

# Horses: Standards of Care and of Their Work Environment



**CHAI – Concern for Helping Animals in Israel**

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# Horses: Standards of Care and of Their Work Environment

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## **A. The Henneke System – A Reliable Method for Judging a Horse's Condition**

The Henneke System, named after its developer Dr. Don Henneke of Tarleton State University in Texas, provides an objective standard for judging a horse's condition. It is a fast, efficient system of evaluation that requires no special equipment, is easy to learn and the results are reproducible between different people. It can be used as a way of educating horse owners and as a standard for the court system.

The Henneke System identifies six reference points on a horse's body that are palpated to determine amounts of fat deposited there. A person investigating cases of abuse or neglect can quickly and unobtrusively pat a horse while visiting with the owner to assess the horse's condition, thereby keeping hostile feelings to a minimum. The system can be used to compare the condition of different horses or to evaluate the same horse over a period of time.

The six points on horses that are the most responsive to changes in body fat are: the lumbar spinous process (bony projections of the spine over the loin), ribs, tailhead, area behind the shoulders, crest of the neck and the withers. Palpation of these areas and visual evaluation are combined to give a numerical score. A horse that scores a 1 has no apparent fat cover and is emaciated, while a 5 is the average pleasure horse and a 9 is an obese animal.

### **HENNEKE CONDITION SCORING SYSTEM IN HORSES**

**(1) POOR** – The horse is emaciated, with prominent spinous processes, tailhead, pelvic bones and ribs; the bone structure under the withers, shoulders and neck can be seen and no fat can be felt anywhere.

The spinous processes are the prominent bones of the spine (backbones). This area is the most responsive to changes in amounts of fat in the body.

**(2) VERY THIN** – The spinous processes are still prominent but fat can be felt at their bases, and the transverse processes of the lumbar vertebrae feel rounded; the ribs, tailhead, and pelvic bones stand out, and bone structures under the withers, neck and shoulders can be faintly discerned.

**(3) THIN** – The spinous processes stand out, but fat covers them to midpoint so that the transverse process can't be felt; the ribs and tailhead also have a light coat of fat, ribs can be seen but the vertebrae in the tailhead can't be distinguished; pin bones can't be seen; the withers are prominent, but the structures under them, as well as those under the neck and shoulders, can't be seen.

Not adequate amounts of body fat for the horse to be healthy.

**(4) MODERATELY THIN** – The horse has a negative crease along his or her back and the outline of the ribs can be seen. How prominent the tailhead is depends on conformation, however, fat can be felt around it and the hook bones can't be seen; the withers, neck and shoulders no longer look obviously thin.

This is the minimum acceptable amount of body fat but not enough for the horse to handle illness or extreme stress.

Well conditioned endurance horses will score about 4.5 on this scale.

**(5) MODERATE** – The back is level; the ribs can be felt but not seen; fat around the tailhead begins to feel spongy; the shoulders and neck blend into the body; the withers look rounded.

Horse has a blended, smooth overall appearance. The average performance horse will score within this range.

**(6) MODERATE TO FLESHY** – Fat at the ribs feels spongy; at the tailhead it feels soft. The horse may have a slight crease down his back and the beginnings of fat deposits can be felt at the withers, behind the shoulders, and on the sides of the neck.

A good condition for a horse on maintenance. This is the condition the average pleasure horse should be.

**(7) FLESHY** – There may be a crease down the back and while the ribs can be felt, fat fills the spaces between them; fat is also noticeable along the withers and neck and behind the shoulders.

This is the level that halter horses are kept and it is also a good level for horses wintering outside of a stall.

**(8) FAT** – The horse has a crease down his or her back, and it is hard to feel the ribs, the fat around the tailbone feels very soft, the neck is noticeably thicker, and the area along the withers is filled with fat; the space behind the shoulders is filled in flush, and fat is being deposited along the inner buttocks.

**(9) EXTREMELY FAT** – The crease down the back is obvious; fat appears in patches over the ribs and bulges around the tailhead, withers, shoulders and neck, the inner buttocks may rub together; the flank is filled in flush.

The neck will appear very cresty and thick, spongy fat will be at the elbows and large amounts of soft, spongy fat deposited at the tailhead. The horse will be so fat at this point as to lose all definition of muscle and contours.

#### **POINTS TO NOTE**

Aged horses will have decreased scores because there is a softening in their muscle structure. Add a half a score.

Pregnant mares in the last trimester will have decreased scores. The weight of the foal pulls down her loin area decreasing that score and the hormones necessary for delivery will make her tailhead area flaccid, decreasing that score. Add one half a score to her overall score.

