



NEWWC

**NATIONAL EQUINE
WELFARE COUNCIL**

ESTABLISHED 1977

NEWWC Standards (Equine Keeping)

Governance & Legal Responsibilities

Legal Requirements

Requirements

- 1 All requirements of the Charity Commission are met (where applicable)
- 2 Suitable Public Liability Insurance cover is in place and current certification is displayed appropriately
- 3 Suitable Employers Liability insurance cover is in place and current insurance certification is displayed appropriately
- 4 Staff are GDPR trained and all personal data being stored is GDPR compliant
- 5 A suitable safeguarding policy is in place, and includes provision for under 18s if applicable

Health & Safety Requirements

Requirements

First Aid

- 1 The organisation has the appropriate number of suitably qualified first aiders, including mental health first aiders.
- 2 Details of First Aiders are displayed appropriately
- 3 Sufficient and well supplied first aid kits are available at all times

Fire safety

- 1 There is a preventative Fire Risk Assessment for staff, volunteers and equines
- 2 There is an emergency Fire Evacuation Plan available and all staff are aware of the procedure
- 3 Appropriate fire notices are clearly displayed
- 4 Fire Assembly Points are cleared signposted
- 5 Regular fire drills are undertaken and documented

Risk Management

- 1 Up to date risk assessments are in place for all activities and areas of the organisation and are regularly reviewed.
- 2 Staff and volunteers have access to risk assessments and have signed to confirm it is their responsibility to adhere to them
- 3 Hazardous substances are appropriately and securely stored (COSHH)
- 4 A suitable system is in place for the monitoring and storage of veterinary consumables
- 5 A suitable system is in place for the disposal of medical / veterinary waste

Policies and Records

- 1 A suitable Health and Safety policy is in place and available
- 2 A Health and Safety at Work Act poster is completed and displayed
- 3 An accident book and accident record system is in place along with a clear accident reporting procedure
- 4 Accidents and Near Misses are regularly reviewed and appropriate follow up action is taken if required
- 5 Accidents are reported to RIDDOR as required
- 6 An up to date COSHH assessment / register is completed and available
- 7 OHS Compliance records are recorded and maintained - PAT Testing, Vehicle Checks, Electrical Checks, Machinery and Equipment Servicing and Maintenance
- 8 Policies are held for working with young or vulnerable persons (if applicable)

HR Requirements

Requirements

- 1 A clear management / line reporting structure is in place
- 2 Job / role descriptions are in place for all employed staff, trainees, work-based apprentices and volunteers

3	Contracts of employment are in place for all employed staff, trainees, work-based apprentices
4	A suitable staff handbook is available to all employees
5	A suitable induction takes place for all employees and volunteers which includes Health and Safety policies
6	A Diversity and Inclusion policy is in place
7	Staff training needs are identified and there is an ongoing review and CPD process
Policies and Procedures	
Requirements	
1	A Policy and Procedure review system is in place and adhered to.
2	Policies and Procedures are accessible and have been read, understood and signed by relevant employees and volunteers.
3	The organisation have a written Euthanasia policy / procedure in place.
4	The organisation have written isolation / biosecurity policies / procedure for new arrivals.
5	The organisation have a written admission policy / procedure for new arrivals.
6	The organisation has a written policy for vaccinations for influenza & tetanus as a minimum for equines on site and on loan (to include regularity of boosters as guided by your vet).
7	The organisation have a policy / procedure in place for disease outbreak and quarantine.
8	The organisation have a non-breeding / castration policy in place.
9	The organisation have a written policy / procedure for travelling different types/sizes/temperaments of equines.
10	The organisation has a lone worker policy / procedure including the working of equines alone.
11	The organisation have a current handling, training and riding policy / procedure.
12	The organisation has a rider weight policy.
13	The organisation has a Whistle blowing policy and guidance.
14	NEWC and Defra Codes of Practices and are available.
Future-Proofing Requirements	
Requirements	
1	There is a clear succession planning for the continuation of the organisation into the future should it be faced by various scenarios: E.G. key personnel unable to continue, funding variances, environmental influences.
2	Delivery Plans are in place: Annual and 5/10 year forecasting and planning for the organisation, goals and how these will be achieved.
3	Sustainability and/or Environmental plan: The impact of the organisation's activities on the planet and surrounding environment has been considered. E.G. Waste Management, lowering of carbon footprint, Holistic Grazing & Land Management.
Equine Identification Regulations	
Requirements	
1	Passports are kept on site for all equines present
2	For equines not on site (such as those on loan) passports are kept with the keeper and an electronic copy is held on file
3	On arrival all microchips are read and cross matched with the horses passport (if applicable)
4	Equines not microchipped are microchipped on arrival at the organisation (if permitted)
5	When an equine enters the organisation without a passport, a passport is applied for within 30 days of arrival (if permitted).
6	Confirmation of transfer of ownership from the previous owner to the organisation is held on file (if applicable).

