

# Important Contacts for the North Carolina Horse Owners

## The North Carolina Horse Council

4904 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 290, Raleigh, NC 27606  
(919) 854-1990 (800) 529-9206 Fax (919) 854-1989  
www.nchorsecouncil.com

## North Carolina State University Cooperative Extension

### Extension Horse Husbandry

NCSU - Box 7523, Raleigh, NC 27695-7523  
(919) 515-5784  
www.cals.ncsu.edu/an\_sci/extension/horse/hhmain.html

## North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

2 West Edenton Street, Raleigh, NC 27601  
Mailing Address: 1001 Mail Service Center,  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1001  
Phone: (919) 733-7125  
www.ncagr.com

### Equine Specialist

PO Box 27647, Raleigh, NC 27611  
(919) 733-7136

## North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association

1611 Jones Franklin Road, Suite 108, Raleigh, NC 27606-3376  
Tel: (800) 446-2862 / (919) 851-5850  
Fax: (919) 851-5859  
www.ncvma.org

## Regional Equine Information Network System (REINS volunteers)

Reins is a volunteer program of NC Cooperative Extension. These certified volunteers are available to provide research-based information regarding the management and care of horses. They may be reached through your local extension center.

www.cals.ncsu.edu/an\_sci/extension/horse/NC\_Adult/  
ncadultmain.htm  
(919) 513-3509

North Carolina General Statute 14-360—Cruelty to Animals—defines cruelty as “any act, omission, or neglect causing or permitting unjustifiable physical pain, suffering or death,” including deprivation of “necessary sustenance.”

In addition, many county and city animal control ordinances require any person keeping an animal to provide “adequate food,” “necessary veterinary care,” “adequate water,” “adequate air and space,” and “adequate shelter”.

Those terms as applied to horses and other equines are defined within. The North Carolina Horse Council considers these guidelines to be a minimum standards of care for the North Carolina equine community.

If you believe a horse -or any animal- is being abused or neglected, report it immediately to your local humane society or animal control unit. If you are unsure whom to contact in your community, call one of the numbers listed above.

# North Carolina Horse Care, Management & Ownership



## Information for Horse Owners

This pamphlet is designed to help horse owners understand the responsibilities of caring for a horse.



# Horse Buying Decisions

*It's best to have a horse expert & veterinarian help you with these decisions.*

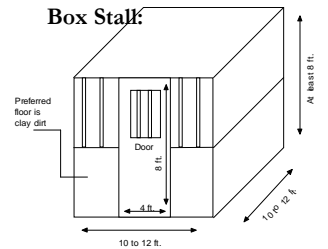
- Breed of horse
- Age of Horse
- Temperament of Horse
- Horse's level of training
- Styles of riding
- Horse's overall health
- Experience of rider
- Any previous illness or injury to horse

Before ownership, you may want to consider leasing a horse to make sure that purchasing a horse is the correct decision. You may also want to examine the option of boarding the horse.

## You have purchased a horse and want to take it home. What now?

**Legalities:** An approved Interstate Health Certificate is required for all horses purchased out of the state and brought into North Carolina. The certificate should be issued by a veterinarian within 30 days of arrival in NC. The results of a veterinary inspection and the dates of administered vaccines need to be reported on the certificate. In addition to the health certificate, proof of negative Equine Infectious Anemia (negative Coggins Test) must accompany horses during travel.

**Space & Shelter:** Horses need a large exercise area, such as a corral or pasture that permits freedom of movement. They also need natural or man-made shelter from the elements, both hot and cold. This can vary from a protective stand of trees to a 3-sided shed to a complete stable with box stalls. A man-made shelter should be clean and well ventilated with no drafts. Fans may be used to improve airflow. Horses in stalls and sheds require soft absorptive bedding such as straw or wood shavings. Minimum space requirements are shown here. Exercise/pasture areas should be free of accumulated waste, standing water (not ponds or streams), sharp objects and debris. Owners should ensure that the more dominant horses in a herd do not exclude less dominant animals from shelter, water, and food.



**Fencing:** Whether using a traditional board fence, a rail fence, or electric wire fencing (wide ribbon wire is best), the most important thing is that the fence must be highly VISIBLE to the horse and in good repair. This keeps the horse from becoming tangled in the fence or from running through the fence and onto a highway. If electric fencing is used as a major exterior fence, solar charges should be available, in case of a power outage.

**Manure:** You must have a plan for manure disposal or use. You may want to start a composting project to convert manure and yard waste into organic fertilizer. You will also need a plan to control flies and other insects.

**Feeding:** An average horse that weighs 1,000 pounds will eat approximately 17 to 22 pounds of feed per day (total ration). The total ration is a combination of hay, grain, and pasture. Salt should always be available to the horse. Any changes in a horse's diet should be made slowly over 7 to 10 days. Look inside for more detailed information on feeding and watering your horse.

Contact the NC State University Cooperative Extension Agent in your county to get additional information on all of these topics.

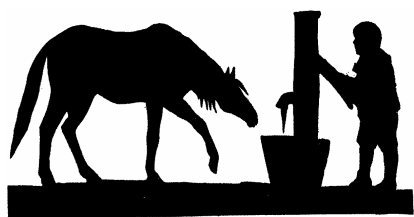
# Feeding and Watering Your Horse

**Pasture:** The major component of a horse's diet is good forage, such as hay (see below for information about hay) or pasture. A horse weighing 1000 lbs. will eat about 500 lbs of forage each month.

## How much land will you need to feed one horse for a year?

If grass is the only source of forage, you will need about 2 acre of pasture per year, for each horse. Rotate grazing areas on your pasture and **DO NOT** let the horses overgraze the land, as the pasture may never recover.