Thoroughbred conformation has naturally more prominent withers and back than some other breeds and therefore will naturally score one half score less.

Pony and draft breeds conformation is naturally fleshy and will score one half score higher.

## B. Horse Condition Score Sheet

OFFICER \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

OWNER \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

ANIMAL: NAME \_\_\_\_\_ BREED \_\_\_\_\_

COLOR \_\_\_\_\_ SEX \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_

**FINAL SCORE** \_\_\_\_\_

### CREST OF NECK

1. Bone structure under neck can be seen and no fat felt anywhere.
2. Bone structure under neck faintly discerned.
3. Structure under neck can't be seen.
4. Neck no longer looks obviously thin.
5. Neck blends into body.
6. Beginning of fat deposits can be felt along sides of neck.
7. Fat noticeable along neck.
8. Neck is noticeably thicker.
9. Bulging fat along neck.

Neck \_\_\_\_\_

Tail Head \_\_\_\_\_

Withers \_\_\_\_\_

Ribs \_\_\_\_\_

Lumbar \_\_\_\_\_

Shoulder \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL OF SIX AREAS** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL DIVIDED BY 6 = AVERAGE** \_\_\_\_\_

### WITHERS

1. Bone structure under withers can be seen and no fat can be felt anywhere.
2. Bone structure can be faintly discerned.
3. Withers are prominent.
4. Withers no longer look obviously thin.
5. Withers look rounded.
6. Beginning of fat can be felt at the withers.
7. Fat is noticeable along withers.
8. Area along withers is filled with fat.
9. Bulging fat around withers.

### LUMBAR SPINOUS PROCESS

1. Prominent spinous process and transverse process can be felt and no fat can be felt in these areas.
2. Spinous process still prominent but fat can be felt at the base and the transverse process feel rounded.
3. Spinous process stand out but fat covers to mid-point so that transverse process can't be felt.
4. Horse may have a negative crease down back.
5. Back is level.
6. Horse may have a slight crease down his or her back.
7. Crease down back.
8. Crease down back and fat can be felt.
9. Obvious crease down back.

### TAIL HEAD

1. Prominent tail head and pelvic bones. Vertebrae can be easily seen.
2. Tail head and pelvic bones stand out.
3. Tail head has a light coat of fat and vertebrae in tail head can't be distinguished.
4. Fat can be felt about tail head.
5. Fat around tail head begins to feel spongy.
6. Fat at tail head feels slightly soft.
7. Fat at tail head is soft.
8. Fat at tail head feels very soft.
9. Bulging fat around tail head.

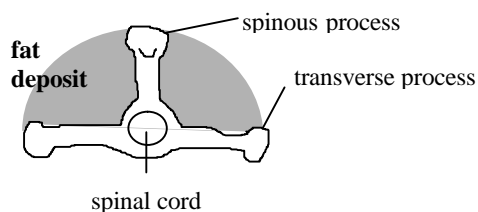
### RIBS

1. Ribs are prominent, no fat can be felt.
2. Ribs stand out.
3. Ribs can be seen but have a slight coat of fat.
4. Faint outline of ribs can be seen.
5. Ribs can be felt but not seen.
6. Fat at the ribs feels spongy.
7. Ribs can be felt but fat fills the spaces between them.
8. Hard to feel ribs.
9. Patchy fat appearing over ribs.

