

Glossary*

Ambient temperature: the air temperature in the surrounding area.

Ambulatory (general): able to walk. See also non-ambulatory.

Balanced (in the context of feed): a term applied to a diet or ration of feed that has all the known required nutrients in the proper amount.¹

Body condition scoring: a tool for determining the amount of fat on an animal's body. It involves a physical palpation and visual assessment of specific anatomical sites that are most responsive to a change in body fat. A body condition score is the value assigned to individual equines from the body condition scoring scale.

Box stall: a confinement area where horses are kept loose (not tied) when housed indoors in a barn or stable.

Broodmare: a female horse used for breeding.

Colic: a sign of pain in the horse's abdomen. The term colic can encompass all forms of gastrointestinal conditions which cause pain as well as other causes of abdominal pain not involving the gastrointestinal tract.

Concentrate: a feed used with forage to improve the nutritive balance of the total ration (e.g. grain, pelleted feed).

Conformation: the degree of correctness of a horse's bone structure, musculature, and its body proportions in relation to each other. Conformation is usually judged by the horse's intended use or by breed standards.

Creep feeding: the practice of using a creep feeder, which is a feeder designed so that foals can eat concentrates, but older horses will not be able to access the feed.

"Easy keeper": an informal term used to describe individual horses who easily gain weight or tend to maintain weight or body condition score above the ideal.

"Equine Cushings" (Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysfunction, PPID): a syndrome whereby the middle lobe of the pituitary gland (located in the brain) becomes enlarged over time resulting in over production of hormones and hormone-like substances.

Equine Metabolic Syndrome (EMS): a multi-faceted condition of obesity (generalized and/or regional), insulin resistance and laminitis. Primary contributing factors to the development of EMS are genetics and the quantity and type of feed.²

Exercise: for the purpose of this Code, exercise refers to any indoor or outdoor physical activity for horses including, but not limited to, riding, lunging, walking in-hand and hand grazing.

Foal: the offspring of a horse or other equines from birth to weaning and under one year old.

Forage: bulky feeds such as grass or hay; can also refer to the act of foraging (eating hay, grazing pasture, browsing).

¹ Adapted from the Association of American Feed Control Officials (2005) in National Research Council (2007) Nutrient Requirements of Horses. 6th rev. ed. National Academies Press, Washington, DC.

² Equine Code of Practice Scientists' Committee (2012) Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Equines: Review of Scientific Research on Priority Issues. Lacombe AB: National Farm Animal Care Council.

Glossary (continued)

Gait: a particular way or manner the horse moves on foot.

Grain: seed from cereal crops or corn.

Geriatric horse: for the purpose of this Code, geriatrics are ageing horses that need specialized care. Horses are **generally** considered to be geriatric when they are 15-20 years of age or older.

Gestation: the period of development of the fetus from conception to birth.

Hay: grasses or herbage especially cut and cured for animal feeding.³

Haylage: Feed that was cut as fresh forage and that has been chopped and stored at relatively high moisture content. Haylage undergoes a similar fermentation process as silage. See also silage.

Hyperlipemia/Hyperlipidemia: a medical condition caused, in part, by equines going off feed and that results in rapid mobilization of body fat. Fatty substances accumulate in the blood and infiltrate the liver. The syndrome can affect any equines although donkeys, ponies and miniature horses are at greater risk.

Jack: a male donkey.

Jennet: a female donkey.

Knowledgeable and experienced horseperson: For the purpose of this Code, this refers to people who have knowledge of a given topic or have successfully managed horses relative to a given topic. This includes those who have years of hands-on experience with horses and those who have knowledge gained through formal education, training and/or professional certification (some examples include experienced breeders, certified trainers/coaches and extension staff).

Lameness: for the purpose of this Code, lameness is any alteration in the horse's gait that appears to be caused by pain and discomfort. Lameness can manifest as a change in performance or willingness to move, head nodding or hip hiking.

Laminitis: inflammation in the foot (specifically the sensitive laminae connecting the hoof bone and the hoof capsule) that may result in severe pain, abnormal foot growth, and lameness. Also known as Founder.

Mare: an adult female horse.

Non-ambulatory: an animal that is unable to stand without assistance or move without being dragged or carried, regardless of size or age.⁴

³ Adapted from the Association of American Feed Control Officials (2005) in National Research Council (2007) Nutrient Requirements of Horses. 6th rev. ed. National Academies Press, Washington, DC.

⁴ Health of Animals Regulations. C.R.C. c. 296. Available: <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/PDF/H-3.3.pdf>.

Glossary (continued)

Paddock: a small, fenced-in field or enclosure (with varying surface terrain) where horses are kept or exercised.

Parasitism: an infection with parasites.

Parturition: the act or process of giving birth to the foal (also referred to as foaling).

Pasture: a large, fenced-in area where horses are kept loose and can graze.

Pelleted feed: feed that has been ground and processed to produce a pellet shaped feedstuff.

“Poor doer”: an informal term used to describe individual horses that have difficulty gaining weight or maintaining appropriate weight or body condition score.

Reinforcement: positive or negative reinforcement are training terms that refer to anything that will make a response from the horse more likely in the future.⁵ “Positive” and “negative” do not mean “good” and “bad” in this context, but describe whether the behaviour is reinforced by having something added (positive reinforcement) or removed (negative reinforcement).⁵

Ration: the total amount of feed that is provided.

Silage: succulent, moist feed (from forage, corn or other crops) that has gone through a process of fermentation that helps it stay free from spoilage.

Stable: an enclosed building with a roof and sides for housing horses.

Stallion: an adult male horse that has not been castrated and is typically kept for breeding.

Stereotypy: formerly referred to as a vice, a stereotypy is an abnormal behaviour that serves no apparent function and is performed in a repetitive, invariant way.⁵ One example is cribbing/wind sucking. *Section 6.1.1* provides other examples.

Social opportunities: for the purpose of this Code, this term refers to occasions when horses can interact with other horses via sight, sound and/or direct contact.⁵

Soring: the practice of inflicting pain on the limbs of a horse for the purpose of accentuating its gait. Note: this practice is not acceptable (see the Requirements in *Section 6.3*).

Soundness: freedom from lameness or disease that would affect the horse’s usability.

Teeth floating: A procedure of filing down the sharp enamel points on the horse’s teeth. Teeth floating is necessary because the teeth of horses continue to erupt from the gums until horses are approximately 17 years of age.

Temperament: the horse’s disposition.

⁵ Equine Code of Practice Scientists’ Committee (2012) Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Equines: Revi Review of Scientific Research on Priority Issues. Lacombe AB: National Farm Animal Care Council.

Glossary (continued)

Thermoneutral zone: a temperature range in which animals do not have to expend any additional energy to maintain normal body temperature. In horses, the thermoneutral zone is between 5-20°C.

Tie stall: a space in a barn or stable where horses are tied when housed indoors. Also called a standing stall.

Tractability: the horse's capability to be easily led, taught, or controlled.

Turnout: for the purpose of this Code, this term refers to allowing horses "free time" (i.e. not under controlled exercise) in a dry lot, arena, pen or pasture. Turnout does not necessarily mean the horse is grazing.

Weanling: a term to identify equines from weaning until one year of age.

Yearling: a term to identify equines from one to two years of age.

* Excerpted from "Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Equines" (2013)