Environment (Facilities & Housing)

Pasture Management System

Requirements

- 1 The management system in place is appropriate for the equines kept; having regard to their species specific, individual & group needs (including the opportunity for freedom of movement, social interaction and the provision of suitable shelter).
- 2 The grazing system(s) meets the nutritional needs of the equines (with supplementary forage provided / grazing restricted as required).
- 3 Where supplementary forage is provided this is presented in a way that allows access to all equines, minimises conflict and avoids poaching of adjacent area.
- 4 Individual turnout is available if required (for example for health, isolation, stallion management).
- 5 Pasture is managed to control the spread of parasites.
- 6 Pasture is managed effectively to mitigate poaching and overgrazing.
- 7 Pasture is free from hazards, poisonous plants and trees.
- 8 Equines have access to a dry area where they can stand / rest.
- 9 Donkeys & their hybrids have access to shelter and hard standing when kept outside / on pasture.
- 10 The use of any chemicals is carried out in accordance with manufacturers guidance (e.g. dosage, access).

Fencing

- 1 All fencing is suitable for the equines on site, taking into account to their size, species, sex and behaviour.
- 3 Fencing is well maintained and kept free of any sharp edges or projections.
- 4 Boundary fences are secure and not solely electric fencing on temporary posts.
- 5 Where hedges are used to form a barrier these are checked regularly to ensure that they form a secure boundary.
- 6 Dividing fences between groups and/or individuals are double fenced / spaced where appropriate.
- 7 Where stock fencing is used, the mesh is of suitable dimensions for the equines kept (for example, specialist horse mesh fencing).
- 8 Barbed wire is not used unless equine access can be prevented (for example, restricted by electric fencing).
- 9 Electric fencing is appropriately installed, well maintained & checked daily to avoid risk of injury (consideration given to safety measures, such as the use of breakers etc).
- 10 Electric fencing is tested regularly to ensure it is functioning properly & the resulting shock is proportionate.
- 11 When introducing equines to electric fencing for the first time, additional supervision is provided.
- 12 Where plain wire is used consideration is given to visibility.
- 13 Gateways are wide enough for their intended purpose (e.g. access for people, equines, machinery) and appropriately secured to prevent escape or misuse e.g. gates in public areas are padlocked.
- 14 Double gates are used where appropriate.
- 15 Appropriate signage is displayed, particularly in areas accessible by the public.

Water supply

- 1 All equines have constant access to clean, fresh water and provision is made to ensure this in periods of hot or cold weather conditions.
- 2 Where natural water sources such as streams are relied upon these are free of contaminants, have a suitable base & offer safe access for all equines.

Shelter

- 1 All equines have access to appropriate shelter at all times, which may include natural shelter.
- 2 Man-made shelters are safe in their construction & suitably secured.
- 3 The shelter is suitable for the number, size, type and condition of the equines kept and the environmental conditions, this may include natural shelter.
- 4 Donkeys and their hybrids have access to a roofed man-made shelter and access to hard standing at all times.

