
  - Mangers let the horse eat in a more natural position, are less prone to trap the horse, and reduce dust fall.

## Health

### Veterinary Care

- Facility must have a protocol for monitoring animals' health daily.

- Facility must have a designated isolation area for ill animals being treated for communicable diseases or in need of convalescence with a written biosecurity plan for sick horses and for new arrivals.
- The facility must have an ongoing relationship with a veterinarian who shall provide adequate veterinary care to its animals and is legally licensed to practice veterinary medicine in the state in which the facility is located.
  - Formal arrangement must include a veterinary care plan and a minimum of quarterly scheduled visits to the facility.
- The facility must assure that a corporate or consulting veterinarian has appropriate authority to ensure the provision of adequate veterinary care and to oversee the adequacy of other aspects of animal care.
- Surgeries must only be performed by licensed veterinarians.
- The program of adequate veterinary care must include:
  - The availability of appropriate facilities, personnel, equipment, and services to provide adequate care.
  - The use of appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries, and 24/7 availability including emergency, weekend, and holiday care.
  - The use of appropriate vaccines to provide adequate protection for the horses in areas of the world where the horses are located.
    - The vaccine schedule must follow the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) Vaccination Guidelines for horses in the United States.
    - If horses are documented reactors, laboratory titers can be used to document protection from those diseases.
    - Horses in other countries must follow the guidance of similar equine veterinary organizations in their respective country.
    - Horses in/around/have contact with general public are required to be vaccinated against Rabies.
  - The use of appropriate internal parasite control to provide adequate protection for horses in areas of the world where the horses are located.
    - The parasite control schedule must follow the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) Parasite Control Guidelines for horses in the United States <https://aaep.org/resource/internal-parasite-control-guidelines/>
    - Horses in other countries must follow the guidance of similar equine veterinary organizations in their respective country.
  - The use of appropriate external parasite control to provide adequate protection for horses in areas of the world where the horses are located.
    - The parasite control schedule must follow the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) External Parasite and Vector Control Guidelines for horses in the United States.
    - Horses in other countries must follow the guidance of similar equine veterinary organizations in their respective country.
  - The facility shall keep a log of all veterinary visits or copies of invoices for preventative and regular care.

- A mechanism of direct and frequent communication must be developed and utilized so that timely and accurate information on problems of animal health, behavior, and well-being is conveyed to the contracted veterinarian.
- Adequately documented training must be provided to personnel involved in the care and use of animals regarding handling, immobilization, anesthesia, analgesia, tranquilization, and euthanasia.
- Adequate pre-procedural and post-procedural care in accordance with established veterinary medical and nursing procedures must be provided.
- All sick or injured animals must be seen by a veterinarian, a veterinarian must be consulted about the animal's condition, or a veterinary approved protocol must be enacted within eight hours of the illness or injury being noticed. Colic, overt bleeding, or non-weight bearing lameness should be communicated immediately upon discovery.
- Veterinary visits must be recorded and updated as needed.
- All animal medical records must be kept a minimum of two (2) years and updated as needed and be in compliance with the state veterinary medicinal board.

## Medication

- All prescription medications must be prescribed by a veterinarian and administered only by properly trained employees under the guidance of a licensed veterinarian.
  - Medications for one animal must not be given to another animal without specific directions to do so.
- Prescription medications must have a prescription label on the medication bottle or container/box that is in compliance with the state veterinary medicinal board requirements.
- Expired medications must be discarded appropriately.
- Medicine and supplements must be dated and clearly labeled/identified.
- Medications should not be stored with non-medications.
- Safety data sheets must be available for all medications used and stored in the facility.
- The use of prophylactic or sub-therapeutic antibiotics is prohibited.
- Prophylactic treatments may be used to treat/eliminate parasites.
  - Prophylactic treatments used to treat/eliminate parasites may not include antibiotics.

## Foot/Hoof Care

- A comprehensive program of foot care must be developed and followed for each animal.
- Trained professionals must be responsible for corrective shoeing and disease treatment and control.
- Horses kept in a stall must have their feet picked or cleaned daily to reduce the risk of thrush. The stall sizes must meet the minimum standards as stated in this document.
- Foot care must include:
  - Routine cleaning
    - Hoof pick to clean the horse's feet as needed.
    - A fine-bristled wire brush for cleaning the sole, frog and hoof wall.



- Periodic trimming – not to exceed every 8 weeks.
  - Maintain hoof/Foot balance and wear.
  - Maintain hoof-pastern angle wall angle.
- Maintaining moisture in the feet as needed for footing and climate.
- Corrections of minor imperfections
  - Corrective trimming as needed.
- Treatment of foot diseases and injuries
- Immediate veterinary notification of a nail in the foot.

## Dental Care

- A comprehensive program of dental care must be developed and followed for each animal.
- A licensed veterinarian must perform all equine dental procedures and the mouth must be floated as needed and minimally on an annual basis.
- Dental examinations must begin at the first “wellness” exam for all newborn foals to detect overbite, cleft palate, or underbite.
- Bi-annual dental examinations must be performed on yearlings and older horses.

## Exercise

- Facilities in the United States must adhere to the AAEP Guidelines on Equine Exercise.
- Equines must be exercised a minimum of once per day if maintained in a stall.
- Horses in other countries must follow the guidance of similar equine veterinary organizations in their respective country.

## Tail Alteration of Equine Species

- The alteration of the tail of the equine species is not allowed. This includes, but is not limited to, docking, nicking (i.e., cutting) and blocking. Definitions:
  - Docking - Amputation of the distal part of the bony part of the tail. A horse's tail contains 15 to 21 vertebrae, docking typically leaves a tail approximately 15 cm (6 inches) long. In most cases, tails of foals are docked using a constricting band. In some cases, 'docking' is used interchangeably with trimming to refer only to shortening of tail hair.
  - Nicking - Cutting tail tendons to cause an elevated carriage of the tail (pricking).
  - Blocking - Numbing the tail to cause it to hang limply, usually achieved by injecting alcohol into the tail close to major nerves (deadening, nerving).
  - Trimming of the hair of the tail is permitted.

## End of Life Standards and Protocol

- Euthanasia protocols must be species-specific and follow AAEP/AVMA guidelines.
- Euthanasia must be performed by adequately trained employees and in a secure and sanitary location.
- Disposal of deceased animals must follow local, state, and federal laws.
- Records of euthanasia must be kept a minimum of two (2) years and updated as needed and be in compliance with the state veterinary medicinal board.



