

Standard of care for horses

Under the new *Animal Protection and Control Act*

Through past engagement we heard that Yukoners want the well-being and interests of animals to be protected. This includes setting high standards of care for all domestic animals in the Yukon.

The new legislation requires owners to provide the following in a manner appropriate to the age, species and type of animal:

- Food and water sufficient to maintain a healthy body condition and adequate hydration;
- Shelter that provides adequate ventilation, protection from injurious heat and cold, excludes predators and provides sanitary living conditions;
- Living conditions that support the health and well-being of the animal and minimize the risk of injury;
- Opportunity for exercise and socialization; and
- Adequate care to address medical or health needs to prevent the animal from persisting in a state of ill health or suffering.

The Act includes the option to adopt standards of care (often called codes of practice) that have been created by specialists for each species or category of animals to align Yukon requirements with those that are nationally accepted.

Under the *Animal Protection and Control Act* regulations, the Government of Yukon is seeking input on whether to reference the Codes of Practice for the care and handling of farm animals that have been established by the National Farm Animal Care Council.

Codes of Practice are intended to promote sound management and welfare practices through recommendations and requirements for housing, care, transportation, processing, and other animal husbandry practices.

Which standard, if any, should be adopted in the regulation for horses?

We are seeking the opinion of horse owners on the following options:

Option 1: Reference the national Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Equines in the *Animal Protection and Control Act* regulations.

Option 2: Do not reference a standard of care for horses in the *Animal Protection and Control Act* regulations. The requirements of the Act will apply.

Note: If there is no specific standard of care referenced in the regulations, horse owners can still expect that they will be held to the nationally accepted standards by officers and by the courts.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
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