



香港賽馬會
The Hong Kong Jockey Club

DVCS - Department Policy on HKJC Health Code for Retired and Equestrian Horses stabled in Hong Kong and Conghua

Version 1.0

16 Apr 2021

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Document Type:	Policy
Topic:	DVCS - Department Policy on HKJC Health Code for Retired and Equestrian Horses stabled in Hong Kong and Conghua
Version:	1.0
Classification:	Internal & External
Supersedes:	EAD's Equine Welfare Code of Conduct
Owner:	Head of Veterinary Clinical Services / Equestrian Veterinary Surgeon / Executive Manager
Approved By:	Head of Veterinary Clinical Services
Maintained By:	Veterinary Clinical Services Department, Vet Division
Review Date:	16 Apr 2021
Review Frequency:	Annual
Cross Reference:	• DVRWBP Compulsory Health Regulations for all horses in Hong Kong • Pre-Export Quarantine for the Exportation of Horses to Hong Kong • Hot Weather Advice for Hong Kong Riding Schools • “General Conditions of Entry to Enter Hong Kong Horse Facilities” • Body Condition Scoring Chart

Date Modified	Version Number	Description of Modification	Modified by
16 Apr 2021	1.0	• First Release	Adrian Farrington, Equestrian Veterinary Surgeon / Executive Manager, VCS

Distribution List

Equestrian Affairs Department (EAD)

Non-HKJC Riding Schools (Private RS)

Racing Development Board (RDB)

Lead Horses

Farrier Services Department (FSD)

Department of Veterinary Regulation, Welfare and Biosecurity Policy (DVRWBP)

Department of Veterinary Clinical Services (DVCS)

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The Hong Kong Jockey Club (The Club) is committed to maintaining and continually improving the health, safety, and welfare of retired and equestrian horses stabled in Hong Kong and Conghua.

1. Policy Statement

Every horse is entitled to live in a safe and comfortable environment and be provided with the highest possible standards of care, with preventive health programmes and disease surveillance programmes designed to maintain a high herd health status and identify any presence of exotic equine disease as soon as possible.

The Club is committed to implementing this Health Code for retired and equestrian horses, and it is expected that the guidelines provided in this Code will be fully complied with and willingly supported by all relevant persons.

2. Definitions

For the purposes of this Code:

- 2.1. “The Club” and “HKJC” refers to the Hong Kong Jockey Club.
- 2.2. “Non-HKJC Riding School” is a facility, institution, organisation, stable or establishment entering into a formal horse Lease Agreement with the Club, or engaging Club professional services.
- 2.3. “Public Riding School” refers to the Club’s Public Riding Schools and includes all three locations of Tuen Mun, Lei Yue Mun and Pokfulam.
- 2.4. “BREC” refers to the Beas River Equestrian Centre and all associated business units.
- 2.5. “CRC RHU” refers to the Conghua Retired Horse Unit.
- 2.6. “STR” refers to the Shatin Racecourse
- 2.7. “RDB” refers to any facility keeping horses for the activities of the Racing Development Board’s apprentice jockey school.
- 2.8. “Club premises” refers collectively to STR, CRC, BREC and PRS and for the avoidance of doubt, all business units of BREC.
- 2.9. “Riding School” refers collectively to all premises stabling retired and equestrian horses in Hong Kong or CRC.
- 2.10. “Relevant persons” refers to any person that is an owner, a livery holder, a rider, a riding school employee, (including, but not limited to equestrian assistants, stable staff, stable manager or supervisor), an event official, a veterinarian, a farrier, a para-

veterinary service provider, a consultant, or any person that may have any interaction with a horse stabled in a premises as detailed above.

- 2.11. “EAD” refers to the Club’s Equestrian Affairs Department.
- 2.12. “EAD Management” refers to the Head of Equestrian Affairs and the senior management at each HKJC riding school including; General Manager (BREC), EA Retired Horse Unit Manager, Operations Manager and Chief Riding Instructor (BREC and PRS).
- 2.13. “HEA” refers to Head of Equestrian Affairs.
- 2.14. “FSD” refers to the Club’s Farrier Services Department.
- 2.15. “HF” refers the Head Farrier, Farrier Services Department
- 2.16. “DVRWBP” refers to the Club’s Department of Veterinary Regulation, Welfare and Biosecurity Policy.
- 2.17. “EMVRO” refers to the Executive Manager, Veterinary Regulatory Operations, Veterinary Regulation, Welfare and Biosecurity Policy.
- 2.18. “EMEW” refers to the Executive Manager, Equine Welfare, Veterinary Regulation, Welfare and Biosecurity Policy.
- 2.19. “DVCS” refers to the Club’s Department of Veterinary Clinical Services.
- 2.20. “HVCS” refers to Head of Veterinary Clinical Services.
- 2.21. “EVS/EMVCS” refers to the Equestrian Veterinary Surgeon, Executive Manager Veterinary Clinical Services.
- 2.22. “EDR” refers to the Executive Director, Racing.
- 2.23. “PVO AFCD” refers to the Principle Veterinary Officer of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, The Government of the HKSAR.
- 2.24. “Equestrian activities” includes riding lessons, shows and competitions, stable management lessons, pony parties, equine practical lessons, BHS Stage training and BHS Stage exams, hacking, retraining, recuperation and rehabilitation programmes, or any other equestrian related activity.
- 2.25. “Horse”, “horses” or “riding school horses” refers to all retired racehorses and/or equestrian horses and ponies in the care of a riding school and/or stabled on a Club or riding school premises, including privately owned horses.
- 2.26. “FEI” refers to Fédération Equestre Internationale.