Stables & Housing

Requirements

- 1 Housing areas are appropriate for the needs of the equines on site and have regard for the needs of the individuals as well as the group.
- 2 Any individual housing used is of the correct size to accommodate the equine as per the guidance from BHS.
- 3 There is at least 90cm between the top of equine ears (when standing) to the eaves of the housing roof.
- 4 Where equines are kept in groups and/or communal housing, the space is large enough to allow equines to move freely & for all equines to lay down at the same time and access resources (food and water) without competition.
- 5 There are sufficient resources for the type & number of equines housed together & these are positioned to mitigate against areas of conflict.
- 6 There are suitable provisions for indoor housing at short notice as required in an emergency.
- 7 Surfaces are made of durable non-toxic material and can withstand cleaning and disinfectant.
- 8 All housing areas are free of any sharp edges or hazards.
- 9 Doorways and other routes of passage are suitable in width & height for the equines to pass through freely and avoid conflict with others.
- 10 Floor surfaces are non-slip and allow good drainage.
- 11 Lighting is sufficient to allow for observation of equines in all areas and conditions.
- 12 Equines can escape draughts or direct sunlight if they choose.

13	Housing is well ventilated.
14	Housing is situated in an area away from consistent noise to ensure that all equines can experience adequate rest.
15	Where appropriate consideration is given to temperature and additional heat sources e.g. heat lamp for elderly / sick equines.
	Bedding
1	Bedding is non-toxic / dust free if appropriate for the equines needs.
2	Sufficient bedding is provided to protect against injury when laying down and to create a comfortable, dry resting place.
3	Housing that is in use is clean, mucked out after use and bedding systems are suitably managed.
4	Deep litter systems are managed appropriately to ensure a clean, dry resting area.
5	Rubber matting is not used on its own and additional bedding is provided.
	Waste Management
1	Muck heaps are positioned in an appropriate location, preventing equine access & having regard to any water courses (at least 10m from a water course).
2	Muck heaps are of appropriate construction to manage water run off (e.g. solid base / drainage system).
3	If burning muck heaps, this is carried out in compliance with appropriate legislation.
4	A sustainable system of soiled bedding/waste/muck disposal is in place.

Health

Intake Protocol

Requirements

- 1 All new arrivals have their ID formally checked including passport and microchip (if applicable) on admission to the organisation.
- 2 An initial health assessment is completed within 24 hours of arrival.

Biosecurity and Isolation

- 1 A suitable and robust biosecurity policy and procedures are in place which clearly outline actions in the event of an infectious disease outbreak.
- 2 A separate isolation area (a minimum of 10m but preferably over 25m away from other equines) with dedicated equipment is available for all new arrivals.
- 3 New arrivals are isolated for a minimum of 21 days, supported by relevant testing.
- 4 Dedicated equipment is used for the isolation area.
- 5 Overalls and disposable gloves should be worn until the new arrivals are confirmed free of infectious disease.
- 6 Handwashing facilities and footdips are available in the isolation area.
- 7 Suitable companionship and enrichment is provided for equines that are in an isolation.

Cleansing and disinfecting

- 1 Full mucking out and cleaning occurs between intakes using a DEFRA-approved disinfectant.

Health Requirements

Records

- 1 Veterinary checks/treatments / visits, dentist, farrier and other health visits are documented for each equine.

Daily Inspection

- 1 Equines kept at grass checked twice daily as a minimum.
- 2 Checks include a minimum of: Assessing the equines general well-being, signs of illness or injury and overall demeanor. Where possible appetite, foot condition and gait should be observed.
- 3 Protocols are in place for any feedback from daily checks - including bringing the equines in for further examination if required.
- 4 Rugs, boots, and protective equipment is removed daily to check for rubs and general fit and condition.
- 5 Stable kept horses or those in a group housing scenario are checked at least twice daily.

Veterinary Support

- 1 An experienced and qualified equine vet is used for both emergency and routine care.
- 2 Equine records and passports are easily accessible to the veterinary surgeon at each visit.

Parasite control

- 1 A targeted worming plan that includes faecal egg count testing and encysted redworm and tapeworm control is in place and has been developed alongside a vet or a suitably qualified person.
- 2 The product used and dosage is recorded in equines individual health file along with faecal egg count test results.

