

## SCOTLAND COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Health Director



### Horses Standard of Care

**Terminology:** Female- Mare, Young Female-Filly  
Male- Stallion, Young Male- Colt, Castrated Male- Gelding

#### **Basic Standards of Care:**

1. Fresh, clean water should be available at all times.
2. Should be fed as follows.
  - A. A complete hay diet consisting of good quality hay( a 1000 pound horse will eat between  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{3}{4}$  bales of hay per day; a pony or small breed,  $\frac{1}{3}$  bale per day).
  - B. A partial hay diet consisting of a sufficient supply of good hay ( $\frac{1}{6}$  to  $\frac{1}{3}$  bale), along with either oats, sweet feed, or other grain.
  - C. A “complete” grain type feed for those horses that cannot eat hay because of health problems.
3. Hay and grain should not be thrown on ground which could lead to infection/re-infection from parasites; but rather placed in manger or hay rack, or in case of grain, in a bucket or suitable container. All feed should be kept dry to avoid mold.
4. Salt blocks always should be available – either white salt or preferably trace mineralized salt (red blocks).
5. Should be provided with shelter that affords them protection from heavy rain, snow, and high wind. The shelter should also provide sufficient shade in the summer.
6. Stalls can be box stalls (minimum 12’by 12’ per horse) or straight stalls (only permits the horse in a straight alignment, that is, it can stand and lie, but cannot turn around.) If confined to a straight stall, daily turnout should be provided. Natural light should be available and horses should not be overcrowded.
7. Horses maybe placed in pasture with natural shelter when in good health. When in debilitated stated of health a man-made shelter in good repair is required.

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