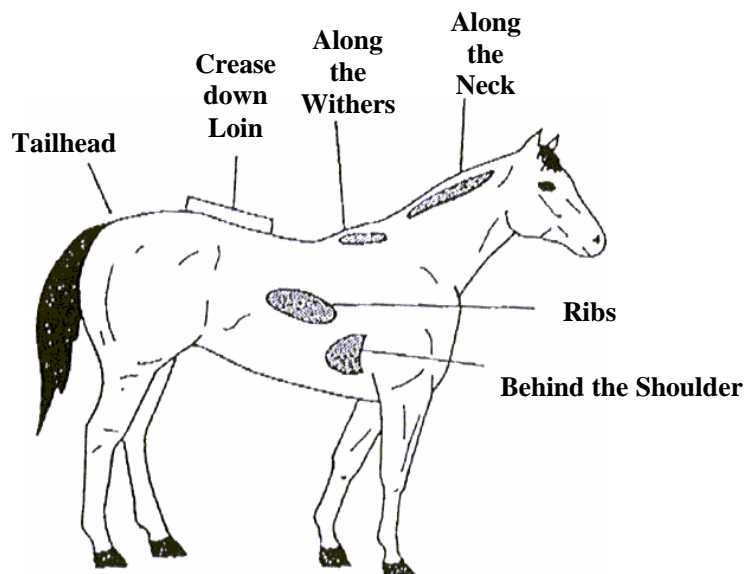
### AREA BEHIND SHOULDER

1. No fat felt. Bone structure noticeable.
2. Bone structure under shoulders can be faintly discerned.
3. Shoulders showing but not underlying structures.
4. Shoulder no longer looks obviously thin.
5. Shoulders and neck blend into the body.
6. Beginning of fat deposits can be felt behind shoulders.
7. Fat noticeable behind shoulders.
8. Space behind shoulders is filled in flush.
9. Bulging fat.

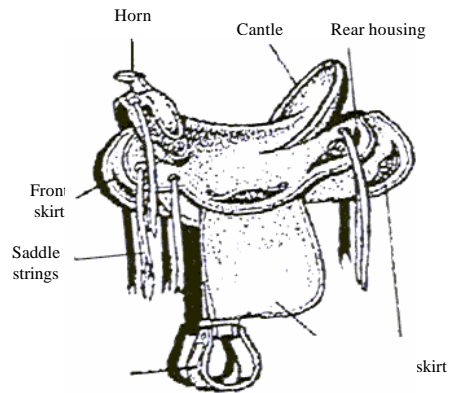
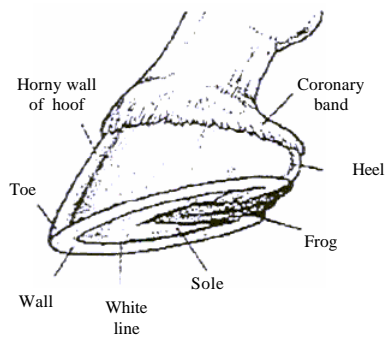
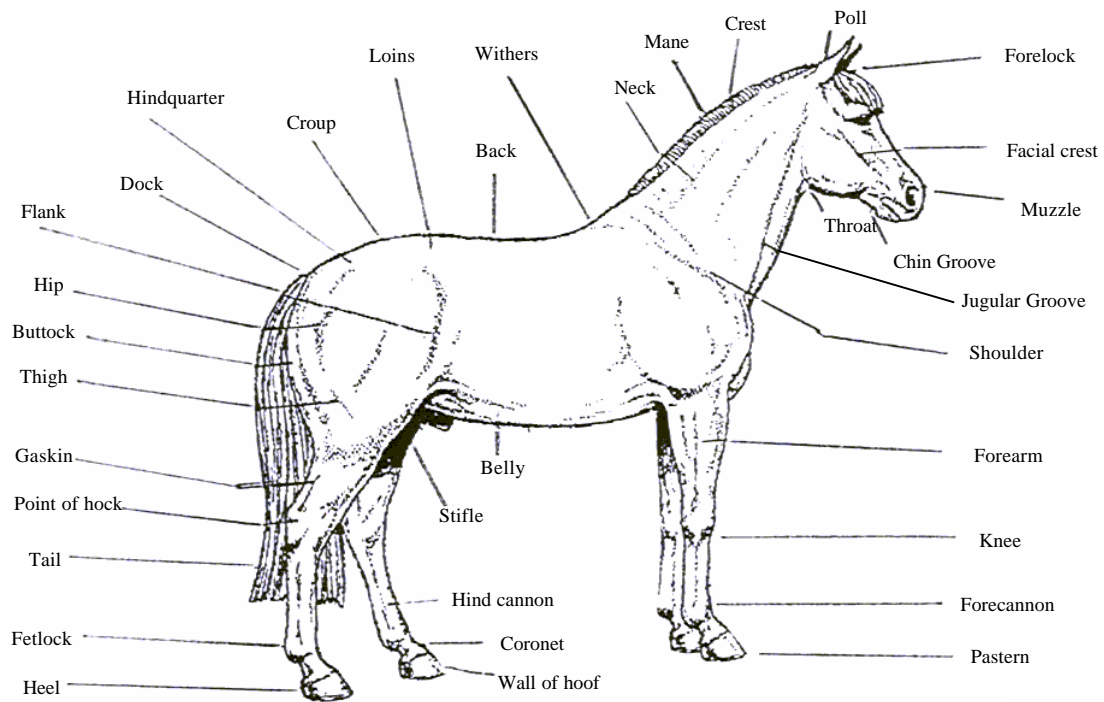
CONDITION	NECK	WITHERS	LOIN	TAILHEAD	RIBS	SHOULDER
<b>1 POOR</b>	Bone structure easily noticeable  Animal extremely emaciated: no fatty tissue can be felt	Bone structure easily noticeable	Spinous processes project prominently	Tailhead (pinbones) and neck bones projecting prominently	Ribs projecting prominently	Bone structure easily noticeable
<b>2 VERY THIN</b>	Faintly discernible  Animal Emaciated	Faintly discernible	Slight fat covering over base of spinous processes. Transverse processes of lumbar vertebrae feel rounded. Spinous processes are prominent.	Tailhead prominent	Ribs prominent	Faintly discernible
<b>3 THIN</b>	Neck accentuated	Withers accentuated	Fat buildup halfway on spinous processes but easily discernible. Transverse processes cannot be felt.	Tailhead prominent but individual vertebrae cannot be visually identified. Hook bones appear rounded, but still easily discernible. Pin bones not distinguishable.	Slight fat cover over ribs. Ribs easily discernible.	Shoulder accentuated
<b>4 Moderately THIN</b>	Neck not obviously thin	Withers not obviously thin	Negative crease along back	Prominence depends on conformation. Fat can be felt. Hook bones not discernible.	Faint outline discernible	Shoulder not obviously thin
<b>5 MODERATE</b>	Neck blends smoothly into body	Withers rounded over spinous processes	Back level	Fat around tailhead beginning to feel spongy	Ribs cannot be visually distinguished but can be easily felt	Shoulder blends smoothly into body
<b>6 Moderately FLESHY</b>	Fat beginning to be deposited	Fat beginning to be deposited	May have slight positive crease down back	Fat around tailhead feels soft	Fat over the ribs feels spongy	Fat beginning to be deposited
<b>7 FLESHY</b>	Fat deposited along neck	Fat deposited along withers	May have positive crease down back	Fat around tailhead is soft	Individual ribs can be felt, but noticeable filling between ribs with fat	Fat deposited behind shoulder
<b>8 FAT</b>	Noticeable thickening of neck  Fat deposited along inner buttocks	Area along withers filled with fat	Positive crease down back	Tailhead fat very soft	Difficult to feel ribs	Area behind shoulder filled in flush with body
<b>9 Extremely FAT</b>	Bulging fat  Fat along inner buttocks may rub together. Flank filled in flush.	Bulging fat	Obvious positive crease down back	Building fat around tailhead	Patchy fat appearing over ribs	Bulging fat