Foot Care

- 1 Regular visits (usually between 6 - 8 weeks) from a qualified, registered farrier are carried out as required.
- 2 A farriery visits schedule is maintained for individual equines.
- 3 Regulated professionals are used for any remedial work carried out and professional oversight can be demonstrated

Dental Care

- 1 Dental examinations are carried out at least annually by either a vet or a qualified equine dental technician registered with the British Association of Equine Dental Technicians (BAEDT).
- 2 As a minimum, a record of the last dental visit and recommendations for next visit is kept.

Physio/Chiropractor etc

- All attending professionals are qualified and preferably on the RAMP register.
- 1 Attending professionals should only be used with the permission of and in collaboration with a veterinary surgeon, and records should be kept in the equines individual health file.

Vaccinations

- 1 All vaccinations for equine influenza and tetanus are kept up to date, with a minimum of annual boosters unless deemed detrimental to health by a vet.
- 2 Additional vaccinations are administered as required / advised.

Medication and treatment

- 1 Timely diagnosis and treatment of all equines is carried out as directed by the veterinary surgeon.
- 2 Medication used is stored, labelled and administered correctly.
- 3 Relevant PPE for administering treatments is worn as detailed in the safety data sheet.

Euthanasia

- 1 Euthanasia decisions should be made following the organisations euthanasia policy
- 2 When taking the decision to euthanise a donkey with bonded companions actions are taken to support the grieving process and mitigate the risk of hyperlipaemia

Companionship

1	As a minimum equines are able to see, smell and nuzzle other equines if cohabitation is not appropriate.
2	Equines are integrated into new groups in a way that minimises risk of injury and mental distress.
3	Equines are kept in suitable groups based on established bonds, age, type and dietary requirements.
4	Donkeys are kept with bonded companions unless alternative arrangements are required for veterinary or welfare reasons. Any separation of bonded companions is carried out under veterinary supervision.
Breeding and Castration	
1	Entire males are castrated when appropriately mature and following veterinary advice and not when other stressful events are taking place, such as weaning.
Weaning	
Weaning is carried out using an interval weaning method where possible to try to minimise undue stress to both mare and foal.	
1	Foals are weaned as late as reasonably possible. During the weaning process no other stressful events are taking place, such as castration.
Nutrition	
Requirements	
1	All equines have an adequate well-balanced diet, taking into account age, workload, and underlying health issues (laminitis, EMS etc), weight loss / weight gain.
2	Feed bowls / mangers are cleaned and disinfected regularly.
3	Feed and forage storage areas are clean, clearly labelled and clutter-free.
4	Adequate precautions are in place to minimise the risk of contamination due to vermin.
5	All equines are measured using a weighttape or, preferably, weighed using a weighbridge and body condition scored on a regular and consistent basis i.e monthly.
6	Significant or unusual weight loss or weight gain is investigated by a vet.
7	Free access to clean water is always available.
Behaviour	
Requirements	
1	All equines have the opportunity to express natural behaviours such as free movement and play, foraging, and have access to companionship of their own species and opportunities for related behaviour such as mutual grooming (3 F's).
2	Equines with specific needs (e.g. box confinement) have opportunities for enrichment, natural behaviours and companionship.
3	If stabled, equines are given a period of daily turn out, preferably in a group, to be able to express natural behaviours.
4	Team members are able to identify equine emotional states and take appropriate action if deemed negative or if the equine is presenting negative emotions or displaying stereotypical behaviour.

Handling & Training

On Arrival

Requirements

- 1 A handling/behavioural assessment is completed as soon as possible after arrival taking into account the history, age, breed, sex of individual to inform a care and training plan for the equine.

Training

Requirements

- 1 Each individual equine has a bespoke training plan that is appropriate to the type, physical and mental abilities and future aims of the equine.
- 2 The duration and frequency of training sessions are suitable for the equine involved and regularly monitored.

Handler/trainer/ability

Requirements

- 1 The trainer has relevant experience and/or qualifications to deliver the type of training they are undertaking.
- 2 The induction for new staff, trainee, work experience or volunteers includes handling and training of equines where appropriate (e.g. if they will handle equines as part of their role).

