

Examples of Horse Condition

Healthy Condition:

Overall look of horse is good. Healthy coat, feet trimmed, no ribs or bones showing.



Unhealthy Condition:

Horse underweight, hip bones and ribs showing. Running nose, dull coat, hooves long / split.



For more information

Please visit South Carolina Horsemen's Council Horse Help Hotline.

<http://schorsementscouncil.org/horse-help-hotline.html>

This brochure is designed as a basic guide to help horse owners understand how to properly care for their horses.

Basic Care for Horses

Water: Clean water available at all times

Food: Clean, mold free hay and/or grass pasture with free choice salt. Grain or pellets may also be needed.

Shelter: Clean shelter for protection from weather.

Fencing: Safe with room to move around.

Health Care: Regular de-worming, hoof care, annual vaccinations.

Initial purchase price is usually the more affordable aspect of horse ownership; feed, stabling, and health care costs add up.

Be sure to check cost before taking on the responsibility of ownership.

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Basic Guide To Horse Care



South Carolina
Horsemen's Council
www.schorseouncil.org

Nutrition

Water

An average horse will drink 10-15 gallons of water daily. Buckets would need refilling more than once a day. Water must be fresh and available at all times. Tubs or buckets need to be clean and free of debris. In winter make sure water is not frozen.

Food

Pasture should be the primary food source for your horse. Adequate pasture is about 2 acres per horse. Pastures need to be managed to maintain a good food source.

If pastures aren't adequate enough to fill your horse's needs you will need to supplement their diet with hay. Hay should look and smell good. No mold.

Supplemental Nutrition

Horse's digestive tracts are designed to graze most of the day. If there is not enough pasture, you need to supplement with feed. There are many types of feed. There are sweet grains, oats, pellets and many others. You need to look at your horse's health, their exercise and how much pasture/hay they will have available to them. Your vet would be a great source to find the right fit for your horse's needs.

Your horse should have access to salt at all times. Salt can be purchased at a local feed supply store.

Safekeeping

Shelter

Adequate shelter, manmade or natural, is needed to shelter your horse from heat, cold, freezing weather. A shed or barn should be tall enough for your horse to be safe from hitting its head. Inspect shelter regularly for nails or metal that could cause injury. It should be clean.

Fencing

Fencing should be sturdy and well maintained. Good fencing ensures your horse will not escape. You are liable for any damage your animals cause if they get out.

Transportation

When trailering your horse be sure both trailer and towing vehicle tires are in good shape (no cracks, good tread) and check to see if brakes and lights work. Check the condition of trailer floor and that side walls/doors don't have rust.

- Average cost of caring for a horse is \$2000-\$3600 a year.
- Average lifespan of a horse is 30 years.

Owning a horse can bring a lot of joy and a lot of responsibility

Care

Horses need annual vaccinations and Coggins. Be sure to have a vet who knows you and your horse BEFORE an emergency.

Horses need feet trimmed / shod by a farrier on a routine basis. Long or cracked feet can cause lameness. "No feet, no horse."

Horse should have its teeth checked yearly. This can be done by your vet or an equine dentist. Some need their teeth filed to make them smooth. Sharp teeth can cause sores and weight loss.

Horses pick up worm eggs from the ground. Worms can cause your horse to become unhealthy. You should worm your horse as often as your vet recommends.

How much should you feed your horse?

Expected Feed Consumption by Horses (% body weight)*			
	Forage	Concentrate	Total
Mature Horses			
Maintenance	1.5-2.0	0-0.5	1.5-2.0
Mares, late gestation	1.0-1.5	0.5-1.0	1.5-2.0
Mares, early lactation	1.0-2.0	1.0-2.0	2.0-3.0
Mares, late lactation	1.0-2.0	0.5-1.5	2.0-2.5
Working Horses			
Light work	1.0-2.0	0.5-1.0	1.5-2.5
Moderate work	1.0-2.0	0.75-1.5	1.75-2.5
Intense work	0.75-1.5	1.0-2.0	2.0-3.0
Young Horses			
Nursing foal, 3 months	0	1.0-2.0	2.5-3.5
Weaning foal, 6 months	0.5-1.0	1.5-3.0	2.0-3.5
Yearling foal, 12 months	1.0-1.5	1.0-2.0	2.0-3.0
Long yearling, 18 months	1.0-1.5	1.0-1.5	2.0-2.5
Two year old (24 months)	1.0-1.5	1.0-1.5	1.75-2.5

National Research Council. 1989. Nutrient Requirements of Horses.