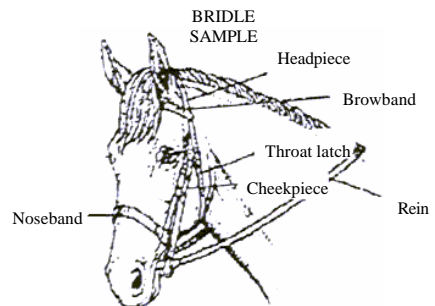
LUMBAR VERTEBRAE - FRONT



## C. Horse Sense



Stallion — male  
 Mare — female  
 Filly — young female  
 Colt — young male  
 Gelding — castrated male



## **D. Guide to Minimum Standards of Care for Equines**

### **NUTRITIOUS FOOD IN SUFFICIENT QUANTITY**

- ✓ Nutritious food in sufficient quality (wholesome, palatable and free from contamination, such as feces, mold, mildew, insects).
- ✓ Food shall be provided in sufficient quantity and be of adequate and appropriate nutritive value.
- ✓ Diet shall be prepared with consideration for the age, breed/type, condition, size, work level, and quantity of equine(s).
- ✓ Equines should score, by a veterinarian, no less than a body condition of 3 on the Henneke Condition Scoring Chart to be considered of adequate weight.
- ✓ Equines shall have access to adequate natural forage or be fed daily or as recommended by a veterinarian.
- ✓ All storage and feeding receptacles shall be kept clean and free from contaminants, such as feces, mold, mildew, insects.
- ✓ If more than one animal is fed at one time or in one place, it shall be the responsibility of the guardian to ensure that each animal receives nutrition in sufficient quantity.

### **NECESSARY VETERINARY CARE**

An equine shall be afforded immediate veterinary care if known or suspected to have an injury, accidental or deliberate, or exhibiting such signs as shock, colic, founder, tremors, swelling, broken bones, open wounds, any change in eating or drinking, blistering as a result of fire or acid, irregular or abnormal breathing, partial or total paralysis, abnormal discharge or bleeding, signs of disease, severe parasitic infestation or infection, loss of appetite, weight loss, abnormal skin condition or hair loss, temperature fluctuation, persistent diarrhea, inability to bear weight on a limb or lameness.