## **Horse Breeding**

American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP)

<https://aaep.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/BreedingGuidelines%28Final%292019.pdf>

- Only healthy horses are allowed to enter the facility. Entrance must require a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) from an accredited veterinarian dated within the past 14 days for all new arrivals and have a Negative EIA/Coggins test.
- All horses must be required to be vaccinated a minimum of 10 days prior to arrival at facility (core and risk-based vaccines as listed in the Vaccination Guidelines as appropriate).
- The horse owner/agent must provide a statement of the disease status of herd of origin and the premises.
- All new arrivals must be examined for signs of contagious disease and to verify that the CVI, including individual animal identification, vaccination history, other tests required by the destination facility and the owner/agent statement match the arriving horses and are in compliance with the requirements.
- Special attention must be paid to leased teaser stallions and nurse mares which can be responsible for the introduction of certain diseases (e.g., Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM) and Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA)) onto a premise.
- Unless the disease status and test results are known for leased mares or teaser stallions, appropriate quarantine and diagnostic testing must be performed to ensure they are not carriers of communicable disease(s) prior to exposing the breeding population on the premises.
- New arrivals must be isolated to prevent contact with resident horses (especially pregnant mares).
  - The period of isolation should be 14 days for horses arriving from a facility with minimal perceived risk and possibly increasing this to 21 to 28 days for horses coming from a facility with known risk or unknown risk.
- Horses with overt signs of disease or a high risk of infection must not be allowed onto the property. An alternative would be to unload such horse(s) and accommodate them at a separate isolation facility.
- Any horse on the property suspected of having a contagious disease, such as respiratory infection, diarrhea or fever of unknown origin must be immediately isolated.
- An evaluation by a veterinarian must be conducted to determine etiology, biosecurity risk and containment plan. Any treatment and follow-up procedures depend on the diagnosis.
- Appropriate cleaning and disinfection of the vacated stall in which the horse resided is essential.
- All horses on the property must be observed daily for signs of infectious disease.
- All animal personnel must be familiar with signs of infectious diseases and report any signs of disease promptly to a supervisor.
- Pregnant mares must be separated from all other horses on the property, especially horses that travel frequently to other equine venues (e.g., shows, racetracks).

- Consider separating mares into small groups (< 8 to 10 mares per group) and keep groups physically separated (i.e., no shared fencing or nose-to-nose contact) to reduce cross contact until all the mares in a group have foaled.
  - This will limit the on-facility spread of a disease if it occurs in an individual horse (i.e., EHV-1 abortion).
- Visitor access to the breeding facility must be limited to areas where they would have minimal contact with horses.
- For key personnel that need to have access to horses, protocols must be in place to minimize the risk they pose, including:
  - Required use of clean coveralls and shoe covers dedicated to a given facility (or disposable barrier protection) within each separated group of mares and foals.
  - Use of disposable gloves is recommended. Otherwise, personnel must wash their hands prior to contacting resident horses and prior to departure from a group of animals or the facility. This must include thorough hand cleansing with soap and water or the use of an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- The use of foot baths for human traffic in barns or between paddocks/farms may help prevent dissemination of infectious organisms.
- A veterinary approved disinfection protocol for surfaces and equipment should be posted.
- Separate/dedicated equipment such as halters, lead ropes and blankets must be used for each horse. Shared equipment must be cleaned and disinfected prior to use between horses (remove loose material, then appropriately clean, rinse, dry and disinfect).

**New Horse Arrival and Quarantine – Link to CDFA biosecurity toolkit**  
**[https://www.cdffa.ca.gov/ahfss/animal\\_health/pdfs/biosecurity\\_toolkit\\_full\\_version.pdf](https://www.cdffa.ca.gov/ahfss/animal_health/pdfs/biosecurity_toolkit_full_version.pdf)**

## **Arrival**

- Any visibly sick horses must not be allowed to enter the property.
- If the new horse is brought directly to quarantine facilities, quarantine facilities must be extremely secure due to the risk of pathogen spread.
- A veterinary exam should be scheduled for any new arrival with a fever of greater than 12 hours duration (e.g. two elevated temperatures 12 hours apart)
- Horses moving to the facility must be vaccinated with core vaccines a minimum of 10 days prior, in addition to any risk-based vaccines for the area.
- Vaccination records must be received just before or at the time of arrival.
- Horses from out of state must have a CVI for each new arrival as required by the state's animal health official. The CVI provided must be dated within the past 14 days and properly completed. Plus, a Negative Coggins/EIA test within 6 months or 1 years depending on the state.
- Even if the horse is moving within the state, a CVI must be required if there is an ongoing outbreak. Plus, a current Negative Coggins/EIA test performed within 1 year of arrival date.

- New horses must have their temperature taken within a few hours of arrival and no more than 6 hours after arrival and repeated every 12 hours for the duration of the horse's quarantine period.
  - A log must be kept tracking any potential fevers (normal rectal temperature is 99-101.5°F—check for other clinical signs and recheck temperature in one hour if 101-102°F).
- A log must be kept tracking food and water intake.
- Consider requiring a temperature log for 2-7 days prior to arrival if there is an active pandemic causing fevers.

## **Quarantine**

- Depending on the perceived risk, the new horse should be quarantined for 14 to 30 days.
  - During this time, the horse must not have nose-to-nose contact with other horses and, ideally, should not share air space with them.
- A minimum of 30 feet is necessary to limit most EHV outbreaks. Up to 100 feet is necessary to limit transmission of Influenza virus. Strangles usually involves nose to nose contact or shared fomites such as water, leads, halters etc.
- Equipment must not be shared between new and resident horses.
- An employee must be assigned to feed, water, and clean the new horse's stall.
- A log of temperature checks must be kept and completed every 12 hours.
- The horse must be checked twice daily to ensure there are no clinical signs of disease. If any signs are present, the veterinarian must be contacted immediately.
- Visitors to the barn must not interact with the quarantined horse.
- The newly arrived horse must not be allowed to use facilities (arenas, paddocks, grooming stalls, etc.) while other horses are present.
- Once the quarantine period is complete and the horse has shown no clinical signs of illness, he or she can be released into the general resident population.

## **Moving Horse from Quarantine to the General Population**

- The horse must continue to be monitored for clinical signs of disease and temperature for several days after it enters the general population.
- Anything the horse touches for the first several days must be cleaned and disinfected.