- 2.27. “Welfare” refers to the provision of all horses with a quality of life that delivers “a life worth living” and goes beyond the provision of basic needs and the absence of neglect and cruelty.
- 2.28. “Neglect” is defined to be any failure to provide adequate shelter, food and water, failure to ensure a safe and healthy environment, or failure to provide routine preventive care, farriery, or seek prompt veterinary treatment for any horse that is ill or injured.

3. Introduction

- 3.1. This Code includes the *DVRWBP Compulsory Health Regulations for all horses in Hong Kong*, and is in addition to all relevant HKSAR Government Ordinances and/or Regulations.
- 3.2. The requirements covering pre-export and post-arrival quarantine for horses permanently imported into Hong Kong are detailed in the “*Pre-Export Quarantine for the Exportation of Horses to Hong Kong*” and “*Compulsory Quarantine Regulations for All Horses in Hong Kong*”.
- 3.3. The Hong Kong horse population remains free of the most serious of infectious equine disease, and it is important for all persons involved in equestrian activities to recognise the vital role that we all play in maintaining the international equine health status of Hong Kong.
- 3.4. The Club expects that all persons involved in equestrian activities are dedicated to the health, safety, well-being of horses, and aims to enhance the welfare of all horses stabled in Hong Kong and Conghua.
- 3.5. This Code may be altered or added to from time to time at the discretion of the DVCS, DVRWBP, and EAD. Any such alterations will be advised to staff and relevant persons.
- 3.6. Veterinary expertise is always available. If a relevant person has any doubts over the health or welfare status of a horse, advice from a Club veterinarian should be sought.

4. Purpose

- 4.1. This Health Code is to provide guidelines regarding the standard of care and disease surveillance that must be provided to all retired and equestrian horses stabled in Hong Kong and Conghua, to promote their health and welfare.
- 4.2. This Health Code applies to all non-racing horses and all relevant persons.

5. Responsibilities

The respective management of BREC, CRC RHU, Public Riding Schools, Non-HKJC Riding Schools, Racing Development Board, and Lead Horses will:

- 5.1. Ensure the requirements of this Health Code are complied with at all times.
- 5.2. Ensure that all relevant persons are fully aware of this Health Code via regular education, and display the Health Code publicly and prominently at the office / main reception of each of their respective premises.
- 5.3. Ensure that the necessary facilities, resources, personnel, and training are available to provide for the excellent care and husbandry of all horses at all times.
- 5.4. Maintain high biosecurity standards, being aware of the signs of exotic equine diseases, and reporting the presence of suspicious signs to a Club Veterinarian.
- 5.5. Cooperate with the Club Veterinarians during welfare audits and implement recommendations made therein to address any safety, health, or welfare issues reported during such inspections.

Riding school and relevant Club staff will:

- 5.6. Be fully aware of the requirements of this Health Code and comply with these requirements at all times.
- 5.7. Report any evidence of non-compliance of the Code to an appropriate Club Veterinarian or Official.
- 5.8. Comply with the instruction of a Club veterinarian or farrier in any immediate matter that may impact on the health, safety, well-being or welfare of a horse.

The Equestrian Affairs Department will:

- 5.9. Supervise and coordinate all matters relevant to the management of retired racehorses and other Club horses loaned to Hong Kong Riding Schools including:
 - 5.9.1. The allocation of retired racehorses and other Club horses to riding schools according to the principles and guidelines of the Club.
 - 5.9.2. The traceability of retired racehorses and other Club horses within Hong Kong.
 - 5.9.3. The business management aspects of the Club's relationships with Riding School management.
 - 5.9.4. The creation, communication and enforcement of the terms and conditions under which retired racehorses and other Club horses may be loaned to Hong Kong Riding schools.

- 5.10. Provide expert advice to all riding schools in Hong Kong, and deliver education programs to relevant persons as needed.

The Department of Veterinary Clinical Services will:

- 5.11. Provide equine veterinary clinical services for all retired and equestrian horses in Hong Kong and Conghua.
- 5.12. Provide expert advice and professional support to all riding schools and retired horse business units in Hong Kong and Conghua, and deliver education programs to relevant persons as needed.
- 5.13. Deliver all ‘Compulsory Health Regulation’ procedures and services as required by the DVRWBP and by AFCD.
- 5.14. Perform regular inspections of riding schools and retired horse business units to assess the horse health, welfare, and standards of husbandry.
- 5.15. Document, report, and advise on the findings of such inspections, so as to expedite the implementation of corrective measures, and maintain high health and welfare standards in conjunction with the Riding Schools, HVCS, HEA, EMEW, EVS/EMVCS, and AFCD Veterinary Officers.

