



Emergency Equine Husbandry 101 & 102

"Animals make us human."

-Temple Grandin



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INTRODUCTION

As we do with each of our guidebooks and manuals at Riding 4 Life, we start off by reminding everyone that if it isn't practical, 'doable', relatively safe, and fun, then we simply will not do it! This remains true for our emergency preparedness and disaster response plans.

Over the years, it's been clear to us that there are many educational gaps in our industry. While we have several colleagues who can support very specific, individually focussed needs, what is often missing is the more basic, entry level, and accessible skills and practice that everyone in our industry needs.

Our goal, therefore, is to support the foundational standards of education and practice in our larger community that can serve as a broadly accessible tool or starting point for all. In other words, we hope to make sure everyone can crawl before they're asked to walk or even run!

Training Outcomes

Beyond the information and basic skills we hope to equip you all with here today, there is a list of further reaching impacts and outcomes we're hoping to see in future responses.

- Equip ALERT volunteers with the basic skills and knowledge needed to be safe, effective, and efficient while assisting with the care of equines during a response.
- Improve the flow of communication, supervision, and support for ALERT volunteers who take on delegated husbandry tasks.
- Ensure that commanders are not required to train volunteers during a complex response.
- Continue to support morale and resiliency for the whole team.
- Ultimately improve the quality of care and the experiences of everyone involved in an emergency response where we have guests.

Who this training is intended for:

ALERT members who plan to assist with the care of equines being housed by ALERT at one of our large animal evacuation locations.

The EEH courses are specifically designed to meet the needs of ALERT's response operations when equines are forced to evacuate their homes during emergencies and disasters.

Who this training is NOT intended for:

Anyone looking for training and information that is more generally applied to the care and housing of equines in non-emergent day to day settings.

The EEH courses are not intended to inform the usual practices of most equine facilities that routinely house large animals as part of their day-to-day operations. For example, the practices outlined here, are not necessarily how Riding 4 Life's boarding facility manages the care of its 30 plus equines daily in non-emergent circumstances.

Limitations of this training

The EEH courses are in no way comprehensive and do not adequately qualify its participants to oversee the daily care needs of equines. Participants of this training will continue to require supervision and work under the direction of their team commander.

Assumptions about our audience:

We assume that everyone receiving this information and training is familiar with ALERT's purposes and basic operational procedures during a response. We also know that the equine related experience of our volunteers can vary considerably and therefore we assume that everyone is a beginner.

Leann's Caveat!

Folks who consider themselves to have a little, or even a lot of experience, are immediately red flagged until I can confirm that they indeed are competent beyond a beginner level. This is one of my most important safety protocols!

If this caveat feels a bit challenging to you just hang in for a moment. You're in very good company. This is not personal, and you're not weird! This could be due to a common phenomenon called...

The Dunning-Kruger effect

"A cognitive bias in which people with limited competence in a particular domain overestimate their abilities..."

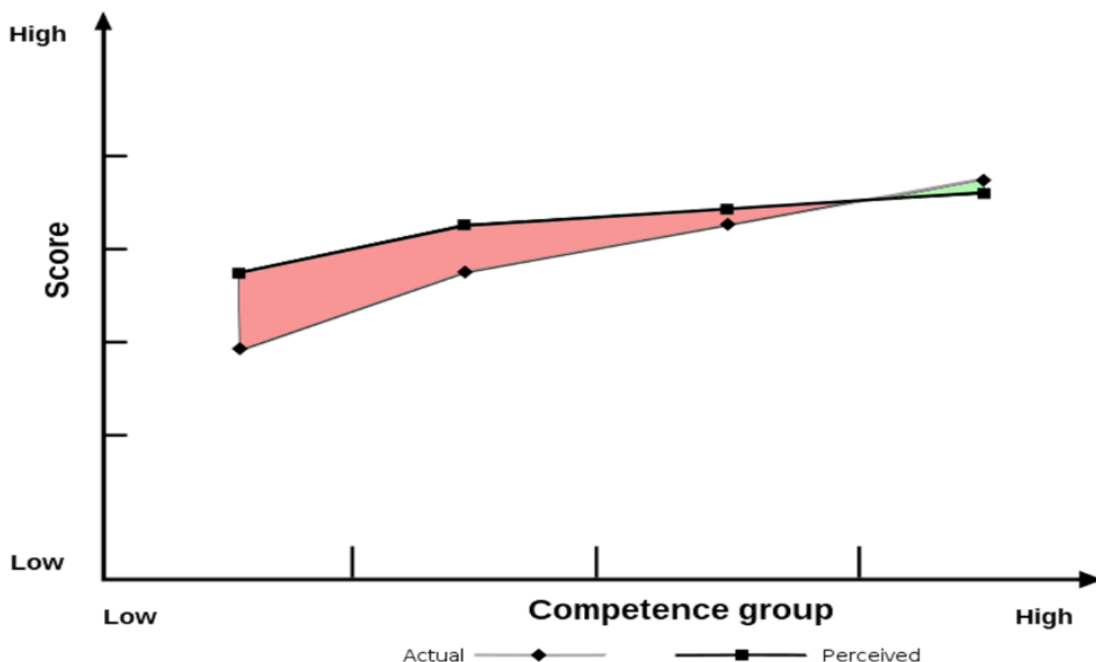
...Some researchers also include the opposite effect for high performers: their tendency to underestimate their skills."

Source: Wikipedia

The initial study was published in 1999 by David Dunning, and Justin Kruger. Since then, it's been readily duplicated across many tasks and skills and applied widely. Some examples of its application where the stakes are high include:

- Pilots performing maneuvers in new aircraft without adequate training.
- Emergency medicine where doctors in training may be overconfident and risk peoples' lives. This research is helping to determine the appropriate degree of supervision required for new doctors.

Dunning–Kruger Effect



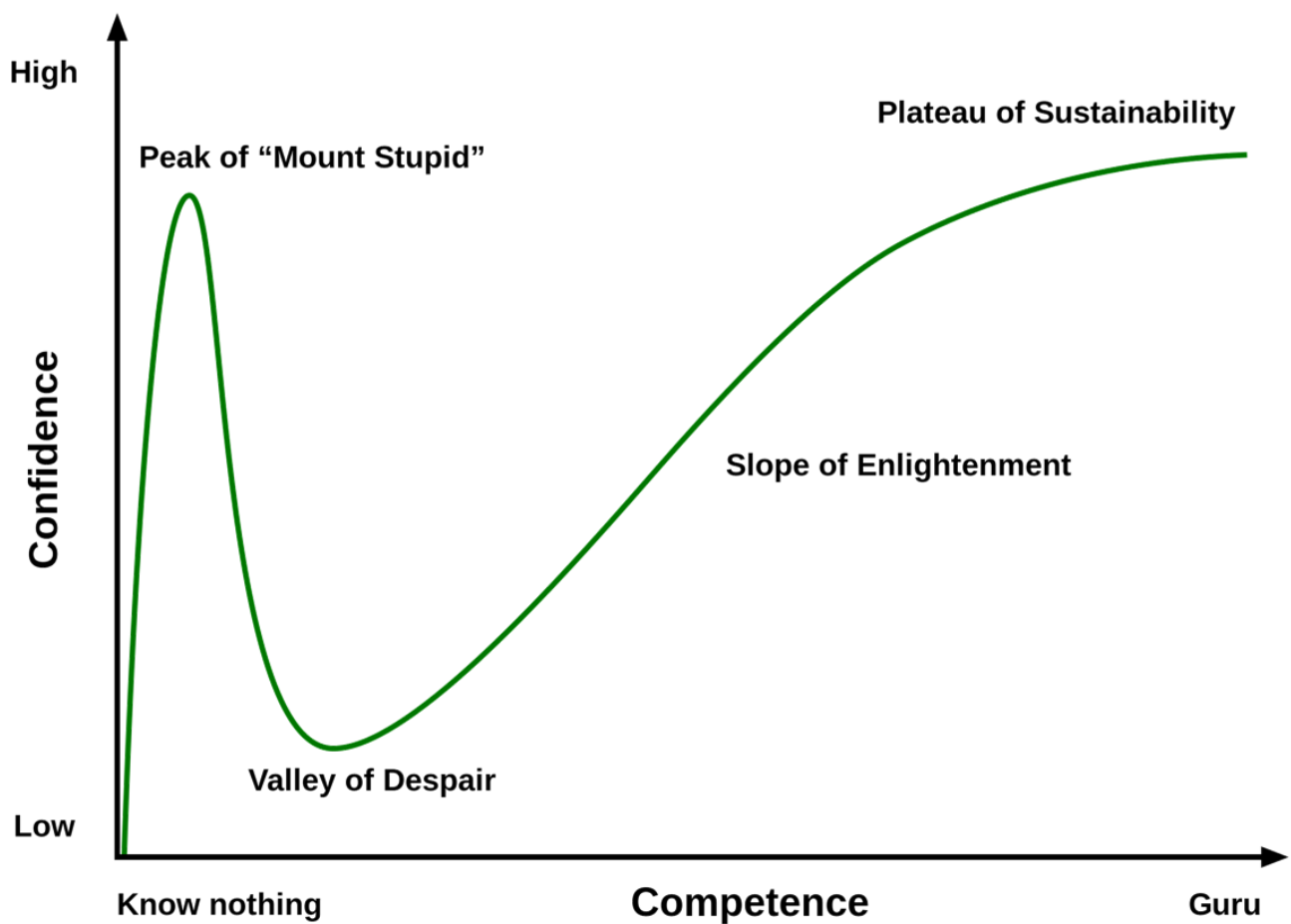
The previous graph compares actual scores to a subject's perceived performance. In other words, 'how you think you did vs. how you actually did.'