Understanding Equines

Requirements

- 1 Team members have a sound knowledge and use of learning theory and its practical application.
- 2 Team members have an understanding of equine ethology, body language (including facial expressions), signs of fear, pain and stress, learnt helplessness and can recognise when horses are shut down.
- 3 Any unwanted behaviours are identified and investigated to ensure the equine's needs are being met (e.g. to understand possible underlying causes such as pain, stress or fear, social and physical needs).
- 4 Professional intervention is obtained when relevant (such as vets, farrier, behaviour advice).
- 5 Training methods used are positive/reward based, evidence based and appropriate for the individual equine (based on 2 & 3 above), the environment, and aims of the training plans.
- 6 Training methods avoid flooding, injury or distress to the equine.

Feral / unhandled Equines

Requirements

- 1 Only suitably experienced and appropriate trained team members work with unhandled equines.
- 2 Suitable facilities to enable access to veterinary care in the short term and in a safe manner are available.

Ridden work

Requirements

- 1 Equines have a veterinary and behaviour assessment prior to starting any training.
- 2 Tack and equipment is correctly fitted and regularly safety checked by a suitably experienced person to ensure that it is fit for purpose.
- 3 The choice of equipment (bits etc) used is suitable for the individual equine's needs and training.
- 4 Artificial training aids (lunging aids etc.) are only used when necessary and are correctly fitted and used by suitably trained handlers.
- 5 The maximum recommended rider weight (Rider weight = maximum 20% of horse weight, including tack/equipment) is adhered to.

Transport

Transporting your equines in your own vehicles

Requirements

- 1 The vehicle is adequate for the number and type of equines transported.
- 2 Staff are adequately trained and have the appropriate PPE for loading/unloading and travelling equines.
- 3 Drivers/attendants hold certificates of competence (where applicable).
- 4 Journey times are kept to a minimum.
- 5 Equine and human first aid kits are carried in the vehicle.
- 6 Breakdown cover or a contingency plan is in place.
- 7 A contingency plan is in place in case of accidents/emergencies.
- 8 Animal Transport Certificates/Documents are completed and kept in the vehicle where required by current legislation.
- 9 Passports (where available) for equines onboard are carried securely in the vehicle during the journey.
- 10 The vehicle is cleansed after every journey and disinfected when required.
- 11 An operators licence or restricted operators licence is held where applicable.
- 12 Vehicles, including trailers, are well maintained and serviced regularly, the condition of the floor is regularly checked.

Vehicle Maintenance

Requirements

- 1 The vehicle complies at all times with the legal requirements to travel on public roads e.g. MOT, tyres, bodywork, lights etc.
- 2 Vehicles, including trailers, are well maintained and serviced regularly, the condition of the ramps, floor and partitions are checked before each journey.
- 3 Equine areas are checked for any sharp edges and kept clean/tidy before every journey.

Transporting equines as an economical activity or employing the services of a Commercial Transporter

Requirements

- 1 If the organisation transport equines commercially they hold an operators licence and have a dedicated transport manager, or hold a restricted operators licence where applicable.
- 2 The driver and transporter authorisations and documentation comply with the current legislation for short and/or long journeys.
- 3 Comprehensive recovery/breakdown cover is held for the vehicle/equines.
- 4 Animal Transport Certificates/Documents are completed and kept in the vehicle where required by current legislation.
- 5 The vehicle is adequate for the number of equines transported at any one time.
- 6 Equines are only loaded into a vehicle that has been cleansed and, if necessary, disinfected.
- 7 When transporters are used the organisation only use the services of transporters that are fully compliant with Defra requirements.
- 8 When transporters are used the organisation keeps details of where the equine was transported from, by whom and date/time of arrival or a copy of the journey log/ATC.
- 9 All equines transported from/to Europe (including Ireland) are fully compliant with current import/export rules.
- 10 Passports (where available) for the equines onboard are given to the driver prior to departure.