The Farrier Services Department will:

- 5.16. Provide regular foot care and farriery to all retired and equestrian in Hong Kong and Conghua.
- 5.17. Continually monitor the foot health, well-being and welfare of horses, and record and report any incidences of thrush, or other foot disease, to the Riding School Management, EAD Management, and the DVCS.
- 5.18. Provide expert advice and professional support, and deliver education programs to relevant persons as needed.

The Department of Veterinary Regulation, Welfare and Biosecurity Policy will:

- 5.19. Advise on updates to the ‘*Compulsory Health Regulations for All Horses in Hong Kong*’ as and when appropriate.
- 5.20. Advise on updates to the biosecurity, facility, and management standards for Hong Kong Riding Schools and related business units as and when appropriate.
- 5.21. Perform regular welfare audits to monitor compliance with minimum standards.
- 5.22. Provide expert advice and professional support, and deliver education programs to relevant persons as needed.

The Principle Veterinary Officer of the AFCD (PVO) will:

- 5.23. Take whatever action is necessary under the Hong Kong SAR animal health and welfare legislation when notified of any suspicious disease incident, or of any potential horse welfare incident, that may occur at a Hong Kong Riding School.

6. Compliance

- 6.1. All relevant persons are accountable for the health, safety, well-being, and welfare of horses under their care. Club veterinarians, farriers, riding instructors, supervisors, and Riding School and EAD management have a special responsibility to continually and conscientiously monitor the aforementioned responsibilities.
- 6.2. Any instances of non-compliance by any relevant person, or any attempt to bypass the guidelines set out in this Health Code, will be referred to the appropriate Club authority, and disciplinary action or sanctions may be taken.
- 6.3. The Club may, in its absolute discretion, report an incident of cruelty, neglect, or poor stable management to the Principle Veterinary Officer of the AFCD for appropriate regulatory consideration and action, especially when previous notice has been provided requiring improvements or remedial measures.

7. Governance of Club Horses leased to Non-HKJC Riding Schools

- 7.1. In consideration of the Club's permission for a Riding School to use a Club horse strictly for the provision of riding and instruction purposes, the Riding School must acknowledge and agree that ownership of the horse shall remain vested with the Club at all times.
- 7.2. Commencing on the Effective Date of the contract, until such time as and when the Club decides on the disposal of the horse, the Riding School shall, at their own cost, be responsible for the upkeep, care, safety, and welfare of the horse in compliance with the standards prescribed by the Club. At all times, the Riding School must maintain stable management practices acceptable to the Club.
- 7.3. All Riding Schools that accept Club horses must agree to Club representatives being able to perform regular inspections of all horses in their care, and must commit to implementing recommended corrective actions as soon as possible, if required.
- 7.4. In the event that a Riding School horse is assessed by a Club Veterinary Surgeon to be aged, ill, or suffering chronic pain or distress, and can no longer be provided with a life worth living, the Club Veterinary Surgeon will provide expert advice and counselling, and make the necessary arrangements to euthanize the horse.
- 7.5. No Club horse may be used for racing or other unauthorized purpose, whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere.
- 7.6. No Club horse may be removed or relocated without written permission from the Club, except in the cases of an emergency (e.g. fire/flood).
- 7.7. No Club horse may participate in any activity away from the Riding School or residence, save for training or competition organized or approved by the Club or the Hong Kong Equestrian Federation, and with the prior written permission of the Equestrian Affairs Department, in which case horses shall be transported in such a vehicle or conveyance as shall be approved respectively by the relevant government department(s) concerned, and by the Club regarding the health and safety of horses.
- 7.8. The Club Veterinary Surgeons are entitled to inspect, conduct veterinary examinations, and perform all necessary procedures for the health and welfare of Club horses at all times.
- 7.9. Only the Club's Veterinary Surgeons are authorized to examine, treat, and prescribe medications to a Club horse.

8. Compulsory Health Regulations for all Retired and Equestrian Horses

8.1. Infectious Disease Control

- 8.1.1. Every horse must have a rectal temperature taken twice daily for the duration of its life in Hong Kong and Congua.
- 8.1.2. Any raised temperature must be reported to the DVCS immediately.
- 8.1.3. Any horse exhibiting a pyrexia of 101.5°F / 38.6°C, or signs of respiratory tract infection must have:
 - 8.1.3.1. Naso-pharyngeal swabs collected and tested for equine influenza virus and pathogenic bacteria
 - 8.1.3.2. A blood sample taken for routine haematology and biochemistry examination.
 - 8.1.3.3. Acute and convalescent blood serum samples collected 14 days apart for viral antibody screening.
- 8.1.4. Any horse suspected, or confirmed, as suffering from an infectious disease must be reported by the attending veterinarian to the HVRWBP, or his delegate, via the HVCS, or his delegate.
- 8.1.5. Such horses will be quarantined / isolated on a case by case basis according to the nature of the problem, and under the direction of the HVRWBP and in consultation with the PVO AFCD where appropriate.