Notice how much measurable competence is needed before the average person's perception is correct? Also notice the highest competency part of the graph. This could also be called 'imposter syndrome'.

The graph below illustrates the roller coaster ride of confidence while learning new skills. The greatest risk of overconfidence can occur very early while still in the beginning stages of a skillset. Meanwhile, as an intermediate level of competence approaches, confidence can almost disappear. The more skilled individual is at risk of deferring to the much less skilled in this case.

During a response at ALERT this can be a very dangerous scenario and this why it is so important for everyone to complete this training. In fact, trainings like these at ALERT are often an opportunity for commanders to assess our volunteers and understand who might be best fit for certain tasks or teams.

Dunning-Kruger Effect



Assessing a volunteer's competency

No matter how simple an ALERT task may seem, it often requires a specific and detailed set of skills and some complexity. Context is everything and in the case of emergency husbandry tasks it's not just about equine knowledge and horse handling experience. It's about many different factors that all collide during a disaster.

As much as we think it's just about the animals in our care, it's still very much about the human dynamics as well.

Some core themes include:

- Self-awareness and arousal level
- Ability to stay focused on the task
- Commitment to the ALERT process

Also, no one individual needs to have all the pieces of this puzzle. That's why we work as a team. To succeed we need to work together, stick to protocol, and keep things as simple as we can. And remember, the whole is often greater than the sum of its parts.

1.0 ALERT BASICS

The goals of emergency care and housing equines are quite simple. However, keeping things simple when there are a lot of anxious mammals in your care is a formidable challenge.

Simply put, we must FIRST DO NO HARM. What would be the point of assisting equines out of dangerous situations if we caused greater harm while doing so? Once the immediate threat or danger has been dealt with, we shift focus to meeting all their BASIC NEEDS to the best of our ability, because no one can thrive without first fully addressing our basic survival needs.



FIRST DO NO HARM



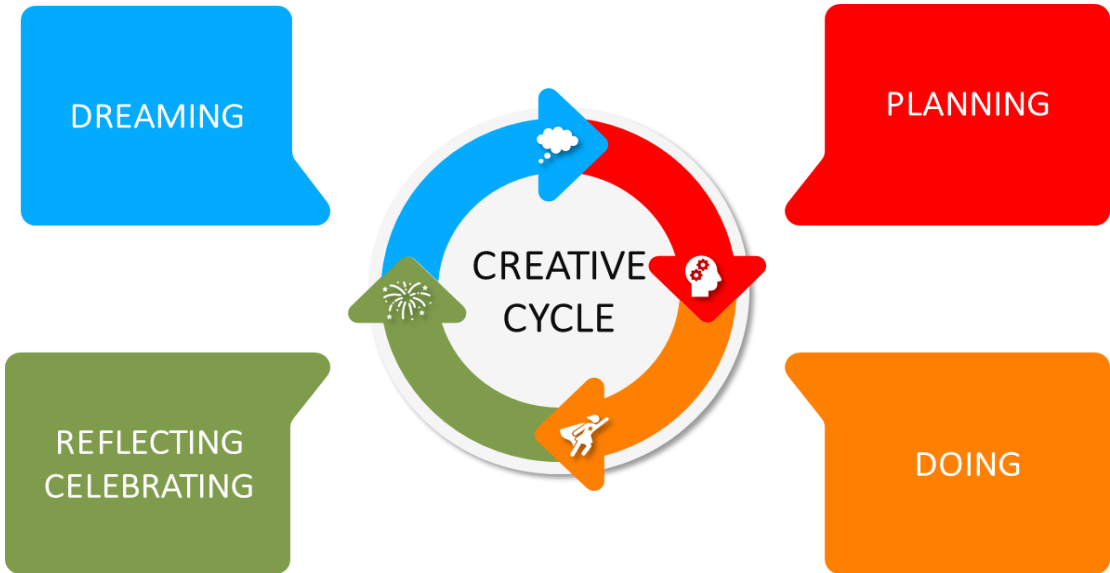
MEET BASIC NEEDS



SURVIVE COMES BEFORE THRIVE

All of ALERT's protocols, practices, systems, and structures are built around these very simple goals. But again, this work is far more difficult and challenging than many realize,

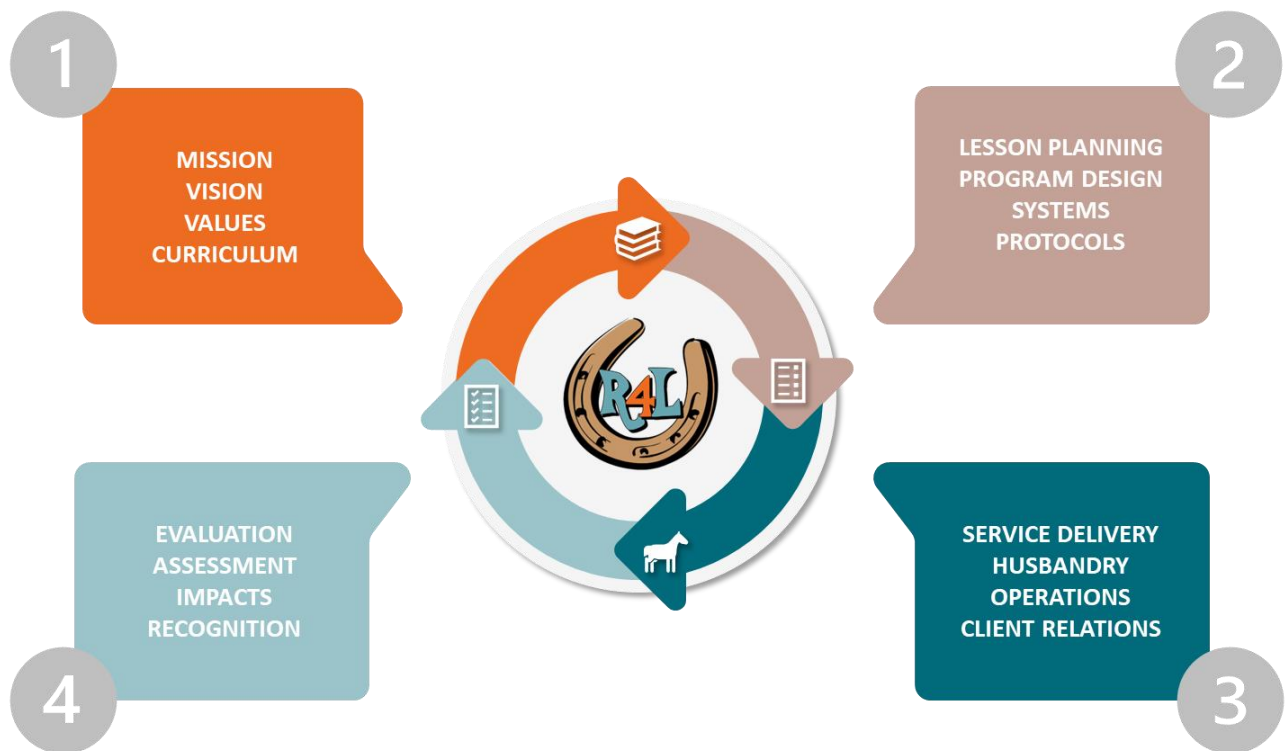
Any organization that is serious about realizing its goals and serving a meaningful purpose has a process or cycle to its work – whether they realize it or not! This is often called the creative cycle, and it looks like this:



Without this process, an organization will fail to plan, execute, evaluate, and then learn and grow from experience. They will likely repeat mistakes, lose momentum, and risk collapse.

At Riding 4 Life we acknowledge this process with almost everything we do – whether we're planning our annual events, service delivery schedules, and our professional development, or within each and every riding lesson we deliver. Absolutely everything we do follows the flow of this process. There is a time and a place for everything.

In practice that means we plan our curriculum ahead of our scheduled lessons, and we don't change our curriculum mid-session. We also make a point of evaluating our work and our systems and consciously checking in with our original vision and values. Simply put, we don't evaluate when we're planning, change our mission while we're working, or begin the work without first clarifying our values and then creating a well thought out plan.



For ALERT, this means we stick to protocol during a response; we hold all of our feedback until the debrief, we assess our work according to the mission we set out to accomplish in the beginning, and we put a great deal of time and effort into preparation and training.