Equine Welfare for all journeys

Requirements

- 1 If possible, loading and transport assessments are carried out on all equines prior to transport.
- 2 A competent member of staff always assesses an equine is fit for the intended journey in the organisations vehicle (in and out of the organisation) and if there is any doubt, veterinary opinion is sought.
- 3 All equines are rested, fed and watered before, during (if required) and after any journey.
- 4 Water and feed/forage is carried on the vehicle for all journeys over 30 minutes in case of unexpected delays.

Re-homing of Equines

Rehoming on loan Procedures	
Requirements	
1	All rehoming centres have a defined assessment criteria in place to assess suitability of each equine for life in a home outside the organisation in order to be considered for rehoming.
2	All rehoming applicants supply information to describe their equine experience and skills as well as the facilities they have to offer.
3	Rehoming applicants are assessed by the organisation in order to demonstrate competence and suitability of home for the needs of the individual equine(s).
4	Potential homes are subject to a suitability check carried out either in person or virtually to meet the requirements of the specific organisation, to include: Fencing, shelter, water provision, companionship, suitability of home for particular equine. If this is done virtually the first home-check is ('should' in the guidance) be carried out in person within 3 months of rehoming.
5	The Rehomer is given specific advice and relevant details about their particular equine and their future care in terms of behaviour, management and veterinary needs. Any previous or ongoing health/ behaviour issues are disclosed to the prospective Rehomer.
6	The equine receives a basic health check prior to being rehomed which is discussed with the Rehomer to ensure transparency regarding medication and medical needs of the equine(s).
7	The Rehomer receives with the equine(s): Details of last vaccination, due date for vaccinations, worming, farrier and dental procedures, when these activities should be carried out next as well as any specific management needs.
8	It is made clear to the Rehomer that they are welcome to contact the organisation if they require any advice or support with their equine and relevant contact details are passed on to them.
9	Passports relating to individual equines accompany them to their new location and a copy is retained by the organisation.
Loan Agreements	
Requirements	
1	A formal loan agreement is in place for all equines on loan that clearly sets out the respective responsibilities of the organisations and the Rehomer.
2	The agreement includes as a minimum: Equine description, microchip number, Owner and Rehomer details, location equine to be kept at, Rehomers routine care responsibilities, companionship, procedures should the equine go missing, notification of changes to details including location of equine, visit expectations by organisation, ending the loan agreement, euthanasia, restrictions of use, breeding and insurance.
3	The loan agreement states the requirements of foot care for the equines in line with the organisations policy.
4	The loan agreement states that only a BAEDT or a vet can be used for dental checks and dental work on the equine.
5	A suitable agreement is in place for the use of equines for commercial / third party activities.
6	The loan agreement is signed by both parties and each has a copy.
Insurance	
Requirements	
1	A mandatory condition is included in the loan agreement placing the responsibility to maintain a minimum of third party liability insurance policy on the Rehomer which indemnifies them against claims arising from keeping the equines(s).
2	The Rehomer is advised to insure for veterinary fees in relation to the horse and this is included in the loan agreement.
3	An agreement has been made with the Rehomer to determine who receives insurance payment if the equine is insured for death or destruction.
Home Checks	
Requirements	
1	All equines on loan are visited annually as a minimum, either virtually or in person by a fully trained and competent person. An equine does not go more than 2 years without an in person visit.
2	Checks include as a minimum: Body condition score, weight, vaccinations, dental records, foot care, shelter, feeding, companionship, facilities, worming programme, trot up (companion & ridden equines), tack checks (for ridden equines) and mental wellbeing.
3	The date and time of home visits can be made in advance or unannounced according to the charities policies and as set out in the loan agreement.
4	When appropriate, any actions or improvements with timescales are agreed and recorded. Suitable support for requested improvements is offered and recorded where appropriate.
5	A written record of all visits and any resulting actions is made and securely stored.
Returns	
Requirements	
1	A contingency is in place for the unplanned return from loan of an equine.
2	Appropriate procedures, processes and documentation are in place for enforced returns from loan.
3	The ability of the organisation to enforce returns is stated in the loan agreement, including clear criteria by which the removal can be enforced.
4	Evidence of fair and reasonable support and guidance given to the Rehomer to enable improvements is recorded where appropriate.
Transfer of ownership (To be completed if ownership is given to the Rehomer)	
Requirements	

1	Before transfer of ownership from the organisation to the Rehomer, a minimum of one onsite in person visit is (should be in guidance) conducted during a suitable loan period of at least 6 months to ensure as far as reasonably possible the long-term health and welfare of the equine.
2	A suitable agreement stating the terms of the transfer is in place and includes criteria for any ongoing support or the return of the equine.
3	The agreement is signed by both parties and each retains a copy.