## **Transportation**

- All facilities must be in compliance with the USDA APHIS Interstate Movement of Horses reference guide:

*For interstate movements, most States require that horses be individually identified and accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection. Specific requirements, such as proof of negative EIA testing, or other restrictions of movement based on regional or*

*national disease conditions such as neurological Equine Herpes Virus, equine piroplasmiasis, or Contagious Equine Metritis, are dictated by each importing state.*

- All facilities must be in compliance with the USDA (9 CFR, part 86) titled “Traceability for working stock Moving Interstate.”
  - Hot branding and cold branding (e.g., fire brand, freeze mark, etc.) are not an acceptable form of identification for any animal and must not be performed or used by the facility.
- All appropriate required documents (local, state, and federal) for each mode of transportation (company owned vehicles and other transports) must accompany each shipment such as: health certificates from place of origin, certificate of compliance, and acclimation certificates.
- Provisions must be made for food and water during transit and account for the possibility of transportation delays.
- The amount of time spent in transit, without being removed, must be in accordance with federal, regional and local laws. Travel parameters should be designed to reduce physiological stress (elevations in muscle enzymes, cortisol levels, dehydration, etc.)
- Trailer stall(s) must always allow the animals proper footing. Floors must absorb some of the impact and weight of a horse to reduce stress on the horse's legs and ease foot problems. The floor must be nonslip to prevent injuries, non-odor (ammonia) retentive, and nonabsorbent.
- Absorbent bedding (i.e., shavings, pellets, straw, etc) may be used on top of trailer stall(s) flooring. Amount must be appropriate to provide comfort for the animal(s), absorb urine and reduce ammonia odors. Bedding must not present a respiratory hazard to horses/working stock (pleuritis, pneumonia, dust and mold) due to swirling in the trailer because of travel speed and wind current while the trailer is moving. Proper drainage of the trailer is paramount.
- The trailer must have safety bars or nets, to prevent the horse from being able to get its head out of the trailer when the window is opened or drop down window is down.
- After traveling, animals must be allowed adequate time to rest and acclimate prior to beginning work.

## Monitoring During Transport

- Trailer stall(s) must always maintain appropriate temperatures for all species and meet temperature guidelines listed by American Humane.
- Trailer stall(s) must have a temperature gauge visible to the driver.
- Trailer stall(s) temperature must be monitored throughout the trip.
- Trailer stall(s) area must be visually monitored a minimum of once every 4 hours.
- The vehicle must be monitored with a GPS during transport.
  - Cameras that monitor the driver at all times are advisable.
- Vehicles used in transport must be regularly inspected and maintained and include a vehicle safety kit and fire extinguisher.

- Vehicle drivers must be provided with a checklist to ensure the interior of the vehicle (heat, lights, etc. are properly working before each transport).
- Drivers must be trained in animal transport.
- Drivers must demonstrate biosecurity and disinfect trailer when new animals are transported.
  - Driver must carry backup food and water for each animal species.

## **Emergency Protocol**

- Emergency protocols must be in place and updated regularly.
- In case of vehicle malfunction or accident, plans must include a protocol for maintaining correct temperature.
- In case of delay caused by an accident or malfunction, an emergency plan must include a back-up transportation method (bringing to another location or offloading to another driver).
- Safeguards protecting against the theft of the vehicles, trailers and animals must be in place.
- Transportation vehicles must be always monitored by a GPS at all times.
- The driver must carry an extra set of keys.
- Vehicles/trailer must be equipped with proper fire extinguishers.
- The driver must have appropriate safety equipment and reflective signage to be visible after dark if pulled to side of road.
- The driver shall maintain and update a vehicle inspection list every 6 months to include working lights, floorboard inspection, engine inspection, tire inspection and spare tire equipment.
- The driver shall possess the appropriate driver's license classification for the size and weight of the rig.

## **Performance Standards**

### **General**

- Horses must never be left unattended or unsecured in a manner that would be unsafe or uncomfortable for the animals. Animals must not be left in the care of a person who is inexperienced in the care of those types of animals.
- Stalled equines must be removed from temporary housing and exercised a minimum of once per day.
- Each horse must be thoroughly inspected for saddle and girth sores and other injuries after each use and at the end of the day. It is the responsibility of the rider, wrangler and/or owner, and coordinator to ensure that this is done. Horses with saddle and girth sores must not be used until healed.
- Horses must be trimmed or shod appropriately for the action required. The factors to be considered include the breed and size of the horses, the action to be performed, and the

terrain and surface on which they will be working. Horses working on cement or asphalt must wear borium, borium-tipped, rubber or other appropriate shoes.

- Horses should be calm and well prepared for activity at hand. Horses who are overtly fearful or displaying significant resistance behavior will be excused from the activity.
- Horses must be properly trained to function around large crowds, in tight formations and under gunfire, as well as tolerate being kept on a picket line in close proximity to other horses.
- Horses must not be “head shy” and must function well with other horses.
- Geldings are preferable. For practical purposes, the use of mares is acceptable but discouraged. No stallions may be used without American Humane’s approval.
- Pregnant or lactating horses must not be allowed to participate in strenuous activity or stunts such as stampedes, rodeos and/or extensive running scenes.
- Horses under the age of 4 years must not be allowed to participate in horse-racing scenes.
- Horses must, at a minimum, be trained to halter and lead calmly and accept human handling without fear or stress. Horses must be accustomed to handling in order to prevent stress and accidents with other horses and working stock, cast and crew.
- Prior to and after each day’s use, all horses must be thoroughly groomed, especially in the head, neck and saddle area, and have their hooves picked.
- There must not be any unnecessary riding or running horses. The return to base camp after performance must be orderly — racing back to camp is not allowed.
- To ensure that horses receive adequate rest time, horsemen must stand down (dismount) between setups, saving the horses’ backs. Sitting on the horses for long periods (> than 3 hours) must not be allowed.
- Care must be taken to prevent horses from being overworked. This can be accomplished in the following ways:
  - Do not perform in the hottest or coldest times of year in areas where heat or cold may become an animal-safety issue, see AH Heat Index and AQI chart.
  - Maintain a sufficient supply of ice and water at the location to be used to cool horses during times of extreme heat.
  - Work in early morning or late afternoon/evening, when temperatures are lower, during times of extreme heat.
  - During periods of extreme heat, provide adequate shade for horses.
  - Performance must immediately end when lightning strikes within six miles of the venue/filming location. Performance/filming may resume 60 minutes after extreme weather conditions lift.
  - Provide animals with wind breaks and heaters during cold weather.
  - Limit rehearsals.
  - Provide sufficient rest periods between working/shows.
  - Provide a sufficient supply of backup animals so the animals can be rotated.
  - Have an adequate number of animal handlers available to provide cooling or warming to the animals.
- Horses must have access to water both during and off performances, have access to shade in extreme heat, and have adequate rest periods equal to or greater than their working time.
- Animal handlers and/or veterinarians on set must have a rectal thermometer available, should the need arise to monitor a horse’s temperature. Should an animal’s temperature rise



above normal limits for a working animal, the animal must be removed from use and not allowed to return to work for at least 24 hours with veterinarian approval.