#### **The following are recognized as standard veterinary care guidelines for equines:**

- ✓ Hoof care maintenance and trimming every six (6) to eight (8) weeks, or as directed by a veterinarian or a farrier.
- ✓ Parasites kept under control through worming every eight (8) weeks. Your veterinarian will suggest a protocol.
- ✓ Annual dental check-up and necessary treatment to ensure proper and adequate food digestion.
- ✓ Vaccinations as recommended by your veterinarian (e.g. against tetanus, rabies, influenza, encephalitis).

### **PROPER DRINK**

Proper drink shall mean clean, potable water available at all times for all equines. Exceptions shall be determined by veterinary consultation or professionally accepted practices for the safety and well-being of the equine.

Equines that are being worked or are in transport shall be provided water as often as necessary for the health and comfort of the equine. Frequency of watering shall consider age, breed/type, condition, size and quantity of equine(s). Activity levels and climatic conditions must be considered.

Equines that do not have free access to water must be offered fresh water at least twice daily.

All water receptacles shall be kept clean and free of contaminants and be positioned or affixed to minimize spillage.

### **PROPER AIR**

Enclosed areas should be constructed or modified to allow free flow of air to control temperature, humidity, and prevent air stagnation.

### **PROPER SPACE**

Space available to the equine must be usable and safe. Horses must be provided an area free from standing water, accumulated waste, sharp objects and debris, and maintained in a safe and healthful manner. Fencing shall be well maintained and in good repair at all times.

Equines shall be allowed to exercise and have freedom of movement as necessary to reduce stress and maintain good physical condition. Space and provisions for exercise must be appropriate and sufficient for the age, breed/type, quantity, condition, and size of the equine(s).

### **PROPER SHELTER**

Shelter for equines shall have at least a roof and three sides and be kept in good repair and free of standing water, accumulated waste, sharp objects, and debris. Proper shelter provides protection from inclement weather conditions (prevailing wind, sleet, rain, and temperature extremes).

It is the responsibility of the owner/custodian to ensure that each equine, taking into consideration age, breed/type, and health, has access to proper shelter or protection from the weather (relief from more dominant equines that may exclude him/her from the shelter).

OR

### **PROTECTION FROM THE WEATHER**

All equines should have access to proper/appropriate shelter from weather extremes. Trees and natural weather barriers providing shelter may, under some circumstances, be considered adequate shelter.

## **E. Examples of Regulations Governing the Care and Protection of Horses and Other Equines Used as Work Animals**

Following are an example of one State's law that protects horses and other equines used as work animals, and an example of the rules of operation of the Carriage Operators of North America.

### **The State of California Health and Safety Code**

A police officer, an officer of a humane society as qualified under the Civil Code, or an officer of an animal control department of a public agency, as qualified under the Penal Code, may issue a citation to any person or entity keeping horses or other equine animals for hire, if the person or equity fails to meet any of the following standards of humane treatment regarding the keeping of horses or other equine animals:

1. Any enclosure where an equine is primarily kept shall be of sufficient size to enable the equine to comfortably stand up, turn around, and lie down, and shall be kept free of excessive urine and waste matter.
2. Paddocks and corrals shall be of adequate size for the equine to move about freely.
3. Buildings, premises and conveyances used in conjunction with equines shall be kept free of sharp objects, protrusions, or other materials that are likely to cause injury.
4. Equines shall be supplied with nutritionally adequate feed and clean water, in accordance with standards published by the Cooperative Extension of the Division of Agricultural Sciences of the University of California.
5. Tack and equipment shall be appropriate and fit properly.
6. After use the equine shall be cooled out to a normal condition at rest.
7. When not being ridden, a saddled equine shall have available adequate shelter from the elements, and have loosened saddle straps and girths.
8. An equine shall not be available for hire or use if the equine has any of the following conditions:
  - a. Sores or abrasions cause or likely to be irritated by the surfaces of saddles, girths, harnesses, or bridles.
  - b. Blindness in both eyes.
  - c. Improperly or inadequately trimmed and shod feet, contrary to accepted standards.

9. Each equine shall be individually identified, using humane methods, such as a detailed description, including, but not limited to, name, breed, color, markings, size, age, sex, and photograph.
10. Farrier and veterinary receipts shall be kept and shall identify each equine treated.
11. Veterinary, farrier, and feed records shall be made available during normal business hours to the law enforcement officer. Upon failure to provide these records, the equine or equines in question may not be used for hire until such time as the records are produced or an equine veterinarian shall certify that the equine or equines are fit for labor.