Respecting this process and working together to help it flow is critical to the success of ALERT.

Consider what could happen when volunteers require training during a response? Or what can go wrong when we change things on the fly in a reactive moment? What are the possible risks and consequences?

Judgement & Compassion

This topic can be a make it or break it area for ALERT. We have the opportunity to really shine in times of crisis. The risk, however, is that the stakes are really high if we get it wrong.

What if...

- ...an equine comes into ALERT's care, and you have concerns about its health?
- ...and it appears thinner than you think it should be?
- ...or it has an injury that needs treatment?
- ...or it's lame?

What should you do? What should happen next? How should ALERT respond?

Fortunately for you, as an ALERT member, you are not responsible for making this decision. In examples like these, your responsibility is to discreetly report your concerns to your commander. Your commander may have further instructions for you, or they may not. They may be able to keep you informed or involve you in the decision-making process, or time might not allow that discussion to take place until the debrief later. In the meantime, stick to protocol and the incident command structure.

DON'T:

- Engage the owner yourself unless your commander has asked you to be a part of that conversation.
- Try to make your case to your commander in the midst of a very busy response as to what you think should happen next if you disagree.

DO:

- Report your concerns to your commander.
- Follow their instructions and stick to protocol and incident command structures.
- Save your questions and concerns for the debrief.
- Understand that what ALERT does might not sit well with you, and there could be a thousand different reasons for that - many of which you may not be aware of.

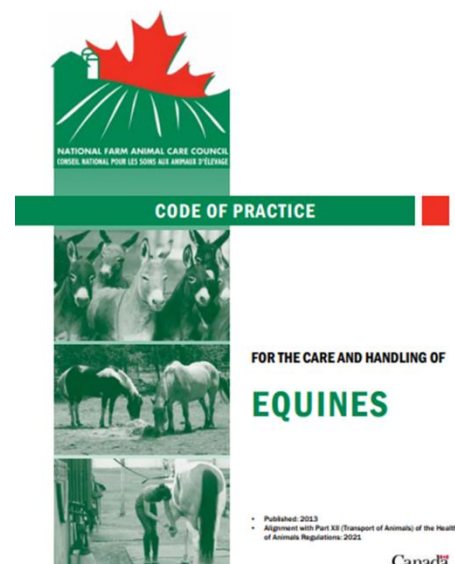
10,000 Shades of Gray

Remember what our purpose is during a response. We are there to help maintain the basics during an emergency. We're not a spa retreat striving to live our best life.

There are two commonly used tools with respect to equine welfare. On the surface they can seem interchangeable – and that has become quite problematic in our horse community the past decade or so.

1. The 5 Freedoms put forth by the World Organization for Animal Health and acknowledge by our federal government in their Code of Practice for Equines.

**World Organisation
for Animal Health**
Founded in 1924



An animal's welfare should be considered in terms of the Five Freedoms. These freedoms form a framework for analysis of welfare within any system and those responsible for equines are encouraged to consider the Five Freedoms.

- *Freedom from Hunger and Thirst - by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.*
- *Freedom from Discomfort - by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.*
- *Freedom from Pain, Injury and Disease - by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.*
- *Freedom to Express Normal Behaviour - by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind.*
- *Freedom from Fear and Distress - by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering*

2. The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act brought into force by the Government of BC.



(2) For the purposes of this Act, an animal is in distress if it is

(a) deprived of adequate food, water, shelter, ventilation, light, space, exercise, care or veterinary treatment,

(a.1) kept in conditions that are unsanitary,

(a.2) not protected from excessive heat or cold,

(b) injured, sick, in pain or suffering, or


(c) abused or neglected.

While both tools mention food, water, shelter, pain, disease, abuse, etc., they also have some distinct differences. One is meant to encourage best practices so equines can maintain full health and **vigour**. The other is an enforcement tool with legal consequences that can be used by a Peace Officer in BC to intervene when an animal is in sustained or significant distress or **suffering**.

These two tools are situated on opposite ends of a spectrum. One is the tool of last resort when no other intervention will do. The other is a guideline set out by an international organization who works to promote best practices in animal welfare. We often struggle as a community to understand how best to use these tools and navigate the thousands of shades of gray that mark the distance between them.

As a consequence, fewer equines benefit from these best practices because **judgement can elicit a shame response** and close the door on many opportunities for sharing, support, and growth.

For ALERT's purposes, it's important for those caring for equines to be aware of this ocean of gray – especially if your experience with equines is limited and you're learning as you go. You will be exposed to a wide range of practices and opinions from experienced horse people, and it is sometimes difficult to discern the difference between a serious welfare concern, and a minor challenge on the journey to a horse's best life. Again, we're not operating a spa retreat – we are an emergency shelter.

 **dis·tress**
/dəˈstres/
noun

1. extreme anxiety, sorrow, or pain.
"to his distress he saw that she was trembling"

Similar: anguish suffering pain agony ache affliction torment

 **thrive**
/ˈθrɪv/
verb

(of a child, animal, or plant) grow or develop well or vigorously.
"the new baby thrived"

- prosper; flourish.
"education groups **thrive on** organization"

Similar: flourish prosper grow vigorously develop well burgeon bloom

Navigating the 'Gray Area'

To help navigate this vast ocean of gray, there are two very useful tools available to you.

The first one can foster a great deal of **Compassion** and act as an antidote to Judgement.

MRI

Most Respectful Interpretation

When you notice yourself filling in unknown facts about a situation, take a moment and consider all the interpretations and explanations that make the best possible assumptions. Chose to move forward based on those assumptions until you know otherwise. See the best in people and offer compassion.

The next tool is **"It Depends"**

This phrase can be a powerful tool when you need to provide a nuanced response. It can buy you time to check in with your commander. The key is to follow up and pass the question up the chain of command if needed.

As an ALERT Volunteer don't ever feel compelled to provide an answer you are not authorized to give. When you are wearing the blue shirt on response, you are speaking for ALERT. Remember, also, you are not alone. There is an entire team supporting you and it's important that you look to them for guidance.

Safety Practice

A comprehensive safety practice for work with equines includes not just physical safety. It must also include emotional, spiritual, and energetic safety.

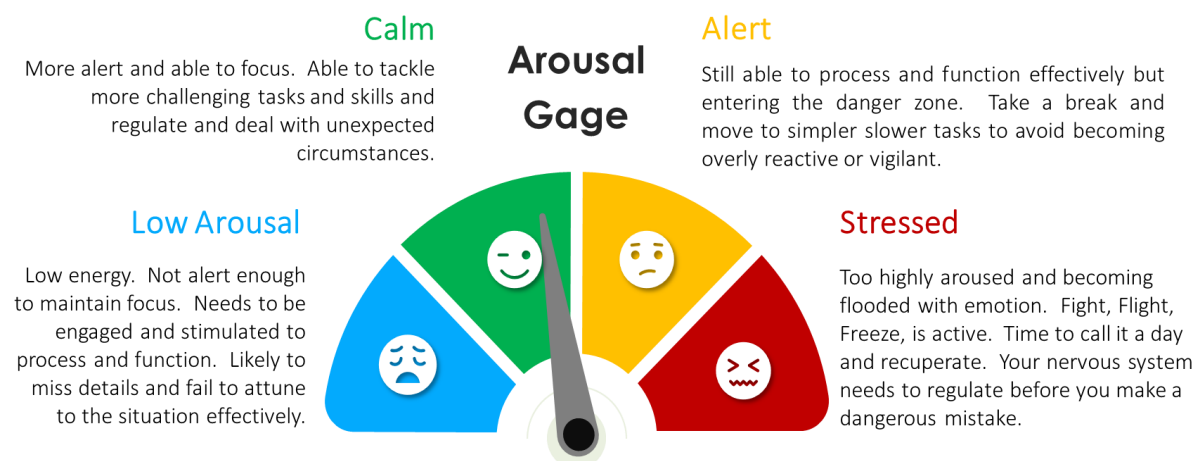
PPE – Personal Protective Equipment

- Closed toe shoes – preferably boots (steel toe not advised)
- Gloves
- Sunglasses & hats
- Layers for cooler weather
- Long pants when not in extreme heat
- Long sleeves are also a good idea
- Helmets in confined spaces with distressed equines

Pulse Check – Your own!

Well developed self-awareness and accurate self-assessment is key! This is the single most important safety practice we can employ.

Remember the Dunning/Kruger effect. The most damaging incidents I have ever seen or experienced could have been prevented by accurate self-assessment and awareness of limitations.