8.2. Vaccination Programme

- 8.2.1. Every horse resident in Hong Kong and Conghua must be vaccinated against Equine Influenza, Equine Herpes Virus, Japanese Encephalitis, and Tetanus.
- 8.2.2. Every horse must follow an initial and booster vaccination schedule as appropriate for the vaccine used, and as advised by the DVRWBP.
- 8.2.3. Administration of vaccinations will be coordinated by the DVCS, and riding school managers will be informed in advance of the vaccination schedule.
- 8.2.4. All information concerning vaccinations will be recorded by the DVCS.
- 8.2.5. Vaccinations must be administered by a Club Veterinarian.

8.3. Equine Influenza Vaccination

- 8.3.1. An initial primary course of two vaccinations; the second vaccination administered 4 weeks after the 1st vaccination.
- 8.3.2. Booster vaccination administered 6 monthly thereafter.

8.3.3. Vaccination may be delayed as necessary if clinically indicated, justified and documented.

8.3.4. Booster vaccinations may be advanced or delayed, but any delay should not exceed one month.

8.3.5. Any horse competing in FEI competition must also satisfy Equine Influenza vaccination requirements as stipulated in the *FEI Veterinary Regulations Articles 1002 and 1003*.

8.4. Equine Herpes Vaccination

8.4.1. An initial primary course of two vaccinations; the second vaccination administered 4 weeks after the 1st vaccination.

8.4.2. Booster vaccination administered 6 monthly thereafter.

8.4.3. Vaccination may be delayed as necessary if clinically indicated, justified and documented.

8.4.4. Booster vaccinations may be advanced or delayed, but any delay should not exceed one month.

8.5. Japanese Encephalitis Vaccination

8.5.1. An initial primary course of two vaccinations; the second vaccination administered 4 weeks after the 1st vaccination.

8.5.2. Booster vaccination administered 6 monthly thereafter.

8.5.3. Vaccination may be delayed as necessary if clinically indicated, justified and documented.

8.5.4. Booster vaccinations may be advanced or delayed, but any delay should not exceed one month.

8.6. Tetanus Vaccination

8.6.1. An initial primary course of two vaccinations; the second vaccination administered 4 weeks after the 1st vaccination.

8.6.2. Booster vaccination administered at 2-year intervals thereafter.

8.6.3. Vaccination may be delayed as necessary if clinically indicated, justified and documented.

8.6.4. Booster vaccinations may be advanced or delayed, but any delay should not exceed one month.

8.7. Parasite Control

- 8.7.1. The control of internal parasites amongst horses resident in the Riding Schools is based on strategic use of anthelmintic drugs based on risk to the population, and results from faecal worm egg counts.
- 8.7.2. Routine stable, paddock, and environmental hygiene is the foremost priority in worm control. Routine collection of faeces ('poo picking') is the single most effective method for reducing environmental contamination, and therefore breaking the life cycle of the worm.
- 8.7.3. Riding School managers are to ensure that horse droppings are regularly removed from stables, pastures, and common turn out areas.
- 8.7.4. A faecal sample from every riding school horse must be submitted to the DVCS for faecal worm egg count (FEC) laboratory testing bi-annually in Spring and Autumn.
 - 8.7.4.1. Any horse with FEC <200 eggs/gram will be treated with an anthelmintic and stabled for 3 days prior to any further turnout.
 - 8.7.4.2. A follow up FEC will be performed 14 days later to ensure treatment was successful.
 - 8.7.4.3. In the case of resistance to initial treatment, the horse must not be transferred from its current location without prior approval of HVCS until alternative treatment has been demonstrated effective.
- 8.7.5. Every horse will be administered a single dose of an anti-cestode drug annually to treat tapeworm.
- 8.7.6. Timing of FEC submissions and administration of wormers will be coordinated by the DVCS, and riding school managers will be informed in advance
- 8.7.7. All information concerning FEC results and worming administration will be recorded by the DVCS.
- 8.7.8. An Annual Tick Survey will be conducted according to the established protocol between April and September, in and around all premises where horses are stabled in Hong Kong.
- 8.7.9. The results of these surveys will be provided to the HVRWBP, or his delegate, who will forward them to the PVO AFCD.

8.8. Dental Care

- 8.8.1. Every horse must have its teeth inspected once every 6 months and rasped as deemed necessary by attending Club Veterinarian or Club approved Dental Technician.
- 8.8.2. Examination and rasping may be performed under sedation if deemed necessary by the attending Club Veterinarian.

8.9. Foot Care

- 8.9.1. Every horse must receive the necessary foot care and farriery performed by the Club FSD, and in consultation with the Club DVCS where appropriate.