## Carriage Operators of North America - Rules of Operation

### I. CARE AND SHELTER OF HORSES

- A. No horse may be used to draw a carriage unless the animal is in good health and the following requirements are met:
1. The horse may not have any open sores or wounds, nor may such horse be lame or have any other ailments, unless the driver has in the driver's possession a written statement by a veterinarian that the horse is fit for such work, notwithstanding such condition.
  2. The hoofs of the horse must be properly shod, utilizing rubber shoes or pads to prevent concussion injuries. Borium tip shoes can be used to help prevent slipping. Metal shoes can be used on the rear legs of the horse, if the horse's hooves will not accommodate the use of rubber pads there.
  3. The horse shall be groomed daily.
  4. The horse must have adequate flesh and muscle tone. Horses shall be kept in a working condition.
- B. **Medical care.** Every horse shall be examined prior to use in a horse drawn carriage business, by a veterinarian who shall certify the fitness of the horse to perform such work. The horse shall be examined for his or her general physical condition, which is to include inspection of teeth, legs, hooves and shoes, cardiovascular exam and for his or her physical ability to perform the work or duties required of it. The exam shall also include a record of any injury, disease, or deficiency observed by the vet at the time, together with any prescription or humane correction of the same. A health certificate signed by the examining vet shall be kept at the stable where the horse is sheltered and contain the name or number of the horse, age and condition of the horse.
- C. Horses should be wormed regularly and have all required vaccinations (for example, against tetanus, rabies, encephalitis, influenza).
- D. Horses used to pull carriages shall have water made available to them during their work period.
- E. No horse shall work more than eight consecutive hours or ten hours with an hour and one half break, disconnected from the carriage, in a 24 hour period. No horse shall work more than six days in a seven day period.
- F. No horse may be worked with equipment causing an impairment of vision, other than normal blinders.
- G. No horse drawing a carriage shall be worked at a speed faster than a slow trot.

- H. During the winter months, horses stationed outdoors while awaiting passengers shall be covered with a blanket when the temperature is below 36 degrees F (2.25°C). All blankets shall be kept clean at all times.
- I. No animal shall be subject to any cruel or harassing treatment.
- J. A carriage horse shall not be sold or disposed of except in a humane manner.

## **II. HARNESSES**

- A. No animal will be worked with a harness or bit that is not safe and humane.
- B. The harness must be oiled and cleaned so as to be soft at all times.
- C. Harnesses, bridles, bits and padding must be properly fitted and kept in clean and good repair at all times. The harness shall be kept free of makeshifts like, wire, rope and rusty chain.

## **III. WEATHER CONDITIONS**

- A. Owners and drivers shall use caution when working horses in adverse weather conditions such as snow, ice, heavy rain and other slippery conditions.
- B. Horses shall not be worked in temperatures below 0 F (-18°C), nor shall a horse be worked in temperatures above 100 F (37.7°C). Horses should not be worked when the combined total of temperature and humidity is above 150, after subtracting the wind speed, when the temperature is above 80 F (26.6°C).
- C. All carriage companies and drivers shall work their horses only when safe weather conditions exist. Special attention and discretion should be used during periods of high humidity, extreme cold and wind chill. Proper shoes should be used during icy conditions.

## **IV. FEEDING**

- A. Horses must receive adequate and substantial feeding daily which is free from contamination. The feed should be sufficient quantity, nutritive value, and frequency to meet normal daily requirements for the condition and size of the animal so as to maintain a healthy flesh.
- B. Clean drinking water must be in the stalls and available to the horse at all times.
- C. Each stall must contain a clean block of salt at all times.

## **V. STABLES AND STALLS**

- A. All stables used for housing horses shall be well lighted and ventilated and provide protection from the weather. All such stables shall be kept clean and in good repair at all times and manure shall be removed there daily. Any enclosure where horses are kept shall be graded and raked so as to keep the surface reasonably dry.