Education

Policies

Requirements

- 1 The establishment is approved by the relevant governing body (for example, the BHS, ABRS) as appropriate (advised for colleges and universities but not mandatory).
- 2 The establishment / organisation is licensed by the Local Authority (Hiring out horses; keeping or training animals for exhibition) as appropriate.
- 3 A Policy relating to student supervision is in place and shared to relevant parties.
- 4 A Policy relating to equine workload is in place, shared appropriately and adhered to in practice.
- 5 A Policy relating to rider weight limit is in place, shared appropriately and adhered to in practice.
- 6 Working livery / loan agreements are in place for each horse where relevant (including workload and management details).
- 7 Care plans are in place for all individual equines.
- 8 Supervisors are suitably experienced and qualified for the session or activity they are over-seeing (minimum qualification BHS coaching / UKCC 2 / BHS Stage 2).

Equine workload

Requirements

- 1 Each equines TOTAL workload (ridden work, practicals, research etc.) is calculated and recorded and is overseen by the yard manager (or nominee).
- 2 Each equine is used for an appropriate maximum number of hours per day / week (taking into account the type of work), details of which are included in the individual care plans and updated regularly.
- 3 All equines have appropriate time off on a weekly and annual basis.
- 4 All equines involved in educational sessions are in good health, pain free and mentally sound for the session they are to be involved in.
- 5 All equines involved in educational activities are selected based on temperament and their experience.
- 6 Facilitators are familiar with the natural behavioural repertoire of equines, in particular behavioural signs of stress and pain and individual variations therein.

Research

Requirements

- 1 If research is undertaken, all research involving equines on site has the approval of the designated person with overall responsibility for equine health and welfare.
- 2 A member of yard staff (who is familiar with the equines involved) oversees all research projects / students are supervised in practical trials / tests.
- 3 The organisation has an ethical review and approval process that all research projects are considered by.
- 4 Inclusion in specific research projects is appropriate for the individual equines (selection of equines is carried out by the yard manager or equivalent).
- 5 No research is undertaken that could have a negative impact on the equines participating in this research.

Provision of a suitable environment for conducting educational activities

Requirements

- 1 The environment in which sessions are conducted is safe and secure for both equine and human participants.
- 2 The designated area is suitable for the nature of the educational session i.e. of an adequate size, configuration, and proximity to other facilities.
- 3 The ground surface of the educational sessions provide safe footing for both human and equine participants.
- 4 Resources used are regularly checked for safety / wear and tear.
- 5 All tack and equipment is regularly checked for fit and safety by staff with specialist tack-fit training. Annual checks carried out by professional saddle fitter.
- 6 Training equipment is only used by or under the supervision of staff with relevant training, knowledge and experience.

Equine Assisted Activities

Policy and procedures

Requirements

- 1 A written policy / procedure is in place that relates to the specific modality of EAS practiced by the organisation, to ensure that the welfare of the participating equines is not compromised during the sessions.

Provision of a suitable environment for conducting Equine Assisted sessions

Requirements

- 1 The environment in which equine assisted sessions are conducted is safe and secure for both equine and human participants.
- 2 The area designated for equine assisted sessions is such that safeguarding guidelines can be followed and where appropriate, participant privacy (individual or group) can be ensured.
- 3 The designated area is suitable for the nature of the equine assisted activities conducted i.e. of an adequate size, configuration, and proximity to other facilities.
- 4 For sessions involving equines at liberty, sufficient space is provided to allow them to distance themselves from uncomfortable situations if required.
- 5 The ground surface of the designated area provides safe footing for both human and equine participants.
- 6 Equines have access to fresh water before, after and if appropriate during sessions.