8.10. Post-Mortem Examination

- 8.10.1. Every horse that dies or is euthanized in Hong Kong must, if possible, undergo a post-mortem examination, to try and ascertain (if not obvious) the cause of death, and to collect samples (pathological and forensic as appropriate) to assist in monitoring the equine disease status of Hong Kong.

9. General Biosecurity Guidelines and Disease Control Measures

- 9.1. The objective of biosecurity procedures is to prevent the entry of infectious disease into a riding school, and if a disease does enter the riding school, to minimise its spread amongst the resident, and wider national, population.
- 9.2. Records of all horse movements on and off the riding school premises should be maintained, including time, date, and destination.
- 9.3. Each horse should have separate tack and equipment (e.g. grooming equipment, bridle, head collar, lead rope, water bucket and feed bucket), which must be well maintained and kept clean and disinfected where appropriate.
- 9.4. All members of staff and visitors to the Riding School should be required to exercise high standards of hygiene and cleanliness.
- 9.5. Ideally, staff should use, or be provided with, clothing and footwear dedicated for use at the Riding School.
- 9.6. When required to do so by AFCD, DVCS or DVRWBP, any relevant person who has visited another riding facility should shower, completely change their clothing, and clean and disinfect their footwear before coming into contact with any horse at the Riding School.
- 9.7. Any relevant person who has visited a Mainland horse facility must abide by the “*General Conditions of Entry to Enter Hong Kong Horse Facilities*”, a copy of which must be displayed on the Riding School notice board.
- 9.8. When required by AFCD, DVRWBP, or DVCS, disinfectant footbaths, hand washing facilities, and antiseptic hand gels should be made available for use by all visitors and staff before making contact with any horse.
- 9.9. A register of visitor entry should be considered to record the name, time and date of entry and exit, and the purpose of each visit.
- 9.10. All horses should be checked daily for signs of injury, illness and disease by Riding School managers or their delegated senior staff.

- 9.11. Every horse must have its rectal temperature taken twice daily.
- 9.12. In the event that any horse is suspected of being unwell, immediate advice, and if appropriate, consultation should be sought from a Club Veterinary Surgeon to obtain a diagnosis, provide treatment, and implement any necessary biosecurity measures. A potentially infectious horse should be immediately isolated.
- 9.13. Horses must be stabled in isolation if they show any clinical signs of infectious disease, or have been in contact with other horses that show clinical signs of infectious disease
- 9.14. When staff are tending to a potentially infectious horse, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (gloves, overcoat), disinfectant footbaths, and antiseptic hand gels should be placed by the stable for their use. Any relevant person should then avoid contact with other horses, until they have washed their hands, change their clothing, and cleaned and disinfect their footwear. Ideally, horses showing signs of illness should be handled last.
- 9.15. Any tack or equipment in contact with any horse displaying signs of illness must be cleaned and disinfected – including head collars, lead ropes, bridles, water buckets, feed bins, and grooming equipment.

10. Pest and insect control

- 10.1. Insects, pests, and vermin can spread disease and should be controlled by:
 - 10.1.1. The use of feed storage bins that seal effectively.
 - 10.1.2. Daily cleaning and hygiene procedures.
 - 10.1.3. Prompt and hygienic removal, storage and disposal of waste.
 - 10.1.4. Elimination of breeding areas such as manure, food waste, general waste, stagnant water, and damaged floors and walls.
 - 10.1.5. Use of pesticides and insecticides under professional supervision and advice.

11. Stables, Shelter, and Enclosures

- 11.1. The stables area must be safe, meet horses' social needs, and provide for a healthy, bio-secure environment.
- 11.2. The following must be included:
 - 11.2.1. Adequate lighting, with safe electrical points throughout the stable.
 - 11.2.2. Adequate ventilation to ensure air quality, and temperature control.

- 11.2.3. Fresh, dust-free bedding (straw, wood shavings and/or paper bedding). Ideally, at least 15 to 20cm of bedding depth should be provided across the whole floor area. If rubber matting is used to reduce the bedding depth or coverage, it must be sufficiently soft and flexible to provide support and comfort to the horse.
- 11.2.4. Good quality, clean water and feed.
- 11.2.5. Fire precautions and an emergency action plan.
- 11.2.6. Enough space to allow the safe movement of horses around the stable area.
- 11.3. Horses should be accommodated individually in stables or loose boxes measuring a minimum of 3m x 3m. Ideally, stables measuring a minimum 4m x 3m should be available for larger horses. The horse should be able to stand up, turn around, and lie down comfortably. Small or miniature ponies' requirements can be reviewed on a case by case basis with DVCS and AFCD.
- 11.4. The stables must be of high quality, well-constructed, and well-maintained to provide a safe environment for the horse.
- 11.5. Faeces, and urine-soaked and soiled bedding must be removed from stables at least twice daily and replaced with fresh bedding.
- 11.6. Standing water, mud, or urine must be prevented from accumulating by means of good drainage, cleanliness and hygiene and the use of appropriate and adequate bedding materials in stables and enclosures.
- 11.7. Old and uneaten food must be removed daily to prevent digestive upset and eliminate food sources for pests and vermin.
- 11.8. Enclosure fencing materials must be safe, well-maintained, and visible to horses.
- 11.9. Enclosures must be regularly cleared of faeces and noxious weeds to ensure horse health, and to control insects, pests, and internal parasites.
- 11.10. Arena surfaces must be regularly maintained and harrowed to ensure an even and consistent surface on which the horses may exercise without increasing risk of injury