- B. Foot hazards and sharp surfaces will not be permitted in any area or building where they may come in contact with the animals.
- C. Roofs must be kept free of leaks where animals are kept.
- D. Box stalls shall be large enough for horses to lie down and turn around, the minimum size to be no less the 8 × 10 feet (2.40 × 3.00 m.).
- E. Tie stalls shall be a minimum of 4'6" × 10 feet (1.35 × 3.00 m.). Horses that are not worked at least every other day or not turned out daily should not be kept in tie stalls.
- F. Bedding should be used liberally and changed daily.
- G. A pest control program should be used to control flies and other insects.
- H. Food must be kept free of contamination.
- I. All interior and exterior areas of the stable shall be kept clean, properly drained and free of nuisances including, but not limited to, odors, and accumulation of refuse and excrement.
- J. There shall be no smoking at any time in stables.
- K. Cities and other municipalities should make every effort to allow stables within a walking distance of carriage stands for the health and well being of the horses.

## **VI. HORSE DRAWN CARRIAGE DRIVER QUALIFICATIONS**

- A. Each driver must be at least 18 years of age.
- B. Each driver must speak, read and write the English language.
- C. Each driver must present a statement that the driver is free of defective vision and hearing, not subject to epilepsy, vertigo, heart disease, or other infirmities which may substantially impair the ability to safely operate a vehicle.
- D. Each driver should be free of alcohol and drug addiction.
- E. Each driver must demonstrate his or her ability to drive and care for the horse and equipment.
- F. Each driver must successfully complete a practical exam using a horse and carriage. The driver should demonstrate proficiency in grooming the horse, cleaning the harness and padding, fitting the bridle, bit and harness to the horse, hitching the horse to the carriage, and driving the carriage upon city streets in a safe and humane fashion.
- G. New drivers should be required to go through a driver training program and serve as an apprentice. They should be required to ride with a seasoned driver for at least 24 hours to observe the proper handling and driving of a horse drawn carriage and the methods of

handling emergency situations for unexpected animal behavior. The new driver should drive a carriage under supervision of a seasoned driver for at least 16 hours of the apprenticeship.

- H. Each driver must have a valid motor vehicle license.

## **VII. CONDUCT OF DRIVERS**

- A. Each driver must have his or her valid driver's license in his or her possession while operating a carriage.
- B. The driver shall obey all traffic laws and regulations of the city and state.
- C. No driver shall operate a carriage while under the influence of alcohol or narcotic drugs.
- D. No person may drink alcohol while such person is operating a horse drawn vehicle.
- E. Drivers are prohibited from smoking, eating or wearing head phones while the carriage is in motion for optimum safety and control of the horse and carriage.
- F. The driver of each carriage, during travel from one half hour after sunset until one-half hour before sunrise, and at all other times as conditions of poor visibility exist, shall cause the front and tail lights of the carriage to be in operation.
- G. The driver shall not permit the speed at which any horse drawn carriage is driven to exceed a slow trot.
- H. No driver shall abandon his carriage, permit another to drive for him or her, except an apprentice, or permit any passenger to ride on the driver's seat.
- I. No driver shall permit more passengers in a carriage than it has been designed for.
- J. No passenger shall be permitted to stand or ride on any part of the carriage while in motion, except seated inside the carriage. Drivers shall take all necessary precautions to prohibit such activity. All passengers must be seated except when loading or unloading.
- K. The driver shall at all times be responsible for the proper and humane care and treatment of the horse under his or her direct supervision and control.
- L. Drivers shall at all times be dressed neatly and cleanly with a costume or uniform preferred.
- M. Drivers should be in the driver's seat and have driving lines in hand before loading or unloading passengers.
- N. No one shall unbridle a horse while the horse is connected to any horse drawn vehicle.

## **F. HSUS Carriage Horse Policy**

*The HSUS (Humane Society of the United States) is opposed to the operation of horse-drawn carriage concessions in high density urban areas because of the unacceptable risks posed to the working animals. These risks include the possibility of death or injury to equines from collisions with motor vehicles. Additionally, we have documented numerous instances of abuse to carriage horses including overworking, overloading of carriages, working in dangerous or inclement weather conditions, inadequate veterinary care, deprivation of water, ill-fitting harnesses, malicious cruelty and inadequate urban stabling.*

*The HSUS recognized that some communities nevertheless permit horse-drawn carriages to operate within high-density urban areas. In these instances, we believe it is absolutely essential that carriage horse operations and carriage drivers be regulated and licensed in accordance with our humane and safety guidelines.*

