

CODE OF PRACTICE FACTSHEET

Corresponds with Requirement 7.0

The National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) develops Codes of Practice for the care and welfare of all major agriculture and farm animals in Canada.

In 2013, the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Equines (“the Code of Practice”) was released and amended in 2018. The Code is a nationally developed guideline for the care and handling of horses and outlines the required and recommended practices for all members of the equine industry that work and interact with horses.

Each step of the development process is rigorous and calls upon expertise within the industry to guide its creation through the use of a diverse committee. Code development committees are composed of veterinarians, industry members, government representatives, retail organizations, animal protection enforcement authorities, researchers, and members of national animal welfare associations, as dictated by the species. These individuals use their industry-specific knowledge, as well as the findings of current scientific literature, to draft Codes of Practice that are appropriate for the given species.

The Codes of Practice are also made publicly available for comment for sixty days, allowing for valuable industry input. The Equine Code of Practice is divided into sections on horse care topics, including:

- Duty of Care
- Facilities and Housing
- Feed and Water
- Health Management
- Feedlot Management (not within the scope of the Equine Care Program)
- Husbandry Practices
- Reproductive Management



- Transportation
- Change or End of Career
- Euthanasia

Each section in the Equine Code of Practice has both requirements and recommended practices. **Requirements** are minimal standards and are to be implemented by all persons responsible for horse care. Requirements also may be enforceable under federal and provincial regulation.

Recommended Practices are generally expected to enhance animal welfare outcomes, but failure to implement them does not imply that acceptable standards of horse care are not met.

Electronic copies of the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Equines are available on the NFACC website at: <https://www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/equine>