12. Stable Husbandry and Care

- 12.1. Horses must have access to a continuous clean supply of water. Water troughs, containers, and automatic watering devices must be cleaned regularly.
- 12.2. Horses must be fed an adequate diet of good quality feed to maintain proper body condition and body weight.
- 12.3. As "fitness" is subjective, the Club utilizes a "Body Condition Scoring" system to rate the visual appraisal and palpation of six key conformational points (see Annex 1 BCS Chart): A – the amount of flesh or fat covering along the neck; B – the withers;

C – down the crease of the back; D – at the tailhead; E – the ribs; and F – behind the shoulder at the girth. Scores range from 1 – 9 (poor to extremely fat).

- 12.4. A body condition score of 3/9 is the minimum level at which a horse can safely function. For most horses, a body condition score in the Moderate to Moderately Fleishy range (5-6/9) is ideal. Race horses may be perfectly fit with a body condition score of 4/9.
- 12.5. The advice of a Club Veterinarian must be obtained if it proves difficult to maintain a horse at a body condition score of 3/9 to establish: whether there is a need for supplemental feeding (type, quality and amount); the potential presence of an underlying medical condition or dental issue; or deficiencies in management.
- 12.6. Regardless of the feed offered, minimum caloric intake must equal metabolic demands for a horse not to lose bodyweight. For instance, more active, aged horses, or those with a medical condition will require more roughage and fibre to maintain their body weight, with supplementation of concentrates or other sources of calories as appropriate.
- 12.7. Horses must be groomed at least twice daily, including the picking out of all feet. Particular attention should be paid to ‘hard to reach areas’ such as the back of the hind cannons.
- 12.8. Horses should be groomed before and after exercise, the limbs palpated for swelling/heat, and the feet should be picked out prior to each time the horse leaves the stable.
- 12.9. Stable staff should be trained in the observational skills and recognition of the signs of illness, injury, and disease for which veterinary assessment and treatment should be sought. These signs include but are not limited to: (i) fever; (ii) coughing; (iii) nasal or ocular discharge; (iv) painful or inflamed eyes; (v) reduced appetite; (vi) unexplained weight loss; (vii) difficulty breathing; (viii) lameness; (ix) pain, swelling or heat; (x) reluctance/inability to move, walk, or stand; (xi) unsteadiness or neurological deficits; (xii) diarrhoea; (xiii) Cuts, bleeding; (xiv) any pain or discomfort; (xv) colic; (xvi) inability or difficulty to urinate or defecate; (xvii) exercise intolerance, or pain/distress under saddle; (xviii) skin irritation, rubbing, hair loss; (xix) thrush;
- 12.10. Stable staff should be trained in the early detection of dental problems. Indications of possible problems include: (i) excessive playing with the bit; (ii) conflict behaviours during exercise; (iii) quidding; (iv) excessive salivation; (v) unpleasant odour from the mouth.
- 12.11. Stable staff should be trained in the early detection of foot health problems, including recognition of: (i) thrush; (ii) white line disease; (iii) raised clenches / loose shoes.
- 12.12. Relevant persons should be trained to recognise signs of spinal dysfunction, and in the delivery of basic physiotherapy and dynamic mobility exercises.

13. Training and Recovery

- 13.1. The health, safety and well-being of the horse must never be subordinated to competitive or commercial influences.
- 13.2. Horses must only undergo exercise, training and competition that matches their physical capabilities and level of maturity for their respective discipline(s).
- 13.3. Horses must not be worked at such an intensity or frequency that is likely to cause exhaustion, heat stress, injury or distress.
- 13.4. Horses must not be subjected to training or handling methods which are abusive, or cause fear or suffering.
- 13.5. Weather and climate conditions must be taken into account during training and exercise. Be aware of the horse's condition and behaviour; exercise must not take place in extreme weather conditions that may compromise welfare or safety of the horse. The "*Hot Weather Advice for Hong Kong Riding Schools*" issued by the DVCS should be adhered to.
- 13.6. Extreme caution is required when exercising horses diagnosed with anhydrosis ('dry-coatedness' or the inability to sweat). The management and monitoring of horses with anhydrosis should be agreed with the DVCS and the relevant Riding School Manager or relevant Supervisor. It is advised that where possible, a horse found to have anhydrosis Grade 2 or 3 is stabled in an air-conditioned environment during hot weather on welfare grounds. A horse found to be Grade 1 should be carefully monitored and offered respite from environmental heat when required.
- 13.7. Horses must be allowed sufficient rest periods between lessons, training and exercise. Rest periods must be monitored to ensure each horse's recovery: that the horse has cooled down and is ceased sweating; respiration and pulse rates are at a resting rate; and that the horse is not showing signs of exhaustion or discomfort. Rest periods should be without tack on.
- 13.8. Participation in competition must be restricted to 'fit' horses (i.e. horses who have the physical ability to cope with the workload of competition and training without undue exhaustion, heat stress, injury or distress), and riders of proven competence. Horses must be allowed rest periods between training and competitions.
- 13.9. Veterinary advice must be sought whenever there is any doubt about a horse's suitability to continue training or compete in an event. No horse deemed unfit to compete may compete or continue to compete. The decision of the Club Veterinarian shall be final.

