



Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee™

Title: Texas Tech Equestrian Center Herd Health

SOP Number: 070

Purpose: To provide the highest quality of care for livestock housed at the Texas Tech Equestrian Center (TTEC), to maintain a quality herd for teaching purposes, Equestrian Teams, and to prevent the development of disease or disorders.

PERSONNEL

Training

All personnel will be trained via IACUC and TTEC training in

1. Husbandry needs
2. Handling and restraint
3. Proper equipment training will also be conducted

Occupational Health

To promote the safety of the staff

1. Appropriate respiratory, ear and eye protection will be available to the workers upon request.
2. First Aid kits will be available in designated areas throughout the Center.

FACILITIES AND ENVIRONMENT

Housing

Stalls will meet or exceed the current Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching (Ag Guide) Standards to ensure that the animals are comfortable, are able to stand, lay/rest, and groom themselves. Horses housed in stalls will be turned out or exercised daily (health and weather permitting) and stalls will be cleaned daily.

Noise: Loud or sudden noises will be kept to a minimum, however, white noise like a radio may be kept in barns to mask or accustom the horses to startling sounds.

1. Stalls will be bedded with wood shaving bedding or pelletized bedding.
2. Dry lot pens
3. Pastures

Pens will be free of harmful objects and will be cleaned at a minimum of every 3 months.

In the event of inclement weather (i.e., snow or extended periods of rain), horses housed outdoors may be brought into stalls, or turned out into the large, fenced pasture on the southwest portion of the property.

Horses are housed in a herd environment for exercise and social interaction. However, some horses such as stallions, injured/sick, 'unsociable' and other high maintenance horses may be housed in pens or stalls.

Pest Control The offices, feed and tack rooms will be fogged or treated as needed for flies and mice. Fly masks will be kept on horses that show sensitivity to flies or the sun during summer months. The large stall barn is equipped with a timed fly mist system above each stall. Horses will be treated for flies and other external parasites using spray, wipe or spot application products approved for equine use. The Department of Vector Control will be consulted and will spray regularly during the mosquito season. Efforts will be made to eliminate standing water on the grounds to minimize mosquito breeding. Gafford Pest Control is contracted for both rodent and insect control.

NUTRITION

Feed troughs or pails will be kept clean and free of sharp edges. Horses will have access to safe, free choice hay, or fed twice per day.

Horses will be fed according to needs as per NRC (Nutrient Requirements of Horses, 2006) recommendations for specific age, sex, and physiological conditions. Geriatric horses will be visually monitored at least monthly, and diets will be adjusted as needed. Body condition scores (Henneke et al, 1983) and/or scale weights will be taken and recorded every six (6) months by ACS.

Horses will be fed to maintain a target body condition score of 5. If it is determined by TTEC Director and the university veterinarians that a horse is unable to maintain a body condition score of 3.5 or greater after aggressive effort and if the animals well-being is compromised, humane euthanasia may be recommended.

All animals will have constant access to clean water in containers free of sharp edges.

FEEDING

Horses are fed by class, body weight and body condition score. Some horses are fed a supplemental grain ration (concentrate) on an as-needed basis. All rations are based upon NRC requirements for age, sex, and physiological condition. All horses will have access (either free choice or limit fed) to grass hay and/or alfalfa hay to meet their roughage requirements.

HERD HEALTH

Vaccination schedules for program horses include annual boosters of Equine Encephalomyelitis, Tetanus, Equine Influenza, Rhinopneumonitis, Rabies and West Nile and IN Strangles. Program horses traveling for events will receive a booster of Influenza and Rhinopneumonitis twice yearly. A copy of registration papers and a current negative Coggins test is required for any horse entering TTEC facilities. Blood samples will be collected by jugular venipuncture for Coggins tests, routine blood work, during illness, or during classes to teach venipuncture collection and jugular injection techniques.

A deworming program will be systematically carried out 3-4 times a year according to a rotational regimen. Anthelmintic will be administered as a paste application or oral drench

based on body weight. All routine health care will be performed under the direction of the TTEC director, and veterinarians. All animals will be checked by staff daily for illness, cuts and injuries. For serious illnesses or injuries, a veterinarian will be notified. Horses may be transported to a veterinary clinic or a farm call will be arranged. All emergency numbers will be listed in the offices at each unit. Minor lacerations and abrasions that do not require suturing may be treated by TTEC staff. Horses with chronic joint problems may occasionally require an NSAID (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug), in consultation with a licensed veterinarian.

EMERGENCY CARE

Dr. Tiffanie Brooks, TTU Attending Veterinarian (806) 239-2120

Dr. Paul Stonum, TTU Clinical Veterinarian (660) 562-4425

Brock Veterinary Clinic, Lamesa (806) 872-3183

Mobile Veterinary Practice (806) 622-0803

Hub City Veterinary Clinic (806) 701-5000

Core Veterinary Services (701) 471-7724

HOOF CARE

Horses' hooves are trimmed approximately every 8 weeks by a farrier. Horseshoes may be required for some of the riding horses and will be reset or replaced every 8 weeks.

DENTAL CARE

Horse's teeth will be floated once per year or on an as needed basis.

RECORDS FOR TTEC HORSES

Records kept on all animals housed on TTEC property in the TTEC office, will include:

1. Identification/number of all animals
2. Registration papers if available
3. Negative EIA (Coggins) test
4. Daily observation records
5. Medical treatment /Preventative care records

RECORDS FOR LEASED OR DONATED LIVESTOCK

This will include for any animals leased, donated or used for TTU purposes (cattle, horses and goats):

1. Health papers (CVI) for incoming animals and/or health history stating vaccination history, castration status, deworming history, and appropriate surveillance testing results.

2. Animals arriving from sources of unknown health status will not be allowed to enter the premises until an appropriate quarantine period is observed and any appropriate testing and vaccinations and deworming products are given.

EMERGENCY MAINTENANCE.

In case of power failure contact:

South Plains Electrical Coop (888-741-0111) or the
Texas Tech Physical Plant (742-3301).