- A horse's rectal temp may be elevated after strenuous work - up to 102 but will come down within an hour of work.
- Only experienced animal handlers may work with and ride or drive horses during a performance.
- Spectators must be discouraged from petting, handling or feeding horses, unless planned in advance by facility. Never, under any circumstances, should anyone other than the owner or person designated to perform such activities be allowed to mount/ride or feed horses.
- Animals must be adequately trained, conditioned and prepped for use during a performance. American Humane has the jurisdiction to remove any animals deemed unfit for use.
- Hitching rails and top rails must be fastened in the ground in such a manner that the tugging of a frightened horse cannot pull them loose (e.g., sleeve installation).
- Facility must have an established relationship with a local veterinarian(s) prior to arrival, who shall provide adequate veterinary care to its animals and is legally licensed to practice veterinary medicine in the state where the temporary housing is located.
  - Local veterinary care must be established by facility prior to each temporary housing location.
  - Veterinarian must be accessible 24/7 during the duration of stay including emergency, weekend, and holiday care. Veterinarian must be able to be on-site within one hour in case of emergency.

## Temporary Housing

- All facilities must comply with The Horse Protection Act, U.S. Code Title 15, Chapter 44 -- Protection of Horses - Sections 1821-1831.
- Minimum size 10.0 ft. x 10.0 ft (3.2 x 3.2 m) for temporary stall or short-term confinement in a tie stall. If loose in temporary stall 10 ft. x 10 ft. (3.0 x 3.0 m) for up to 1200 lb. horse, 12.0 ft. x 12.0 ft (3.7 x 3.7 m) for 1500-2000 lb horse. Minimum vertical dimension of 12 feet (3.7 m.). This space is not primary housing for any equine species larger than a donkey.
- Minimum size 10.0 ft. x 10.0 ft (3.2 x 3.2 m) for **portable short term** confinement.
- Temperature and humidity gauge should be placed in the temporary stables to always monitor the temp/humidity. The gauge can be placed so only facility employees can read the gauge.
- Stall floors must absorb some of the impact and weight of a horse to reduce stress on the horse's legs and ease foot problems. The floor must be nonslip to prevent injuries, non-odor (ammonia) retentive, and nonabsorbent.
- Absorbent bedding (i.e., shavings, pellets, straw) may be used on top of stall floors depending on local conditions and weather. Amount must be appropriate to provide comfort for the animal, absorb urine and reduce ammonia odors. A properly designed french drain stall floor system with decomposed granite or properly moistened sand-based bedding may be more conducive for the horses health and comfort in some situations.
- Temporary housing must be cleaned/disinfected prior to horses being placed in loaned stalls.



- Soiled bedding must be removed and replaced daily.
- Temporary housing must provide secure shelter and protection for equines during inclement weather as needed.
- Temporary housing plan must provide alternate temporary placement for sick, injured and compromised animals.
- Separated animals must have visual and tactile access to group members.
- Temporary housing must be large enough to allow all animals to comfortably move around and to lie down.
- Stall and pen walls must be smooth, free of all projections, and of adequate size for the number of animals to be housed and to prevent casting.
- Stall doors must have secure latches.
- All animals must be housed under conditions that provide sufficient space as well as supplementary structures and resources required to meet physical, physiologic, and behavioral needs.
- Temporary housing design must take into account caregiver and equine safety.
- Temporary housing must provide security from predators and unauthorized human access.
- Safe and appropriate areas must be maintained to secure equines. All cross-ties and other ties should have safety release snaps.
- Safe footing must be provided in cross-tie areas. (e.g. smooth/slick concrete vs brushed concrete vs rubber mats).
- An evacuation plan and route should be posted at all temporary housing facilities.

## Hitched Teams

- Only animals trained to the harness and the type of hitch utilized may be used.
- All animals must be controllable at all times.
- A driver or animal handler with experience and knowledge in working with harnessed animals must be used and must maintain direct, hands-on control of harnessed/hitched animals at all times.
- All animals in a hitched team must be of similar size and stature, and in good health and condition.
- All harnesses must be in good condition, well-fitted to the animals used, and appropriate for the work being performed. Adequate adjustment and fitting of the harnesses to the animals is necessary to reduce sores on necks from collars or of flanks from britching. Any equipment found to be cracked, worn or dry-rotted must not be used.
- The weight of the apparatus to be pulled must be considered, and the appropriate number of animals must be used to ensure that no animals are overloaded or overdriven.
  - Other factors, such as environmental and climatic conditions, (see AH Heat Index and AQI chart), whether natural or man-made, affect how much weight an animal can pull and must be considered.
  - Mud, grades (uphill or downhill), frequent stopping and starting, apparatus loaded with cargo or persons, etc., cause harnessed animals to work harder, can tire animals quickly and could cause injury.

- All apparatus to be pulled (e.g., wagons, carriages, artillery pieces) must be in good working order: no rotten, cracked, worn or missing parts or ungreased fittings.
- A harnessed animal must never be left unattended. Animals must never be unbridled while still hitched. A driver or experienced animal handler must maintain direct, hands-on control of hitched teams at all times.
- It is important to establish a safe working distance around a hitched team. This includes the sides and rear of the apparatus to which the animals are hitched. Moving vehicles must maintain a safe distance of 25 feet around the entire hitch.
- Spectators must not be allowed to approach a hitch without permission from the driver — and even then, only when absolutely necessary.
- Harnessed animals must be unhitched or a tongue prop used between setups or breaks.
- When performing intense action in harness (e.g., stunts or water crossings), horses must be hitched with quick-release snaps or clevises devices to ensure the quick removal of animals, when necessary.