14. Behaviour and Handling

- 14.1. Encouraging desirable behaviours and appropriate responses in horses (as well as discouraging undesirable behaviours and responses) requires an understanding of basic learning theory. As such, inexperienced riders and handlers must always seek

the advice of a riding instructor or veterinarian where correction of unwelcome behaviour(s) is required.

- 14.2. Horses must be handled in a competent and calm manner. Respond quietly and promptly to signs of fear, agitation or confusion.
- 14.3. Avoid sudden actions or noises that may startle or frighten horses, and do not use excessive and/or unnecessary force when handling horses.
- 14.4. When leading or riding, under no circumstances should a rider or handler use the action of a bit, chifney, halter or stud chain to reprimand a horse.
- 14.5. Abuse of a horse using natural riding aids or artificial aids (e.g. whips, spurs, etc.) will not be tolerated. If a rider has any doubt about the acceptability of any equipment or aid, the advice of the Riding School's senior instructor must be sought.
- 14.6. Inexperienced riders must always seek the advice of a riding instructor on the appropriate use of equipment and aids.

15. Use of the Whip

- 15.1. There are two reasons why a rider may use a whip: as a method to encourage the horse forwards if it is not listening to the rider's seat and leg aids or as a correctional behaviour measure.
- 15.2. The whip should only be used as a correctional measure where there is a valid reason. If the whip is used, it must be applied at the appropriate time, in the correct place, and proportionately.
- 15.3. Riders using the whip should not bring their arm above elbow height; the horse must be given a chance to respond and the stimulus must be limited and reasonable.
- 15.4. The following actions are not acceptable in any circumstances:
 - 15.4.1. Using any other implement instead of a manufactured whip.
 - 15.4.2. Using the whip in an attempt to pre-empt poor behaviour.
 - 15.4.3. Venting anger and frustration by use of the whip.
 - 15.4.4. Use of the whip around the horse's head and neck.
 - 15.4.5. Using the whip more than three times for any incident. Above this would be considered excessive.
 - 15.4.6. Whip use that leaves marks, breaks in the skin or welts.
- 15.5. To help stop a rearing horse, discretion, common sense, and safety and welfare of both horse and rider should be applied to the situation, but under no circumstances should the aforementioned guidelines in 15.4 be broken.

16. Use of Spurs

- 16.1. Spurs should only be used by competent riders. In lessons, or when riding HKJC riding school horses, spurs should only be used with the approval of a riding instructor.
- 16.2. Riders wearing spurs should understand how to apply and use the spurs correctly; spurs should be used to refine the riding aids (commands) and to back up the natural aids (the leg, seat, hands and voice), directing a horse to move forward or laterally. Spurs should not be used as a replacement to natural aids.
- 16.3. Spurs of excessively severe design must not be worn: Spurs must be of smooth material (metal or plastic). If there is a shank it must not be more than 3cm long (the overall shank must be measured from the boot to the end of the spur) and must point only towards the rear. The end of the shank must be blunt to prevent wounding a horse. If the shank is curved, the spurs must be worn only with the shank directed downwards.
- 16.4. Spurs should not be used to reprimand a horse.
- 16.5. Intentional use of spurs that leave marks or breaks in the skin is not acceptable.
- 16.6. The use of spurs should cease on horses which have spur rubs or marks until the affected area has fully healed.

17. Use of Tack and Training Aids

- 17.1. Tack and training aids should be correctly fitted and regular checks should be carried out to ensure that the fit of saddlery has not changed through routine use or change in body condition. Tack should only be left on for the minimum time necessary. Tack should always be removed if a horse is on a rest period.
- 17.2. Exercise boots and bandages, if used, should be suitable for purpose, correctly fitted to avoid discomfort or injury and only left on for the minimum time necessary.
- 17.3. No item of saddlery or training aid should be used or misused to reprimand a horse, or intentionally to cause pain or discomfort. Training aids must not compromise the horse's well-being by causing unreasonable stress, pain or suffering in any way.
- 17.4. Regular saddle fitting checks are recommended and can be performed by the Club's Master Saddler if requested.
- 17.5. The correct fitting and use of training aids is vital (e.g. the chambon, de gogue, pessoa, harbridge, draw reins or a bungee). Users should know the mechanics of the training aid and what it is aiming to achieve, how to fit it, and the correct amount of pressure and tension to apply. If in doubt, users must seek professional advice.
- 17.6. If, in the opinion of a riding instructor, any training aid is fitted or used inappropriately and in a manner that may compromise the welfare or well-being of a horse, that instructor shall in the first place, counsel the relevant person and, if the matter cannot be satisfactorily resolved, make a report to EAD Management.