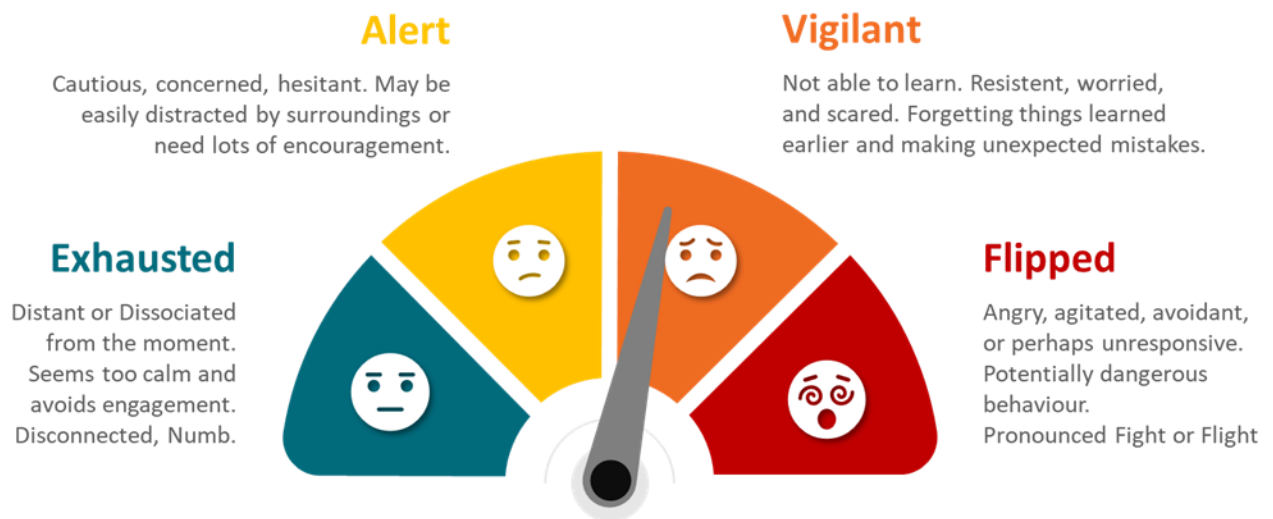
AAA – Assess and Adjust Always

It's important to remain attuned to the moment and prepared to respond as a situation develops. Practice noticing your surroundings and everyone in your area.

This skillset is complex and improves with time and practice. There is no bullet list or recipe that can adequately support this practice. Ultimately, a successful safety practice where equines are involved is a lifelong learning journey.

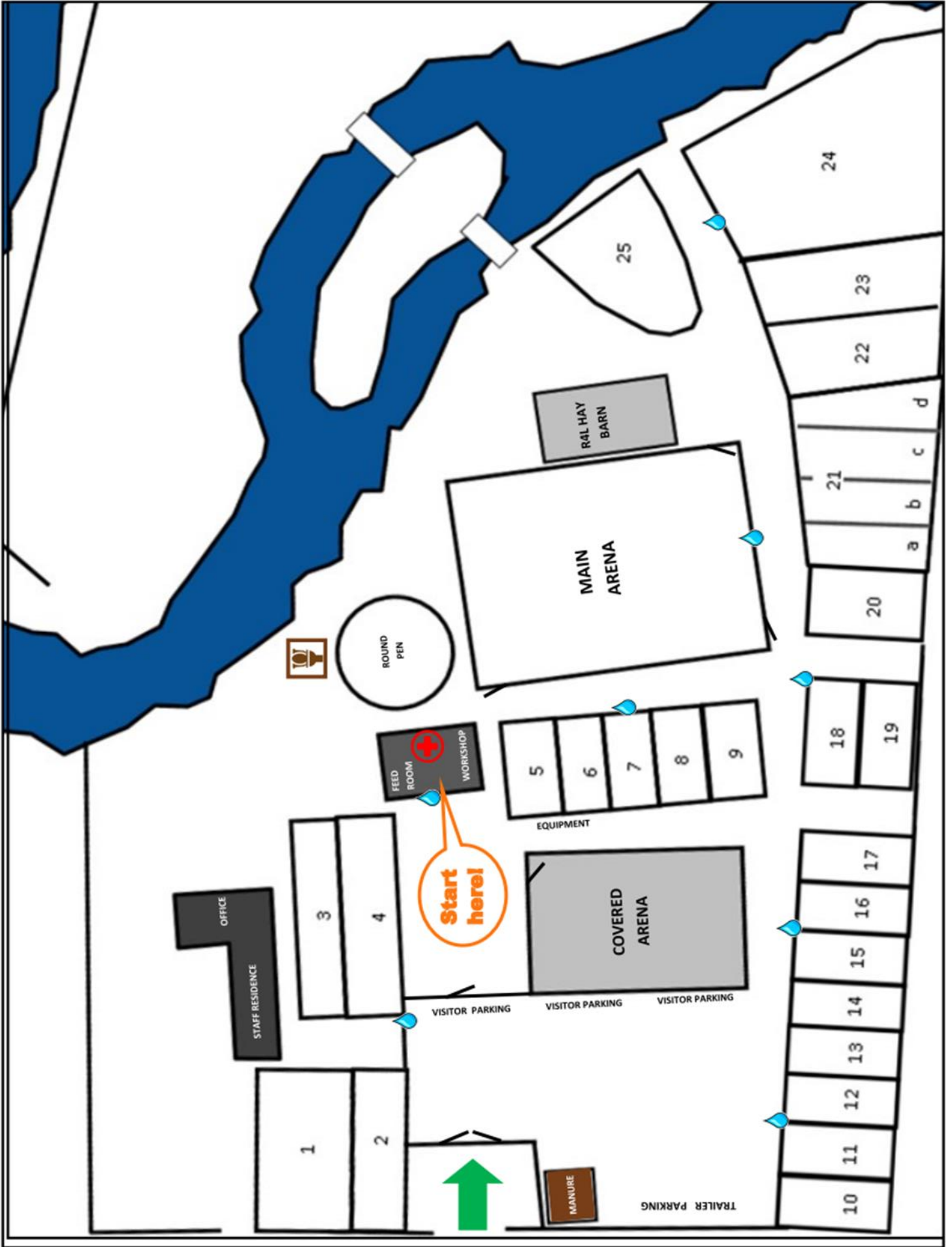
This practice includes considering the arousal of your partner, other nearby humans, and especially the horse you are handling.

To complicate matters, the arousal gage on the previous page can change slightly with trauma, extreme stress, PTSD, illness, and many other crisis situations.




Some of the humans we are assisting might be in this 'grip'. What if you're feeling overwhelmed or suffering compassion fatigue? What if you're experiencing a trigger you didn't see coming?

Keep in mind – this is not a character flaw, a lack of training, or a personal failing. It's not you, it's your nervous system. It's just how you're currently wired and to change that takes time and usually therapeutic intervention. The same is true for all the humans nearby. Add this information to your MRI practice and notice how much more easily you can practice compassion when this arises.



STATUS OF ANIMAL ON ARRIVAL		STATUS OF ANIMAL ON DEPARTURE	
Date: _____	Time: _____ (xx00h)	Date: _____	Time: _____ (xx00h)
<input type="checkbox"/> BROUGHT IN BY ALERT: Rescue Request: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No ARF#: _____ Team: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Reclaimed by Owner direct from Foster Home Signature: _____ Verified ID: _____ ALERT Rep: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> NON-OWNER DROPPED OFF Stray? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No By: _____ Address: _____ Phones: _____ Verify ID#: _____ Type: _____ Province: _____ Signature: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Reclaimed by Owner: Signature: _____ Verified ID: _____ ALERT Rep: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Adopted: (Attach papers) <input type="checkbox"/> Euthanized: Vet _____ Reason: _____	
Location of Pickup (Address if possible, landmarks, road names) : _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> BROUGHT IN BY OWNER Requests Fostering <input type="checkbox"/> Estimated time for fostering: _____ Permission to foster offsite: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If no, cage no. _____		STATUS OF ANIMAL OFFSITE Date _____ Location / Phone Number _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> OWNER SURRENDER Owner Signature: _____		HAY ALLOTMENT Date Evacuated _____ Hay Amount _____ ALERT Rep. _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> DEAD ON ARRIVAL Mortality Team Contacted: _____ Hrs		AGENCY INFORMATION ESS File No. _____ Confidential File: _____ Media Permission?: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes EMBC Task No. _____ First Nations: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
OWNER INFORMATION LAST NAME _____ FIRST NAME _____			
Signature: _____ Verify ID #: _____ Province: _____ ID Type: _____ Phone No. (Temporary) _____		COMMENTS (Medical/Diet/Special Needs) _____ _____ _____	
Address (Permanent) _____ City _____ Province _____ Code _____		ALERT Rep: (first name, initial) _____	
Address (Temporary) _____ City _____ Province _____ Code _____		ALERT Rep: (first name, initial) _____	

ANIMAL INTAKE INFORMATION	
ANIMAL LIFELINE EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM www.alertcanada.org	
ANIMAL INFORMATION <input type="checkbox"/> Dog <input type="checkbox"/> Cat <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Pup <input type="checkbox"/> Kitten <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> Litter _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Intact <input type="checkbox"/> Spayed <input type="checkbox"/> Neutered <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
APPEARANCE NAME (if known) _____ Breed _____ Age _____ Colour: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Small <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Large <input type="checkbox"/> Distinguishing Marks: _____ Coat Type/Length: _____	
Tail: <input type="checkbox"/> Long <input type="checkbox"/> Short <input type="checkbox"/> Smooth <input type="checkbox"/> Bushy <input type="checkbox"/> Curly <input type="checkbox"/> Docked Ears: <input type="checkbox"/> Erect <input type="checkbox"/> Flopped <input type="checkbox"/> Cropped	
If cat, is it declawed? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If dog, is it debarbed? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION Collar? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Colour / Kind: _____ ID Tag? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Colour / Kind: _____ Tattoo? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No # _____ Microchip? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No # _____ Contact made with Microchip company if stray? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Vaccinations? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown Vet: _____	
Has the animal shown aggression? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If Yes, towards: <input type="checkbox"/> People <input type="checkbox"/> Other Animals (Details on back) Has animal bitten anyone? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, details on back. Mark cage.	
ATTACH PHOTO HERE 	
Box 208, 113-437 Martin Street Penicton, BC V2A 5L1 This form © by ALERT. Reprint by written permission only.	