## **Prohibited Performance Actions**

- No drugs, including anesthetics, sedatives, may be administered to an animal for the purpose of performing.
- Under certain circumstances, and with prior approval by both American Humane and the animal's veterinarian, the administration of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs may be permitted.
- At no time may an animal be used which has been administered a drug to conceal any defects or lameness of the animal.
- The practice of nerve-blocking an animal for performance is prohibited.
- No pregnant or lactating horses are allowed to participate in performance or strenuous activity.
- No horse under the age of 4 years is allowed to participate in horse-racing scenes.
- No tripping devices, wires or pitfalls are permitted for use with any animal.
- Horse jumps or falls into water must not be from a height of more than 6 feet. Horses must be properly trained to perform these stunts. The water depth must be adequate to safely cushion the fall. Appropriate underwater footing must be provided, and the exit pathway must also provide secure and stable footing.
- In horse-jumping scenes, the top rails of the jumps must be "breakaway," "fall-away" or made of scored balsa wood.
- For jumping, lie down and rearing, the number of jumps/rears allowed and the duration of a lie down will be dependent upon the action, the animal's skill and condition, and other environmental factors.
- Sliding or riding down sandbanks or earth slides must be done only by experienced riders on experienced horses.
- Only trained jumping horses may be used in jumping scenes; and only trained rearing horses may be used in rearing scenes. Rearing horses must not be pulled over backwards.
- The practice of stationary/standing horse falls, and, slow motion/walking horse falls, with or without a mounted rider, must be approved in advance by American Humane.

- Standing/stationary or slow motion/walking horse falls must be performed in a controlled environment with an appropriate landing spot.
- The animal must demonstrate proper training to perform the action on cue.  
Skid and hock boots must be used in downhill slides or rodeo/reining slide stops.
- Saddle drags must only be accomplished on horses trained to do so.
- Breakaway materials must be used in scenes where horses paw, strike or kick stationary scenery or props. Otherwise, the horse action must be simulated using an artificial horse leg or other such device.
- An Animal Technical Rescue plan should be included to account for any incident where an animal becomes entrapped and cannot walk out of the entrapment.

## **Working Animals Standards - CANINE**

### **Environment**

#### **Housing - General**

- Facility must adhere to all “Regulations and Standards in the Title 9 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.), Chapter 1, Subchapter A - Animal Welfare.”
- Facility is ultimately responsible for the safety and welfare of dogs. Prior to the dog’s arrival, Animal handlers/owners must coordinate with facility as to who will provide shade, shelter, crates and/or fencing for dogs.
- All dogs must be housed under conditions that provide sufficient space as well as supplementary structures and resources required to meet physical, physiologic, and behavioral needs.
- The primary enclosure must provide a secure environment that does not permit animal escape and must be made of durable, nontoxic materials that resist corrosion, withstand the rigors of cleaning and regular handling, and are not detrimental to the health of the animals.
- The enclosure must be designed and manufactured to prevent accidental entrapment of animals or their appendages and must be free of sharp edges or projections that could cause injury to the animals or personnel.
- The enclosure must have smooth, impervious surfaces with minimal ledges, angles, corners, and overlapping surfaces so that accumulation of dirt, debris, and moisture is minimized, and cleaning and disinfecting are not impaired.
- All enclosures must be kept in good repair to prevent escape of or injury to animals, promote physical comfort, and facilitate sanitation and servicing.
- Animals must be housed in appropriate numbers to prevent overcrowding.
- Temperature and humidity gauges must be in every housing area to monitor the temp/humidity. The gauge can be placed so only facility employees can read the gauge.
- Enclosure temperature and humidity must be species appropriate and follow American Humane guidelines.
- Facility lighting must be sufficient to allow adequate cleaning and inspections.

- Lighting cycles for areas that have animals must support the normal circadian rhythm.

## **Appearance and Behavior**

### **Health Appearance**

- Appropriate size and weight for the animal's age
- Healthy, smooth coat appropriate for season.
- Any wounds or sores should be medicated with a written treatment plan from the veterinary team.
- Eyes bright and fully open, not cloudy; no discharge
- Nose free of discharge; no labored breathing
- Ears free of discharge; no cuts or scabs
- No external parasites
- No evidence of diarrhea
- Alert and active with no evidence of lameness and no head tilt

### **Canine Behavior**

- No evidence of aggression
- Appear to be appropriately socialized with other animals
- Exhibiting "normal" behavior for the species
- Enrichment opportunities are available and used appropriately
- Animals are handled safely
- Animals appear to be free from stress

## **Cleaning**

- Animal enclosures must be spot cleaned daily as needed to remove waste and perishable food.
- Enclosures must be cleaned and disinfected as needed
- An animal enclosure must have no more than 20% of the bedding/substrate soiled/dirty at any time.
- Additional bedding (towels, blankets, dog beds, etc.)
- Ambient ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) levels in the enclosures/facility must not exceed 10 ppm.
- Food and water containers must be sanitized regularly as needed.
- Water lines must be opaque, and a program must be developed to ensure water in all automated watering systems are in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.  
<https://www.epa.gov/laws-regulations/summary-safe-drinking-water-act>
- All cleaning and disinfecting products must be appropriate for staff and animals.
- Special care must be taken when cleaning habitats to reduce cross contamination between habitats.
- Safety data sheets must be readily available for all chemicals used in the facility.
- Facility must always be kept neat and clean.

- During thorough cleaning and disinfecting, animals must be removed and placed in temporary habitats for animals' safety and to allow for thorough disinfecting of the enclosure.
- Habitats must be cleaned and disinfected before new animals are placed in the environment.
- Employees must be properly trained on how to safely and effectively clean and disinfect enclosures.
- All non-porous enclosure contents (enrichment items, food receptacles, etc.) must be in good condition and able to be cleaned and fully disinfected.
- All porous enclosure contents (dog beds, soft toys, blankets, towels) must be in good condition and able to be cleaned.

## **Nutrition**

### **Food, Feedings and Water – General**

- Food must be palatable, wholesome, nutritious, species specific and available as appropriate for each species.
  - All food shall be provided in sufficient quantity and frequency to meet the normal daily requirements and maintain a body condition score of 4-5.
  - Frozen food that has been thawed and not used must be discarded.
- Employees must track feeding schedules.
- Feedings must only be done by adequately trained employees.
- Fresh water must always be available to canines.
- Water provided by bottles must be checked daily and refilled as needed.
- All automated watering systems must be designed to prevent animals in enclosures from drowning if the watering system leaks.