- 17.7. Hyperflexion, also known as extreme flexion, is flexion of the horse's neck achieved through aggressive force and is not acceptable.
- 17.8. A horse should not be forced into an outline from the use of a training aid, but instead encouraged to work correctly. When working correctly and in flexion (achieved without force), the same flexion position should not be held for more than ten minutes at a time.
- 17.9. Ensure new or inexperienced horses are allowed time to become familiar with new tack or training aids.

18. Doping, Medication and Euthanasia

- 18.1. The administration of any drug or medicine to a horse without the prescription of a Club Veterinarian, and any breach of the FEI Equine Anti-Doping & Controlled Medication Regulations will not be tolerated.
- 18.2. Stable Managers, or their delegate, should maintain a log of all medication administered orally to horses in their care for inspection on a monthly basis by the attending Club Veterinary Surgeon.
- 18.3. It may be necessary to euthanize a horse when an appropriate quality of life cannot be maintained because of an incurable condition or injury, age, infirmity, chronic injury or degenerative condition or any other circumstance or condition that may impact on a horse's health or welfare.
- 18.4. If, in the opinion of a Club veterinarian, a horse owned by the Club, or stabled at a Club premises must be euthanized for humane reasons, the decision of the veterinary panel shall stand. Should any doubt or objection exist, the opinion of the HVCS will be sought and he / she will make the final decision.

19. Annex 1: Body Condition Score (BCS) Chart

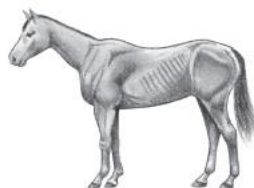
Body Condition Score Chart

Areas of emphasis for body condition scoring: thickening of the neck, fat covering the withers, fat deposits along backbone, fat deposits on flanks, fat deposits on inner thighs, fat deposits around tailhead, fat deposits behind shoulders, fat covering ribs, shoulder blends into neck



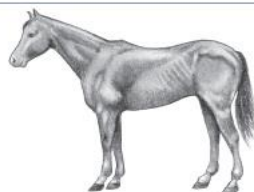
1 Poor

Animal extremely emaciated; spine, ribs, tailhead, points of hip and buttock projecting prominently; bone structure of withers, shoulders, and neck easily noticeable; no fatty tissue can be felt.



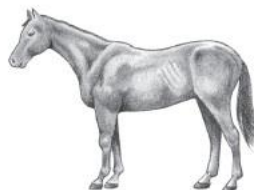
2 Very Thin

Animal emaciated; slight fat covering over base of spine; ribs, tailhead, points of hip and buttock prominent; withers, shoulders, and neck structure faintly discernable.



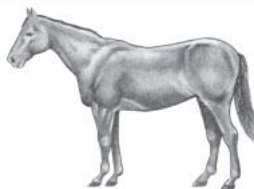
3 Thin

Fat buildup about halfway on spine; slight fat cover over ribs; spine and ribs easily discernable; tailhead prominent, but individual vertebrae cannot be identified visually; points of hip appear rounded but easily discernable; points of buttock not distinguishable; withers, shoulders, and neck accentuated.



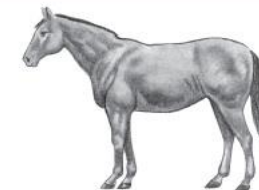
4 Moderately Thin

Slight ridge along back; faint outline of ribs discernable; tailhead prominence depends on conformation, fat can be felt around it; points of hip not discernable; withers, shoulders, and neck not obviously thin.



5 Moderate

Back is flat (no crease or ridge); ribs not visually distinguishable but easily felt; fat around tailhead beginning to feel spongy; withers appear rounded over spine; shoulders and neck blend smoothly into body.



6 Moderately Fleishy

May have slight crease down back; fat over ribs fleshy/spongy; fat around tailhead soft; fat beginning to be deposited along sides of withers, behind shoulders, and along sides of neck.



7 Fleishy

May have crease down back; individual ribs can be felt, but noticeable filling between ribs with fat; fat around tailhead soft; fat deposited along withers, behind shoulders, and along neck.



8 Fat

Crease down back; difficult to feel ribs; fat around tailhead very soft; area along withers filled with fat; area behind shoulders filled with fat; noticeable thickening of neck; fat deposited along inner thighs.



9 Extremely Fat

Obvious crease down back; patchy fat appearing.

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