



Equine Care Guide



Horses ★ Donkeys ★ Mules



★★★ Shelter ★★★

Horses need adequate shelter, including:
· Protection from rain, snow, and high winds
· Shade in summer
· Natural light
· Bedding (straw, sawdust or wood shavings)

Indoor box stalls should be at least 10' x 10' with room for the horse to turn around and lie down. If the stall is smaller than this, let the horse outside daily. Clean (or "muck") the stalls regularly by removing manure and adding more bedding as necessary.

Outdoor, open-air stalls or stables should have a minimum of three solid sides for protection from rain, snow and wind. If this is not possible, the horse should have a waterproof horse blanket in cold months. Blankets should be checked daily for proper fitting.

★★★ Feed ★★★

Horses need a diet of hay or a mixture of hay and grains (oats, sweet feed or other grains). **Do not** feed only grains unless recommended by a veterinarian.

A well-fed horse will finish all of his hay/grain and not look around for more afterward.

Horses require daily feeding by placing hay or grain in a hay rack or bucket. **Do not** throw feed on the ground, where it can attract dust, mold and parasites that harm the horse.

Keep fresh, clean water and salt blocks accessible to the horse at all times.

★★ Veterinary Care & Grooming ★★

Vaccinations

To maintain good health, horses need annual vaccinations (shots) for **Rabies, Tetanus, West Nile Virus, Encephalitis**. Under state law, Rabies vaccinations must be administered only by a licensed veterinarian. Other vaccinations can be administered by a veterinarian or can be bought at veterinary supply stores.

Deworming

Administer deworming drugs—paste injected into the horse's mouth—at least twice per year (spring and fall), though every three months is better. Deworming drugs can be administered by a licensed veterinarian or can be bought at equine or farm supply stores.

Feed Amounts (Two-Strand Square Bale of Hay)

Large: 1 bale per day (including Clydesdales, Percherons, Draft horses)

Regular: 1/2 to 3/4 of a bale per day (~1000 lbs: including Donkeys, Mules)

Small: 1/3 of a bale per day (including Ponies, Miniature Horses, Miniature Donkeys)



Teeth

A horse's teeth should be checked annually by a veterinarian or equine dentist. The teeth may need to be "floated" (filed down) every year.

Gelding

Gelding—castration of male horses—is necessary in all cases unless the foal is specifically raised as a stud by a regulated horse breeder. Uncastrated stallions are often aggressive, cause property damage, and can injure themselves. Contact a licensed veterinarian to perform a gelding procedure. The operation should be performed in spring, fall, or winter to minimize risk of infection.

Coggins Test

A Coggins Test for blood disease is inexpensive and should be performed by a licensed veterinarian every year.



Hoof Care

Horses require regular cleaning of their hooves with a hoof pick, especially in winter months to prevent buildup of ice and snow. Contact a professional farrier to check and trim hooves every three months.

Disaster Planning

Pre-Planning

- ★ Identify and plan with friends or neighbors who can respond in emergencies (release horses from stalls, call veterinarians, temporarily house horses, etc.)
- ★ Make a list of instructions to emergency workers in a waterproof envelope and post in multiple locations such as barn walls, exterior house walls, etc.
- ★ Create a list of necessary items to bring with the horse in an emergency (water, feed, buckets, halters, lead ropes, medication, etc.).
- ★ Anticipate and be prepared for food or water shortages from power outages, road outages, etc.

Paperwork

- Keep copies of the following paperwork in a waterproof envelope:
- Bill of sale
 - Most recent vaccinations record
 - Most recent Coggins test
 - Other veterinary records
 - Photographic proof of ownership



For more information, contact
Animal Protection of New Mexico
505-265-2322
apnm.org/programs/equine_protection
Equine Protection Fund
equineprotectionfund.org