## **Health**

- The alteration of the tail and ears of all canine species is not allowed.
- All breeding events must be recorded.
- Regular grooming/bathing of canine(s) must be tracked and performed as needed to maintain optimal health.
- All illness must be tracked electronically or hard copy form and include information of date/species/problem/treatment at a minimum.
  - Medications used to treat the animal must be included.
- All mortality must be tracked and recorded.
- Facility must follow a veterinarian approved exercise plan that meets physical and psychological needs of canine(s). Each dog's needs must be addressed individually considering such factors as the breed, age, and conditioning of the dog. Exercise plan must be available for review.

## **Veterinary Care**

- Facility must have an ongoing relationship with a veterinarian who shall provide adequate veterinary care to its animals and is legally licensed to practice veterinary medicine in the state the facility is located.
- Formal arrangement must include a veterinary care plan. The facility must assure that a corporate or consulting veterinarian has appropriate authority to ensure the provision of adequate veterinary care and to oversee the adequacy of other aspects of animal care.
- All sick or injured animals must be seen by a veterinarian, a veterinarian be consulted about the animal's condition, or a veterinary approved protocol be enacted within 24 hours of the illness or injury being noticed.
- A canine exhibiting signs consistent with Gastric Dilatation and Volvulus (GDV) (e.g. enlarged abdomen, rapid or shallow breathing, increase in heart rate, cold body temperature, unsuccessful attempts to vomit, excessive saliva, pale nose or gums, restlessness, pacing, and anxiety, etc.) **must be seen by a veterinarian immediately.**
- The program of adequate veterinary care must include:
  - The availability of appropriate facilities, personnel, equipment, and services to comply to provide adequate care.
  - The use of appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries, and 24/7 availability including emergency, weekend, and holiday care.
  - A mechanism of direct and frequent communication so that timely and accurate information on problems of animal health, behavior, and well-being is conveyed to the contracted veterinarian.
  - Adequate guidance to personnel involved in the care and use of animals regarding handling, immobilization, anesthesia, analgesia, tranquilization, and euthanasia.
  - Adequate pre-procedural and post-procedural care in accordance with established veterinary medical and nursing procedures.
- Facility must have a designated isolation area for ill animals being treated for communicable diseases or in need of convalescence. This must be a quiet, private area with the ability for staff to hand sanitize before leaving the room.
- Isolation room lighting cycles must support the animal's normal circadian rhythm.
- Facility must have protocol for monitoring animals' health daily.
- Veterinary visits must be recorded and updated as needed.
- All canines must have a minimum of two health/wellness/preventative examinations performed by a veterinarian each year.
- All animal medical records must be kept a minimum of two (2) years and updated as needed and be in compliance with the state veterinary medicinal board.

## **All facilities must adhere to the following healthcare standards for all canine species:**

- AAHA-AVMA Canine Preventive Healthcare Guidelines
  - <https://www.avma.org/KB/Policies/Pages/AAHA-AVMA-Canine-Preventive-Healthcare-Guidelines.aspx>



- AAHA Canine Vaccination Guidelines
  - [https://www.aaha.org/guidelines/canine\\_vaccination\\_guidelines.aspx](https://www.aaha.org/guidelines/canine_vaccination_guidelines.aspx)
- AAHA Canine Life Stage Guidelines
  - [https://www.aaha.org/public\\_documents/professional/guidelines/canine\\_guidelines\\_toolkit\\_booklet.pdf](https://www.aaha.org/public_documents/professional/guidelines/canine_guidelines_toolkit_booklet.pdf)
- AVDC Periodontal Disease
  - <http://www.avdc.org/periodontaldisease.html>

## Medication

- All prescription medications must be prescribed by a veterinarian and administered only by properly trained employees under the guidance of a licensed veterinarian.
  - Medications for one animal must not be given to another animal without specific directions to do so.
- Prophylactic treatments may be used to eliminate parasites.
- Prescription medications must have a prescription label on the medication bottle or container/box that is in compliance with the state veterinary medicinal board requirements.
- The use of prophylactic or sub-therapeutic antibiotics is prohibited.
- Prophylactic treatments may be used to treat/eliminate parasites.
  - Prophylactic treatments used to treat/eliminate parasites may not include antibiotics.
- Safety data sheets must be available for all medications used and stored in the facility.
- Records of medications given must be kept a minimum of two (2) years and updated as needed and be in compliance with the state veterinary medicinal board.
- Expired medications must be discarded appropriately.

## Storage of Food, Medicine, and Bedding

- All food must be stored properly in a cool and dry place sealed to prevent moisture and vermin access.
  - Food must be stored off the ground for added security.
- Food must be dated and have necessary information to track possible recalls.
- Storage containers must be cleaned as needed to maintain the integrity of the food.
- Food containers must be cleaned before adding fresh food to container.
- Fresh food must not be placed on top of existing food in containers.
- Food containers and/or bags must be appropriately labeled and include an expiration date.
- Prescription medicine must be securely stored with restrictive access.
- Medicine and supplements must be dated and clearly labeled/identified.
- Medications should not be stored with non-medications.
- Insecticides/pesticides and herbicides must be correctly labeled and stored separately from all other products.
- Bedding/substrate must be securely stored to prevent contamination from outside sources.
  - Bedding must be stored off the ground for added security.



## **New Canine Arrivals**

- Dogs coming from different facilities and/or locations must be in good health and fully vaccinated.
- All dogs must be properly acclimated and introduced to each other under supervision to prevent any stress or injury
- Dogs must be housed in such a manner as to prevent the spread of disease and sickness

## **Breeding Canine Species**

<https://www.theriogenology.org/page/PositionStatements#Welfare> - The American College of Theriogenologists and Society for Theriogenology

- Animals must be provided water, food, proper handling, health care, and environments appropriate to their species and use, and should be cared for in ways that prevent and minimize fear, pain, distress, and suffering.
- Specifically, all breeding animals must be housed in clean, properly sized facilities that permit them to express normal behavior, include environmental enrichment, and are appropriate for stage of life. Male and female dogs may be co-housed in social units except for those times when bitches are in estrus. Specific attention to individual temperament to avoid inter-animal aggression is required. Regular observation of and interaction with dogs by handlers must occur.
- Dogs must have access to a balanced diet that is appropriate for their life stage and fed to them in a manner that will permit them to maintain a body condition score (BCS) of 4 or 5 out of 9, excepting certain breeds of dogs such as sight hounds that are naturally lean in body type. Fresh water must be available. Dogs must have routine health care and disease prophylaxis including regular veterinary examination, vaccination, internal and external parasite control, dental care and coat care when applicable.
- Dogs intended for breeding must be evaluated for hereditary disorders before being bred. Owners of breeding dogs must develop a breeding plan with a veterinarian to minimize or eliminate production of puppies with hereditary defects.
- All dogs intended for breeding must be appropriately tested for canine brucellosis to prevent spread of this disease. At a minimum, both members of a breeding pair must be tested prior to each breeding. All dogs intended for breeding must be regularly tested for canine brucellosis, either at the time of breeding or every six months.
- Intact male dogs must be regularly evaluated by a veterinarian for prostate and testicular disease. Bitches must be regularly evaluated by a veterinarian for pyometra and mammary neoplasia. Decisions about when to spay or castrate individual dogs and bitches no longer intended for breeding must be made with the counsel of a veterinarian.
- Bitches must not be bred before they are physically mature and must not be bred on the first estrous cycle without the advice of a veterinarian.