**Grain:** A grain mix (usually oats and corn) should be added to the diet when you increase the horse's training, work or activity. Too much grain in a horse's diet can be very dangerous. One rule of thumb when feeding grain is to never feed more than 1% of your horse's body weight in grain per day. Maintain storage and feed containers clean and free of contaminants including feces, mold, insects, etc.



This chart shows how much grain to feed an average 1000-lb. adult horse per day:

Amount of Work	Amount of Grain
No Work	No Grain
Light Work (1-2 hours per day)	1 - 1 1/2 lbs. Grain per hour of work
Medium Work (2-4 hours per day)	1 1/2 - 2 lbs. Grain per hour of work
Heavy Work (4 or more hours per day)	2 1/2 lbs. or more Grain per hours of work

**Water:** Your horse must have plenty of clean, fresh water available at ALL times. A horse will drink 1 gallon of water per 100 lbs of body weight, depending upon temperature, humidity levels, ration content and work load. An 1100-lb horse will drink 11 to 13 gallons of water daily. In the winter months, stock tank heaters will help stop ice buildup so that water is ALWAYS accessible to the horse. Water should be located to minimize spillage and soil erosion. Equines that are being worked or are in transport shall be provided water every 2 to 4 hours to ensure comfort of the equine. As environmental temperatures drop below 45°F or rises above 65°F, water consumption decreases/increases significantly. Daily water intakes of less than 3 gallons per 1,000-lbs horse may cause colic. Water intake varies with activity level, animal size and condition.

**Hay:** Your horse will need supplemental hay during periods of snow cover or other times when pasture forage is not available. Feeding hay will also extend the grazing season on properties with small acreage. A small rectangular bale of hay can weigh between 45 and 85 lbs. How much hay to buy and feed your horse should be based upon the weight of the bales and the nutrient value of the hay. You can feed less hay if it is of higher quality. It is best to have your hay analyzed to determine the nutrient value. An average 1000-lb horse will eat 20 lbs. of medium quality hay per day. How do you determine how much hay to buy? Use this formula and fill in the blanks with your own numbers:



\_\_\_ number of days to feed hay x 20 lbs. hay per day ÷ \_\_\_ lbs. of weight per bale = # of bales needed.  
(Example: 365 days x 20 lbs. hay per day ÷ 50 lbs. per bale = 146 bales needed for one year for one horse.)

Contact the NC State University Cooperative Extension Agent in your county to get additional information on all of these topics.



# Minimum Health Care Requirements

It is critical that you develop a partnership with a veterinarian prior to an emergency situation. This can be done by consulting your veterinarian for your horse's routine preventative health care.

## Foot Care:

Clean out hooves before and after you ride. Examine them regularly for problems. Hooves should be trimmed regularly. The need for hoof care varies with the use and age of your horse. Contact a qualified farrier (horseshoer) for recommendations for your horse.



## Acceptable Adequate Veterinary Care:

An equine shall be afforded immediate veterinary care if known or suspected to have an injury, accidental or deliberate, or exhibiting such signs as shock, colic, founder, tremors, swelling, broken bones, open wounds, inability to eat or drink, blistering as a result of fire, acid, etc., irregular or abnormal breathing, partial or total paralysis, abnormal discharge or bleeding, signs of disease, severe parasitic infestation or infection, loss of appetite, weight loss, abnormal skin condition or hair loss, temperature fluctuation, persistent diarrhea, inability to bear weight on a limb or lameness, or other such sign.

## Vaccinations:

All horses should be vaccinated at least once a year. A vaccination program is determined by age, use and overall health of your horse. Time of the year influences the risk of infectious diseases. Contact your veterinarian for recommendations on the vaccinations best suited for your horse's individual needs.

Common vaccines include:

- Tetanus
- Influenza
- Rabies
- Encephalomyelitis
- West Nile Virus
- Rhinopneumonitis



## Body Condition:

Maintaining an optimal Body Condition Score for your horse is important to maximize performance and health of the animal. Horses that are allowed to become too fat or too thin can develop health problems. Optimal body condition will vary depending upon the age, breed, and intended use of the horse.

## Internal Parasite Control:

Your horse needs to be de-wormed several times each year. The frequency of treatment varies with your horse's management.

## Dental Care:

Teeth should be checked by a veterinarian at least once a year. The teeth may need to be floated or filed due to uneven wear from the grinding motion used while eating.

## EIA/Coggins Testing:

Proof of annual negative Coggins test results for Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) is mandated by law for all equines over 6 months of age under the following circumstances:

- For any public exhibition, gathering, or any co-mingling of equines at events.
- Upon sale or transfer of ownership.
- Whenever an equine is transported over public roadways.

## First Aid:

Consult your veterinarian about an appropriate first aid kit. It should contain bandage material, a thermometer, ointments and other related items. Contact a veterinarian any time your horse appears sick or disoriented, or has been injured.



## Horse Manure Management

- An average 1,000-lb horse produces 40-50 lbs of manure per day.
- Do not stockpile, compost or spread manure within 100 feet of a water source (such as a well, creek or pond) to prevent water contamination.
- Manure should be applied at proper times of the year, when suitable field conditions exist (not frozen or wet)
- Contact local gardeners; they may have interest in both fresh and composted manure for needed nutrients and organic matter.
- Manure and soiled bedding should be removed on a regular basis and handled appropriately to prevent fly infestation and disease transmission. Choose one of these manure storage and disposal options.

**Stockpile** - stored in piles for later use.

**Compost Pile** - decomposed manure for fertilizer.

**Daily Land Application** - spread on cropland directly after removal.