### **HSUS CARRIAGE HORSE GUIDELINES**

#### **CARE AND SHELTER OF HORSES:**

1. Only equines in good health, with adequate muscle tone and proper body condition, and which have been certified as fit to work by a licensed equine veterinarian shall be used to pull carriages.
2. No equine will be used to pull a carriage if it has injuries or wounds, is lame or unsound in one or more limbs, or which has any other ailment without the specific written approval of a licensed equine veterinarian.
3. The hooves of all working equines will be properly shod with appropriate shoes. Shoes which are designed to prevent slipping and absorb shock shall be used when working on paved surfaces.
4. Carriage horses, mules, and donkeys should be properly trained and acclimated to the many sights and sounds of their working environment prior to actual street assignment.
5. Each carriage animal shall be properly sized relative to the carriage he or she will pull. The weight, size, and load capacity of the carriage shall be carefully considered when making the determination.
6. Horses or mules which have been "nerved" or which have been subjected to any other procedure intended to permanently or temporarily block the animal's ability to perceive pain shall not be used to pull carriages. Injured or lame equines will be given appropriate rest and veterinary care, and will be excluded from working duties until the injury or unsoundness has healed and the animal's ability to resume work has been certified by a veterinarian.
7. Working carriage animals shall be examined by a licensed equine veterinarian at least four times per year (quarterly) and shall receive all necessary immunizations, be dewormed at appropriate intervals to control internal parasites, and shall be given other preventive and

diagnostic care as stipulated by the attending veterinarian and local and state laws and regulations.

8. Stables shall meet all husbandry, safety, and sanitation standards established by the appropriate regulating authority in consultation with any local humane organization, animal control agency, and veterinary association within the jurisdiction. All animals, stables, carriages, harnesses and other equipment, veterinary records, work schedules, and other documents and records as may be required by regulation, shall be made available for inspection during normal daylight hours to the recognized regulatory or enforcement agency(s) within the jurisdiction. Such records of inspections shall be considered public records and shall be made available to the public upon request to the inspecting agency.
9. An adequate overhead shelter shall be provided at the normal location(s) where carriage passengers load and unload from the carriage vehicle to provide shade and to protect the carriage animals from undue exposure to weather extremes. Potable drinking water shall also be available at all times at this location.

#### **OPERATIONAL CONDITIONS**

1. Carriage animals shall not be worked whenever the temperature exceeds 90 degrees Fahrenheit or when the combination of the ambient temperature and the relative humidity exceed 160, or when the ambient temperature and/or wind chill factor falls below 30 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. Carriage animals shall not be worked more than four consecutive hours without a one hour rest period, and shall not be worked more than a total of eight hours per day. A ten minute rest period shall be provided every hour during the work period.
3. Carriage animals shall not be worked more than five consecutive days without being provided a rest period of at least one day before the resumption of work.
4. Carriage animals shall not be worked in adverse weather conditions or when the road surface is slippery, ice-covered, or is otherwise unsuitable to insure the safety of the animal and any passengers.
5. Carriage animals shall not be driven, led, or otherwise taken into areas of high-density motor vehicle traffic, or onto any roadway where there is not a safe lane for a carriage to operate, or onto any roadway where the legal speed limit exceeds 25 mph (40 kph).
6. Potable water should be made available and each animal given the opportunity to drink at all passenger pick up points and at the midpoint of the route and during the hourly ten minute break.
7. There shall be a limit of four adult passengers per carriage vehicle. For the purposes of enforcement, children under 12 years of age will be counted as one half of one adult provided, however, that no child under 12 shall be permitted on the carriage vehicle without being accompanied by an adult passenger.

## **OWNER AND DRIVER QUALIFICATIONS**

1. Owners shall be knowledgeable in equine husbandry, equine training, and emergency health care. They shall also be knowledgeable in the proper use and maintenance of harnesses, tack and carriages, or have in the employ a manager with such expertise.
2. Each driver shall be at least 18 years of age and possess a valid motor vehicle license in the state in which the carriage is operated. In addition, each driver shall possess a valid carriage operator's license to be issued only upon the successful completion of a written and practical test developed and administered by the regulating agency to establish the knowledge and abilities of a carriage driver to properly operate a horse-drawn carriage upon public streets and highways.
3. In addition to operational testing, each licensed carriage driver shall successfully pass a written and practical test, developed and administered by the regulating authority, to determine a carriage driver's knowledge and ability to properly care for the carriage animal, and to properly and safely use and maintain the harnesses, tack, and carriage while under the driver's operation.
4. The regulating authority shall establish a permit system whereby a person may obtain a temporary carriage operators permit, and may operate a carriage only when accompanied by a licensed carriage driver, in preparation for the practical carriage horse operators examination.
5. Licensed carriage drivers who have been convicted of animal cruelty or of driving a horse-drawn vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, drugs or any intoxicating substance shall have their carriage license permanently revoked.

*For more information, contact:   The Humane Society of the United States  
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