- Bitches may be bred on consecutive estrous cycles if they maintain or regain their breed appropriate body condition and are deemed healthy on the basis of veterinarian examination prior to the onset of the next proestrus.

## **End of Life Standards and Protocol**

- Euthanasia of all animals must be performed by a licensed veterinarian.
- Euthanasia protocols must be species specific and follow AVMA guidelines.
  - Euthanizing any animal by hypothermia in a freezer is NOT allowed.
- Euthanasia must be performed in a secure and sanitary location.
- Disposal of deceased animals must follow local, state, and federal laws.
- Records of euthanasia must be kept a minimum of two (2) years and updated as needed and be in compliance with the state veterinary medicinal board.

## **Transportation**

### **General**

- Dogs must be at least 8 weeks old and weaned before any transport for commercial purposes.
- Dogs must only be transported in fully enclosed vehicles to ensure their safety.
- Kennels/crates and other shipping containers must meet the minimum standard for size, ventilation, strength, sanitation and design for safe handling.
  - At a minimum, must follow USDA regulations on the size of pet kennels used to transport animals. Any kennel used must be sturdy, properly ventilated, and large enough for dog to stand, lie down and turn around freely. The kennel must close securely with a mechanism that requires no special tools to operate.
  - Travel kennels must have the ability to be locked.
- All appropriate required documents (local, state, and federal) for each mode of transportation (company-owned vehicles and other transports) must accompany each shipment such as: health certificates from place of origin, certificate of compliance, and acclimation certificates.
- Provisions must be made for food and water in the transport containers and account for the possibility of transportation delays.
- The amount of time spent in during transit, without being removed, must be less than 8 hours.
- Enclosures must always allow the animals proper footing.
- After traveling, animals must be allowed adequate time to rest and acclimate prior to beginning work.

### **Monitoring During Transport**

- During transportation of dogs, it is the responsibility of the carrier to physically observe the dogs as frequently as circumstances allow, but not less than once every 4 hours.
- Transport kennel(s) must always maintain appropriate temperatures for all species and meet temperature guidelines listed by American Humane.
- Transport kennel(s) must have a temperature gauge visible to the driver.
- Transport kennel(s) temperature must be continually monitored throughout the trip.
- The vehicle must be monitored with a GPS during transport.
  - Cameras that monitor the driver at all times are advisable.
- Vehicles used in transport must be regularly inspected and maintained and include a vehicle safety kit and fire extinguisher.
- Vehicle drivers must be provided with a checklist to ensure the interior of the vehicle (heat, lights, etc. are properly working before each transport).
- Drivers must be trained in animal transport.
  - Driver must carry backup food and water for each animal species.

## **Emergency Protocol**

- Emergency protocols must be in place and updated regularly.
- In case of vehicle malfunction or accident, plans must include a protocol for maintaining correct temperature.
- In case of delay caused by an accident or malfunction, an emergency plan must include a back-up transportation method (bringing to another location or offloading to another driver).
- Safeguards protecting against the theft of the vehicles, trailers and animals must be in place.
- Transportation vehicles must be always monitored by a GPS at all times.
- The driver must carry an extra set of keys.
- Vehicles/trailer must be equipped with proper fire extinguishers.
- The driver must have appropriate safety equipment and reflective signage to be visible after dark if pulled to side of road.
- The driver shall maintain and update a vehicle inspection list every 6 months to include working lights, floorboard inspection, engine inspection, tire inspection and spare tire equipment.
- The driver shall possess the appropriate driver's license classification for the size and weight of the rig.

## **Performance Standards**

### **General**

- Dogs must never be left unattended or unsecured in a manner that would be unsafe or uncomfortable for the dogs.
- Dogs must not be left in the care of any person who is inexperienced in the proper care of dogs.
- Only dogs that are in appropriate condition to work may be used.

- Dogs that are underweight, overweight or otherwise not in appropriate physical or behavioral condition to perform the required work must not be used.
- Dogs must be trained and prepped in advance to perform the required action.
- Dogs that will be working with any other animal and/or species of animal must be given appropriate time to acclimate to each other and to the environment.
- Care must be taken to prevent dogs from being overworked. This can be accomplished in the following ways:
  - Must not perform in the hottest or coldest times of year in areas where heat or cold may become an animal-safety issue.
  - Maintain a sufficient supply of ice and water at the location to be used to cool canines during times of extreme heat.
  - Work in early morning or late afternoon, when temperatures are lower, during times of extreme heat.
  - Perform during the warmest part of the day during periods of extreme cold.
  - Provide animals with wind breaks and heaters during cold weather.
  - Limit rehearsals.
  - Provide sufficient rest periods between working/shows.
  - Provide a sufficient supply of backup animals so the animals can be rotated.
  - Have an adequate number of animal handlers available to provide cooling or warming to the animals.
  - Use protective gear when needed (booties, attire, etc.)
- Dogs must have access to water both during and off performances, have access to shade in extreme heat, and have adequate rest periods equal to or greater than their working time. If a dog becomes fatigued, a rest period must be provided.
- Care must be taken to ensure that dogs do not escape the performance or location. Facility and the animal handler must also have a safety plan in place that will prevent the escape of a dog and provide for a dog's safe recapture should an accident or escape occur.