Selection of equine participants for inclusion in Equine Assisted sessions

Requirements

- 1 All equines involved in equine assisted services are in good health, pain free and mentally sound for the session they are to be involved in.
- 2 The suitability of individual equines for the inclusion in equine assisted services is considered based on temperament, safe and appropriate responses to stimuli, and their experiences of interactions with humans, both in the short and long term.
- 3 The choice of equine is guided by the needs of the human participant(s), the needs and abilities of the equine, the skills of the facilitator and the intended outcomes of the session.
- 4 Each equine has an individual risk assessment that is reviewed, taking into consideration the context and timing of the session, that behavioural responses will change according to the emotional state and behaviour of the human participant(s).
- 5 Knowledge of the equine's history (for example, abuse, abandonment) is considered and the potential impact of this on behavioural responses / salient stimuli / triggers recognised.
- 6 Human participants are made aware of species specific and individual behavioural tendencies and advised of general health and safety guidelines in relation to interactions with equines.

Preparation of equines

Requirements

- 1 Equine training prior to inclusion in EAS sessions is appropriate for the type of approach used.
- 2 The designated area in which the session is conducted is familiar to the equine participants; new equines are habituated to the area prior to participation.
- 3 Equine participants are either familiar with the tasks included in the sessions or if new tasks/equipment are used these are introduced with care.
- 4 If groups of equines are included in sessions, then familiarity with other group members is ensured.

Monitoring equine behaviour during sessions

Requirements

- 1 Practitioners / facilitators are familiar with the natural behavioural repertoire of equines, in particular behavioural signs of stress and pain and individual variations therein.
- 2 A practitioner / facilitator with knowledge of the individual equine(s), with the ability to predict their reactions and interpret their responses, is present during the sessions. OR: A practitioner / facilitator with an in-depth knowledge of equine behaviour is present during the sessions.
- 3 When a session involves working at liberty, there is provision made for the equine(s) to choose to participate or leave the session, either by providing a space that equines can freely enter and exit, or by the practitioner heeding behavioural signs and
- 4 If an equine shows any signs of distress they are removed from the immediate situation or from the entire session.
- 5 In sessions involving pairs or groups of equines, if one animal shows signs of needing to be removed from the session then consideration is given as to whether both / all the animals are removed to avoid separation anxiety.
- 6 The equine to participant ratio is appropriate for the specific activity being undertaken and does not compromise equine well-being.
- 7 Practitioners have an understanding of how clients might respond to equine interactions (according to client diagnosis / potential diagnosis).
- 8 A record is kept of the behaviour of the equines in each session (noting behavioural signs that are a cause for concern, further training requirements and updated risk assessments where appropriate).

Monitoring equine behaviour pre and post session

Requirements

- 1 Pre-session checks to the environment and equines are made prior to sessions to ensure that safety and security is optimal.
- 2 There is standardised reporting of behaviour before and after each session to monitor the impact of the activities on the equine.

3	Practitioners / facilitators are trained in how to observe and report these behaviours to ensure uniform assessment of welfare / wellbeing.
4	Behavioural changes in both the short and long term are reviewed, and modifications made to session content equine preparation or choice of equine to mitigate for any negative impact of sessions on the equine.
5	If equines have a health issue this is addressed immediately and subsequently sufficient time is allowed for a full recovery before participating in future sessions.
Length and frequency of sessions	
Requirements	
1	The length and frequency of equine assisted sessions are formally monitored and reported to protect equine welfare and wellbeing.
2	Schedules are created to allow the equine time to process after each session they are involved in.
3	The behaviour and health of the equines involved steer their session frequency and length.
4	Activities outside of EA sessions that equines are involved in are considered, as well as the potential positive or negative impact that these may have on equine quality of life.
5	Periods of alternative activities / rest periods are provided to ensure that the welfare of equines involved in EA sessions is not compromised.
6	Non-equine involvement sessions (for example, behaviour observations, enrichment creation, environment management and other approaches that do not involve direct inclusion of individual equines) are considered if the demand for sessions is at risk of resulting in equine overload.