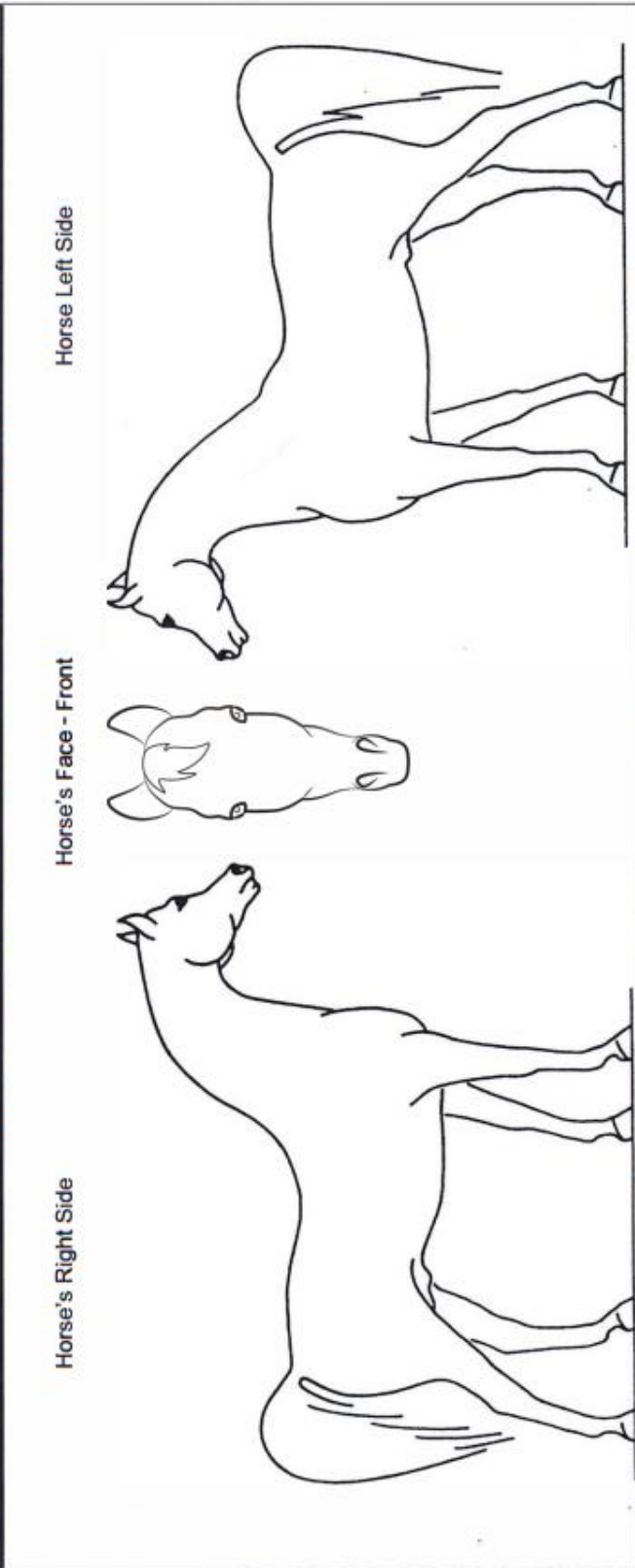
Supplementary Equine Form

Animal Intake

Attach this form to ALL Animal Intake forms for equines.

Date: _____		Animal Intake Number: _____		Type of equine: Burro <input type="checkbox"/> Donkey <input type="checkbox"/> Horse <input type="checkbox"/> Miniature Horse <input type="checkbox"/> Mule <input type="checkbox"/> Pony <input type="checkbox"/>	
Sex: Stallion <input type="checkbox"/>	Gelding <input type="checkbox"/>	Mare <input type="checkbox"/>	Colt <input type="checkbox"/>	Filly <input type="checkbox"/>	Age: _____
Breed: _____		Height: _____		Colour: _____	
Condition of Teeth: _____		Condition of Hooves: _____			
Is the horse branded? No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>					
Face Markings: _____			_____		
Leg Markings: Right Front: _____		Right Hind: _____		Left Front: _____	
Left Hind: _____					
Mane Description: Curly <input type="checkbox"/>		Cut <input type="checkbox"/>	Dark <input type="checkbox"/>	Light <input type="checkbox"/>	Long <input type="checkbox"/>
Tail Description: Curly <input type="checkbox"/>		Cut <input type="checkbox"/>	Dark <input type="checkbox"/>	Light <input type="checkbox"/>	Long <input type="checkbox"/>
		Cut <input type="checkbox"/>	Dark <input type="checkbox"/>	Light <input type="checkbox"/>	Long <input type="checkbox"/>
		Cut <input type="checkbox"/>	Dark <input type="checkbox"/>	Light <input type="checkbox"/>	Long <input type="checkbox"/>
		Cut <input type="checkbox"/>	Dark <input type="checkbox"/>	Light <input type="checkbox"/>	Long <input type="checkbox"/>
		Cut <input type="checkbox"/>	Dark <input type="checkbox"/>	Light <input type="checkbox"/>	Long <input type="checkbox"/>
		Cut <input type="checkbox"/>	Dark <input type="checkbox"/>	Light <input type="checkbox"/>	Long <input type="checkbox"/>

Please Use The Diagram Below To Illustrate Any Additional Markings or Injuries



ALERT

Daily Animal Care Log

Name:	Type of Animal:	PEP Task #:	Animal Intake Date:	Animal Intake #:
-------	-----------------	-------------	---------------------	------------------

Special Instructions for care:

Date	Time	Check all that apply					Observed it		Your Initials	Comments
		Gave Food	Gave Water	Cleaned Cage	Took for Walk	Play / Cuddled	Eat	Drink		

Do not throw this log away when completely filled out. Keep it in the plastic bag and put a blank log on top of it.

Page: of:

INCIDENT REPORT

Submittal Form



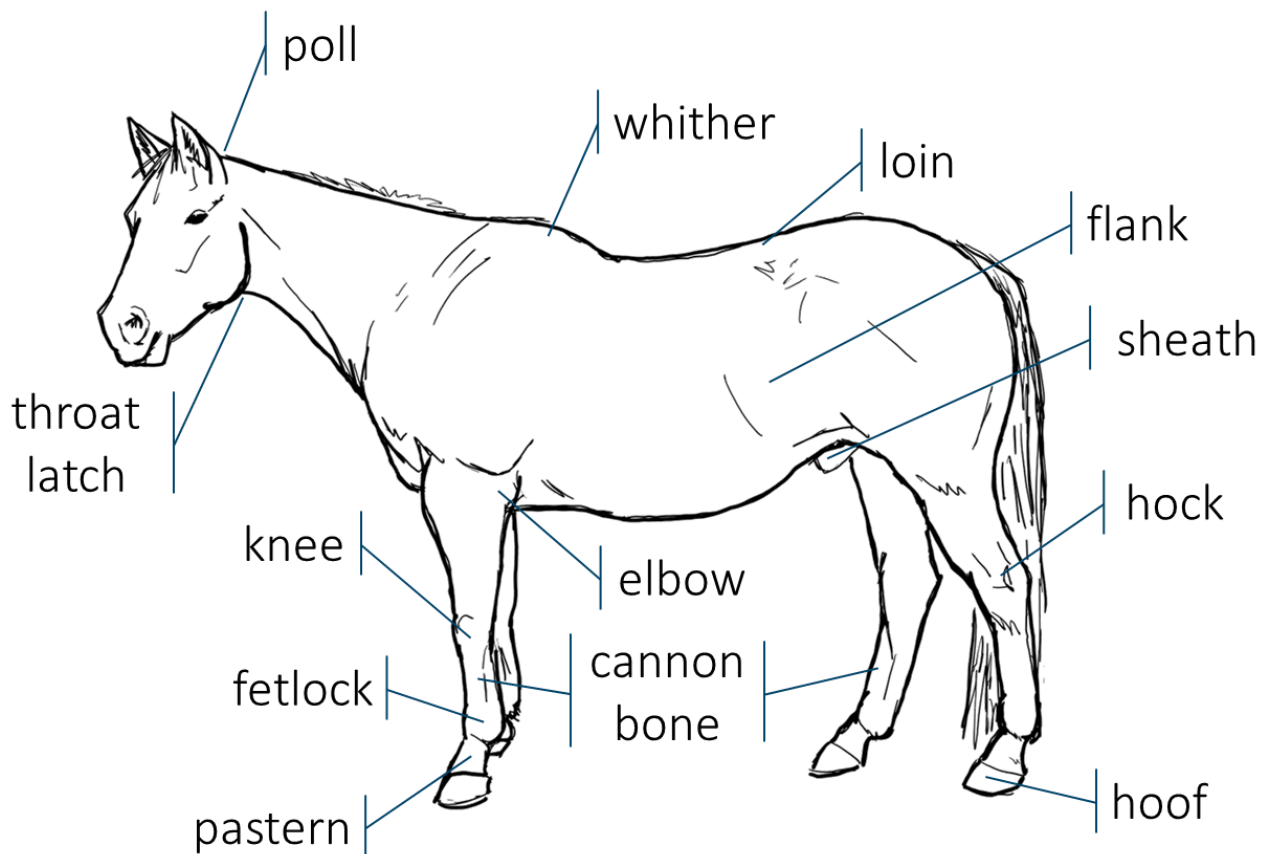
INCIDENT TYPE: 	INCIDENT DATE: <input type="text"/>	INCIDENT TIME: <input type="text"/>
Injury Illness Property/Environment Damage Near Miss Subordination Other	SUBMITTED BY: <input type="text"/>	SUBMITTAL DATE: <input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>		
NAMES/ROLES/CONTACT INFORMATION OF PARTIES INVOLVED: <input type="text"/>		
WITNESS NAMES/CONTACT INFORMATION: <input type="text"/>		