## Training and Acclimation

- All dogs must be trained, acclimated, and prepared in advance for the planned action. Any dog that is not prepared must be removed and not used. No drugs may be administered to a dog for the purposes of a performance.
- Dogs should be professionally trained to follow voice commands and trained to stay within designated boundaries.
- Dogs may not be trained with any device that emits electric stimulation.
- Dogs may not be maintained or kept within boundaries by/with the use of any device that emits electric stimulation.
- The handling/touching of dogs must be limited to essential personnel only. Essential personnel include animal handlers designated to handle dogs.
  - Only animal handlers are permitted to handle dogs. Any interaction between dogs and the public must be directly supervised.
- Dogs that will be working with any other dog and/or other species of animal must be given appropriate time to acclimate to each other.

- When dogs are working with cats or other species of animals, in addition to production and the animal handler ensuring the safety of the animals, the dogs must be trained and prepared to work with the animals so that the work is not stressful.
- Training and/or cueing equipment must be used safely and humanely. Training and cueing equipment must not cause pain or discomfort.
- When predator/prey relationships are to be depicted, animals must be trained or conditioned to accomplish the action, or the action must be simulated.

## **Vehicles**

- When dogs must work around moving vehicles, they must be adequately trained and acclimated. Vehicles must maintain a safe speed and distance from dogs. Consideration will be given to whether the dogs are loose, contained, or under the direct hands-on control of an individual as well as their training and acclimation, the terrain, and climate/weather conditions.
- Dogs riding in an open vehicle, such as in the back of a pickup truck or wagon, must be restrained using a secured crate, safety harness and proper tether or be under the direct hands-on control of an individual. The lead or tether must be short enough to prevent the dog from reaching the sides of the vehicle.
- Vehicles used in a performance with dogs must not travel faster than 25 mph.
- Dogs riding INSIDE moving vehicles should be restrained using a crate or safety harness and proper tether.

## **Prohibited Performance Actions - Canine**

- Dogs must not be held by the scruff unless their body is supported.
- Tie-downs, waist ties, and hobbles must not be used with dogs that have not been properly trained to wear them.
- Muzzles should never be used for control of an aggressive dog. Aggressive animals must immediately be isolated and removed.
- The use of any device, collar, nails, screws, or other sharp instruments that may cause pain or discomfort are prohibited.
- The use of operable electric stimulation devices such as electric collars and/or prods are not permitted.
- When cueing a dog to get a reaction, only noise or visual stimuli must be used. The least amount of noise or visual stimuli should be used to get the desired reaction. Loud noises such as gunfire and explosions/squibs must not be used to get a reaction.

## **Staff Training**

- Employers must follow all state, local, and federal labor laws.
- Employers have a duty of care to their employees to take all the steps which are reasonably possible to ensure their health, safety, and wellbeing.
- Each shift must have enough staff to ensure that animals are properly and attentively cared for.

- All staff must be properly trained in order to work with animals. Re-training must be completed as needed.
  - Training must include, but is not limited to proper cleaning techniques, animal care techniques, animal handling techniques, and training in how to monitor visual cues of the health of the animals.
- Training and re-training records must be kept for a minimum of two years.
- Personal biosecurity and safety measures must be made available to staff (gloves, protective coverings, hand washing/sanitation stations).
  - Information on the healthy way to handle animals must be available.
- Pre-employment screening protocols are encouraged either internally or using a third party.
- Security measures must be in place to ensure employees are only able to access areas that pertain to their responsibilities at agreed upon times.

## **Safety & Sanitation**

### **Biosecurity**

- Facilities must have a biosecurity plan designed to minimize cross-contamination between all areas created with input from your corporate or consulting veterinarian. The use of personal protective equipment (PPE) between areas must be used where appropriate to prevent cross contamination.
- Animal rooms must be equipped with full hand washing stations, or, at minimum, hand-sanitizer stations.
- If a dog charges, threatens, or bites any person or animal, it must be removed immediately from the location. If a dog bite incident occurs that results in the breaking of human skin and/or bleeding, facility should take the following steps:
  - Must be reported to a supervisor/manager on duty
  - A doctor should examine any dog bite to a person
  - A veterinarian should examine any dog bite to another animal
  - \*Any dog bite that requires medical or veterinary attention must be reported to the local animal control agency or public health agency (as appropriate in the jurisdiction) and to American Humane
  - Facility must provide in writing the biting dog's licensing and vaccination information, and its owner's name and address, to the person bitten, the involved health agency and American Humane
- Areas must be clearly marked as restricted for employees only where applicable.
- Canines must be safely and securely contained and protected from general public when not in the presence of handler/staff.
- Waste disposal must follow state, local, and federal guidelines.

### **Remediation in the Event of a Zoonotic Outbreak**

This section is for zoonotic outbreaks involving local, state, or federal involvement and is not intended for normal day-to-day occurrences with common diseases.



Movement of animals, habitats and equipment within the areas of facility without prior sanitation and disinfection must not occur.

- Staff working with infected (or potentially infected) animals must have access to appropriate personal protective equipment (dust mask/respirators, gloves, washable coveralls, and footwear).
- Facility must cooperate fully with the Centers for Disease Control, local or state health departments, and departments of agriculture or animal health.
- All recent records of shipments must be made available to inspectors.
- Customers that have received animals must be notified immediately.
  - Customers of all animals shipped after the pathogen was documented must be notified immediately, including animals potentially exposed to the pathogen prior to discovery.
- Transporters of animals in transit must be notified immediately by the appropriate personnel.
- Animals in the facility must be isolated until the extent of the outbreak has been determined.

## Emergency Contingency Planning

- All dogs must be microchipped and registered for identification.
- Facility must develop, document, and follow an appropriate plan to provide for the humane handling, treatment, transportation, housing, and care of their animals in the event of an emergency or disaster (one which could reasonably be anticipated and expected to be detrimental to the good health and well-being of the animals in their possession). Such contingency plans must:
  - Identify situations the facility might experience that would trigger the need for the measures identified in a contingency plan to be put into action including, but not limited to, emergencies such as electrical outages, faulty HVAC systems, fires, mechanical breakdowns, and animal escapes, as well as natural disasters most likely to be experienced.
  - Outline specific tasks required to be carried out in response to the identified emergencies or disasters including, but not limited to, detailed animal evacuation instructions or shelter-in-place instructions and provisions for providing backup sources of food and water as well as sanitation, ventilation, bedding, veterinary care, etc.
  - Identify a chain of command and who (by name or by position title) will be responsible for fulfilling these tasks.
  - Address how response and recovery will be handled in terms of materials, resources, and training needed.
  - Canines must not be kept in kennels during hurricanes or tornados unless the facility is designed and rated to endure such storms.