2.0 EQUINE BASICS

Having some basic vocabulary is important for ALERT. Even if your contribution is mostly in the administrative arena, you still need quite a bit of knowledge just to complete and in intake and properly ID an equine.

Parts of the Horse

Text



Terminology

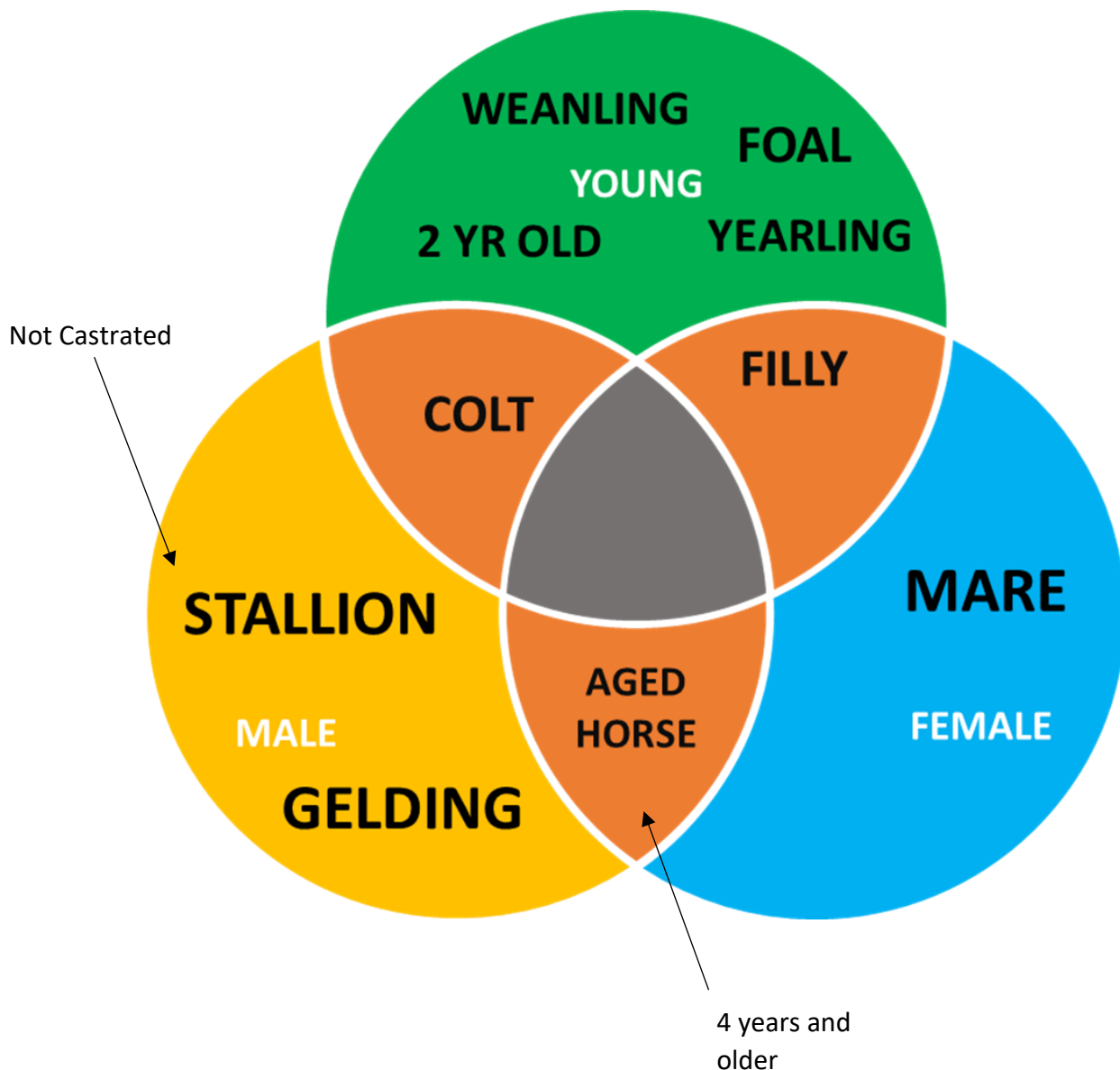
For the sake of our admin, communication, and identification, here is a prioritized list of how we often describe and categorize equines:

3. Sex
4. Age
5. Colour
6. Markings
7. Height

8. Brands/Tattoos
9. Microchips
10. Type
11. Breed
12. Other features

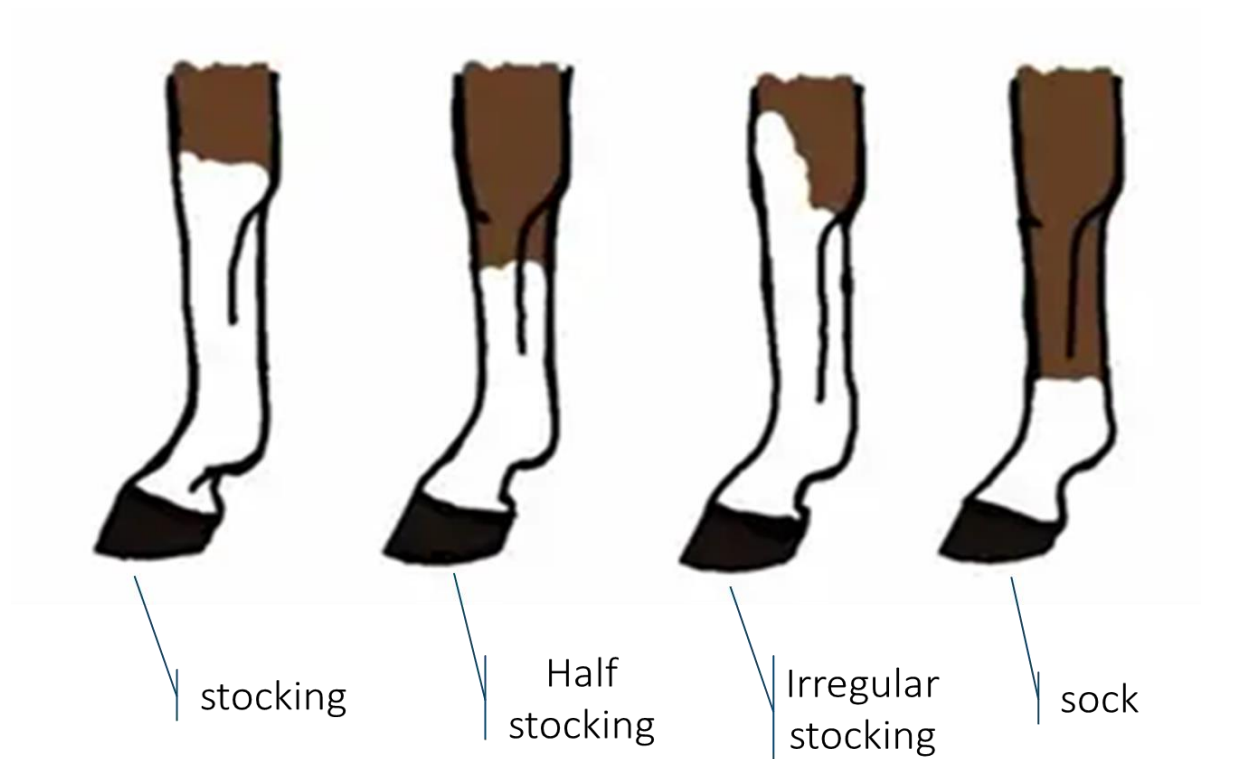
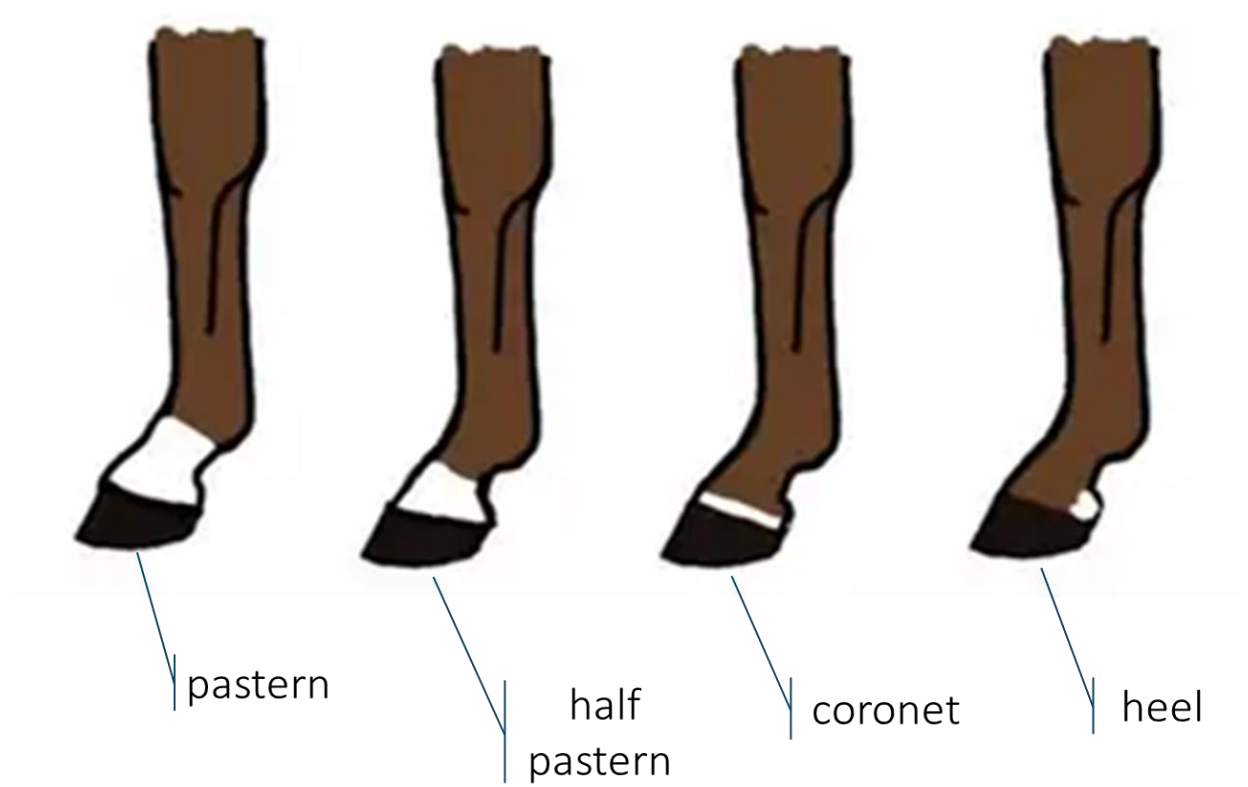
Notice that Breed is not near the top of this list. Colours and markings are often easier to record and describe for the purpose of differentiating individual equines.

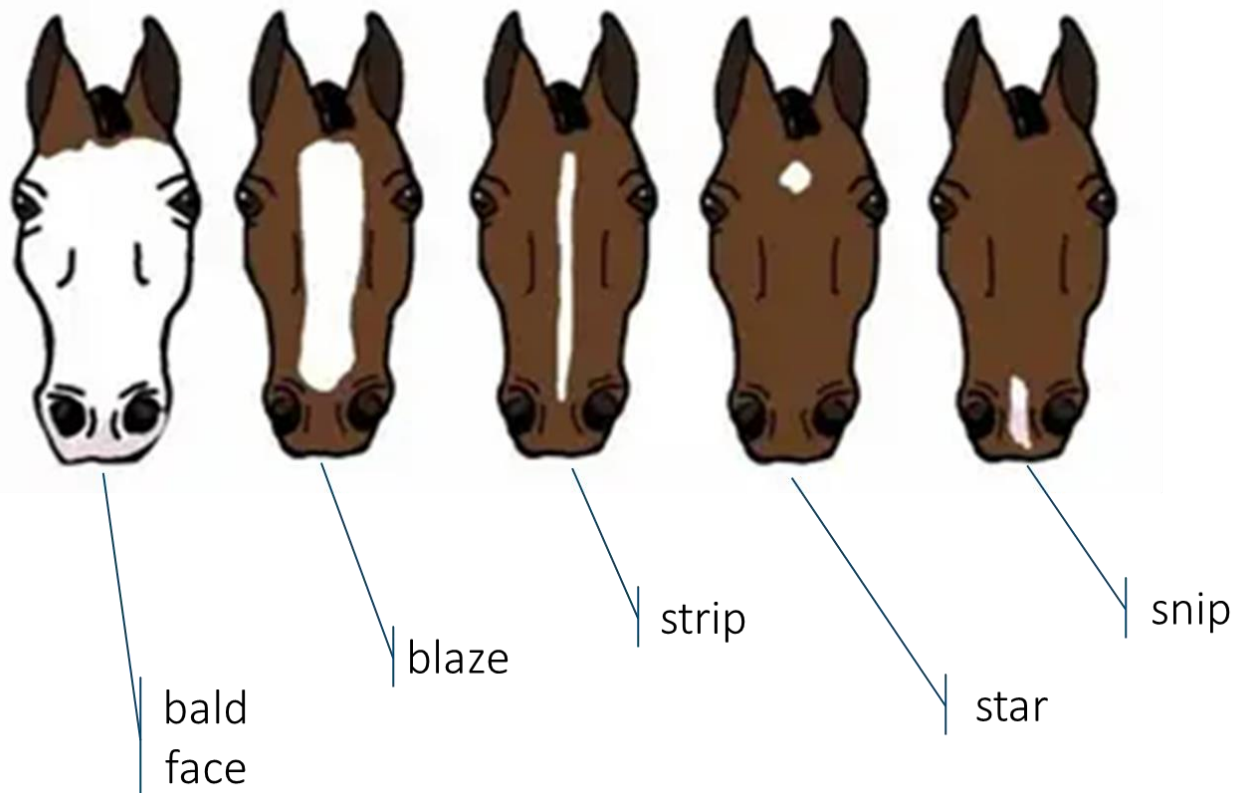
Age and Sex of an equine are often described together using terms like these:



Markings, Colours, and other Features

Basic vocabulary and parts of the horse are necessary for some of the most basic documentation and horse identification as shown in the following diagrams:





Over the past couple decades, genetic research has led to a vast a growing knowledge base about equine coat colours and classifications. For ALERT purposed, however, we can stick to the simpler colour charts that have been in use for decades. Theses descriptors are still easily recognized and understood for simple identification purposes.

The following chart lists most of the common base coat colours. Please note, that many of these coat colours can appear differently when extra features come into play.

Roan horses are a good example of this. The base colour can be bay and white hairs throughout the coat mean that we describe a horse as a Bay Roan.

Paints and Pinto's can also have a noticeable base colour with added white markings over the bodies. It's possible therefore to have a palomino paint, a bay pinto, and a sorrel overo.

A HORSE OF A DIFFERENT COLOR



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All Rights Reserved
Reference photo courtesy of venusbaby.deviantart.com

Roans: mixing of white hairs throughout coat that remains consistent with aging.

Bay Roan

Strawberry Roan (Red)

Blue Roan



Duns: All have dorsal stripes

Dun

- Tan with black points

Red Dun

- Reddish or orange brown with slightly darker points

Smoky Dun

- Lots of black zebra markings

Grulla

- Greyish brown with black points.

Paints & Pinto

Tobiano

Overo

&

Other horses of a different colour



Similar Equines

The Horse family, or the 'equine' family usually includes all animals scientifically classified in the **Equidae** Family.

This includes asses, zebras, horses, and many other species only known from fossils. They evolved from small multi-toed grazers that originated in North America some 50 million years ago.

Today, we most commonly meet other equids known as donkeys and mules.

Jack or jackass: male donkey

Jenny or jennet: female donkey

Mule: the product of a jack and a mare

Hinny: the product of a stallion and a jenny.



Bunny the mule. The product of a jack and Fjord mare.

3.0 HOUSING & BASIC CARE

Basic shelter needs for horses are quite simple.

For our emergency shelter purposes, we focus on safe and effective containment, shelter from the wind, shade from direct sunlight, and enough cover to escape heavy precipitation.

The more complicated we make it, the more risk we need to mitigate. Consider the following common perils:

- Dust
- Fire
- Ventilation
- Risk of injury
- Isolation

Consider the Pros and Cons of the following examples:



Pro:

- Portable and easily set up on short notice
- Modular
- Not wooden – no chewing

Con:

- No wind break
- Risk of cast or tangled legs should horse roll/lay down
- Not sturdy and may be easily pushed or pulled on
- Not very heavy and will need anchor's



Pro:

- Sturdy with relatively few pinch points and risks of injury
- Meets all the basic needs

Con:

- Needs time to construct.
- Not easily portable

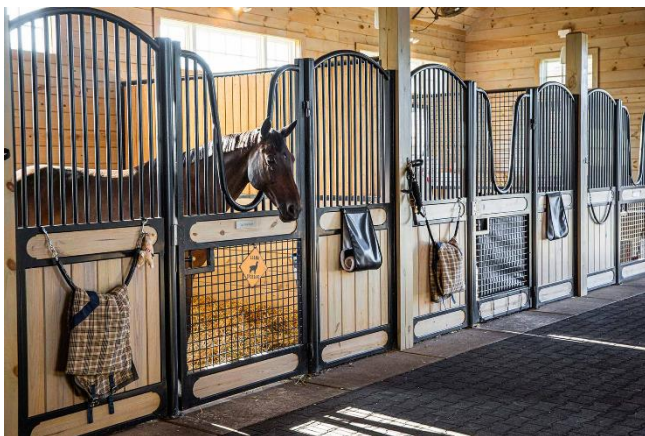


Pro:

- Well built, sturdy, and durable
- Open air so ventilation OK
- Reduces isolation because horses can see out

Con:

- Inadequate freedom of movement
- Cannot escape fire alone
- Not likely to support/acquire this as an exclusive resource for an emergency facility



Pro:

- Meets all the basic needs
- Make humans feel comfortable

Con:

- Prohibitively expensive for most
- Ventilation and fire escape hazard
- Likelihood of isolation and anxiety
- Inadequate freedom of movement

Pens, fencing, and turn-out

Housing needs become more complex when we consider freedom of movement and the perils of fencing, footing, and whatever naturally occurring obstacles there might be. Fencing materials need to be strong enough to keep a horse in safely but also forgiving enough to reduce the risk of serious injury.

Footing also needs to be considered in terms of traction, cushion, likelihood of mud with heavy precipitation, weeds if considering pasture, and any obstacles and perils – natural or otherwise.

Is it a shared fence line dividing horses who may compete for food or space?

Is it a perimeter fence line that may also need to keep out other animals like dogs?

Is the footing sandy?

Are there weeds that may be toxic?

...and so on.



Pro:

- Less risk of tangling in fence
- Keeps dogs and other small animals in/out (multiuse)
- Horse can't reach through to other side

Con:

- Wooden top rail might invite chewing
- Cost – likely on the higher end
- Not portable or quickly installed
- Wire materials always pose a risk



Pro:

- No wire
- Easier to repair
- More affordable

Con:

- Not as pretty
- Possible sharps
- Likelihood of rails being knocked down
- Horses can reach through



Pro:

- Affordable
- Keeps smaller animals in/out

Con:

- High risk of injury
- Even more so as a divider fence



Pro:

- Pleasing to the eye
- Easy and quick to install
- Easy to alter

Con:

- Does not break
- Horses can reach through
- More risk of really serious injury



Pro:

- Portable and goes up in minutes
- Does not rot
- Cannot be chewed

Con:

- More costly
- Must be set up in a grid to be self supporting
- A horse can push or pull over and entire fence line if spooked

Other Equipment for daily care:

- Water buckets
- Hay nets or feeders
- Feed buckets
- Wheelbarrows
- Forks, rakes, shovels
- Hoses

Safety Considerations

For ALERT's purposes, we need to consider further details. Even if we have access to the best of the best for shelter and fencing, the risks just keep coming and we need to lean in and consider the following:

- Layout of pens
- Gate and/or door swings
- Latches
- Paddock/stall assignment
- Feed and water placement
- Pinch points

4.0 FEEDING

There are two very basic nutritional needs that sustain equines and form the basis of any feeding program for any purpose, reason, or circumstance: Roughage and Water.

And again, no matter how simple we try to keep it, there are still several factors at play.

Roughage

Roughage is the fibrous bulk of a horse's diet. Grass, Timothy, and alfalfa are the most common in our area. Generally, all members of the Equidae Family require approximately 2.5% of their body weight in quality roughage. That means a 1000 lbs horse is likely to eat 25lbs of hay. A 400 lbs donkey, will only require about 10 lbs daily.

A horse's roughage needs may vary depending on the following factors:

- Age and stage of life
- Amount of work or activity
- Season and temperature
- Health
- Parasites
- Dentition
- Stress



Timothy



Alfalfa



Grass

Factors that are often in play during an evacuation

- Stress of transport and change – especially for horses not accustomed to it.
- Changes in activity and freedom to move
- Psychological stress of the emergency housing circumstances
- Unavoidable changes in feed

As a general guideline, equines in ALERT's care should be fed according to this formula in a manner that we'll call '**low and slow**'. That means that the roughage we're feeding should have a high fiber content and a lower digestible energy content. This feed can then be safely fed generously and slowly.

This approach will minimize risk of colic and other digestive perils for equines in our care as well as give them something to do while standing around in what is likely to be a much smaller pen than they are accustomed to.

Concentrated feeds with higher sugars, fats, proteins need to be avoided if there is no health concern that calls for it.

In addition to *what* we feed, we also need to think about *how* to feed it

- Measure by weight
- A slow feed system is ideal (ALERT now has hay nets)
- Some net systems allow you to feed once each day by controlling how quickly a horse can finish their daily feed
- ALERT is most likely to do two feedings daily to help with logistics
- Try to keep nets from touching the ground

Water

Why is it so important? - because we preserve our roughage by cutting, drying, and baling it for storage. A horse eating hay needs to drink enough water to help rehydrate that roughage for digestion. Those who keep their horses on a green pasture will notice that their horses will drink significantly less water. This is because the roughage they're consuming is still hydrated.

If a horse cannot get enough water for the volume of dry roughage it may develop a bowel obstruction, which is often life threatening.

The amount of water needed can also vary widely. A 1000 lbs horse eating a typical amount of roughage daily, during peak heat in the Okanagan summer and under light activity can drink as much as 30 gallons in a 24 hour period. The same horse, in March while standing around it's paddock fat from a winter off, who's most strenuous work is the wiggly itchy rolling they do to help shed their winter coat, may only drink 10 gallons. So level of activity, ambient temperature, and moisture content of it's feed can have a dramatic effect.

5.0 BASIC HEALTH CARE

Monitoring each equine's baseline behaviour is critical in emergency care.

The circumstances by which they have come to be in our care are stressful and unexpected for most, and therefore carry a lot more risk. Chances are, most of the equines in our care, wouldn't otherwise travel or go through such change in their routine.

Baseline behaviour

The following behaviours need to be noted:

- Alertness (arousal)
- Laying, standing, resting, rolling, pawing, pacing, etc.
- How many poops
- Quality of poops
- How much water consumed
- How much hay eaten

By noticing a horse's baseline behaviour we'll be better able to detect a problem as soon as it arises. Again, emergency housing circumstances can be stressful for our guests and there are some risks we just can't prevent. Number of poops and water consumed are good ones to document on the daily care log. A developing trend can be more easily spotted this way.

Signs of trouble

If you notice any of the following, alert your commander immediately:

- Repeated rolling
- Excessive pacing
- No poops
- Not eating
- Not drinking
- Signs of aggression
- Sweating
- Shivering
- Weaving, weakness, or wobbling

6.0 BASIC HANDLING

A classroom setting is wildly inappropriate for teaching the skills listed in this section. To be serve ALERT volunteers, I've listed a few links to videos available on the web.



Haltering & Leading

Catching Jake

<https://www.riding4lifeequineenterprises.com/videos?wix-vod-video-id=bb2cc07f518a41b2b3fcd4b4e5f6f387&wix-vod-comp-id=comp-km6l0mb1>

Gates and Thresholds

<https://youtu.be/CNamC89Oqh0>

<https://youtu.be/-AS8GysujdQ?si=YaCd2Z8lsTn2oONt>

<https://youtu.be/VB-4dg9Bkzk?si=qVJurcfQkVeBTCUM>



Grooming

Grooming Jake

<https://www.riding4lifeequineenterprises.com/videos?wix-vod-video-id=995cab6be094b97b5e1ffbc5168e00&wix-vod-comp-id=comp-km6l0mb1>



EEH 102 - Practical

- Sign in and meet for briefing
- Haltering and Leading demo
- Gates and Thresholds demo
- Pick a partner and practice:
 - Catching, Leading, Gates, Turn Out
 - Cleaning Pens
 - Feeding Roughage
 - Health Check
- Meet for debrief and sign out