



Canadian Society for the Andalusian Horse

Dedicated to the welfare of the Andalusian Horse in Canada
www.CanadianAndalusian.org – canadianandalusianhorse@gmail.com

APPENDIX 1: SHELTER AND CARE GUIDELINES

These guidelines for care and sheltering of horses are derived from the *National Farm Animal Care Council's Code of Practice for Equines* along with a bit of wisdom learned from this breed over the years. These guidelines are used to determine level of care in an adoptive home and we require the use of these guidelines by the adopter once horses are adopted.

Adopters must have the resources for and knowledge of the basics of horse care as stated in this document and ensure such care is provided at all times.

PADDOCKS AND PASTURES

We encourage the use of paddocks and pastures as 24/7 care areas for horses. As a herd animal, it is important for horses to have room to move... the more, the better.

Paddocks should be no smaller than 100 feet by 50 feet per horse. Because one horse normally requires one acre, we recognize not everyone has large acreages so, in addition to the minimum area requirement, hay must be fed in addition to having the horse on pasture.

Pastures and paddocks must have:

- Durable fencing and gates
- Be free of debris, machinery, and sharp objects
- Have clean, safe water containers
- Contain numerous trees or other shelter

In muddy conditions, horses must, at a minimum, have access to a mud-free, well-drained area in the pasture/yard on which to stand and lie down.

The application of fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides and farm manure must be timed to prevent any health risks to grazing horses or contamination of ground water.

If your adopted horse will be housed with other horses (which we fully encourage), please ensure the safety of all horses and let the horses get to know each other gradually over a safe fence and then supervise them once turned out together until you are sure they can safely co-exist.

SHELTER

Horses must have access to shelter (constructed or natural) that protects them from the harmful effects of extreme weather conditions. Any individual horses that are showing signs of heat or cold stress must be assisted immediately.

STALLS

If the horse is kept in a stall, it must only be for overnight with the remainder of the time spent outside. The stalls must be large enough that each horse has enough space to lie down in a



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normal resting posture, stand with the head fully raised, walk forward and turn around with ease.

Tie stalls are prohibited.

FENCING

There are many types of fencing: barbed wire, smooth wire, page wire, wire horse fence, wood plank, electric, vinyl, etc. The most important thing about any type of fencing is that it is installed correctly, that it is safe, and that it is secure.

Fences must be constructed and maintained to minimize the risk of injury and must be strong enough to contain horses.

Electric fences must be installed according to the manufacturer's specifications. All power units for electric fences must be designed to prevent short circuits and/or stray voltage. Temporary electric fences used for strip grazing or pasture rotation are not an acceptable permanent perimeter fence for horses.

WATER

At all times, horses must have access to safe, palatable and clean water in quantities to maintain health and vigour. In extreme weather conditions (cold or hot), special attention must be paid to ensure water availability, access and intake.

Water troughs, containers and any automatic watering devices must be cleaned regularly and maintained in working order with no sharp or abrasive edges.

The table below provides guidelines on expected water intakes for horses:

Class	Ambient Temperature	Average Total Water Intake (L/day)	Estimated Range of Water Intakes (L/day)
Idle, mature (500kg, 1100lbs)	20°C	25	21-29
Idle, mature (500kg, 1100lbs)	30°C	48	42-54
Idle, mature (500kg, 1100lbs)	-20°C	42	37-47
Moderate exercise (500kg, 1100lbs)	20°C	41	36-46
Moderate exercise	35°C	82	72-92

FEED

Andalusians are generally very easy keepers so we recommend a diet low in calories and high in quality. We also recommend a diet that is natural to what a wild horse would eat, namely, either a good grass mix pasture or good quality grass mix hay ...or a combination of both. Forage must be free from visible mould and has minimal dust. Of course, horses need salt and minerals so they must be supplied free choice.



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Concentrates must be stored in a secure manner that prevents horses from overeating. The daily ration of concentrates must address the horse's maintenance and activity needs and other factors relevant to individual horses and the environment. Horses that are not being worked on a continuous basis do not need concentrates.

HEALTH CARE

Horses must be observed as often as required to maintain their health and well-being.

A parasite control program to prevent parasite related disease must be in place. This requirement applies to internal and external parasites.

Records or receipts of treatments provided must be available.

For sick, injured or compromised horses that are not showing improvement, owners must, without delay, obtain veterinary advice on appropriate care and treatment or make arrangements for euthanasia.

Appropriate authorities must be advised of suspected or confirmed cases of federally reportable disease, such as Equine Infectious Anemia.

Horses showing signs of dental problems must be examined and treated. Dental care procedures must only be performed by a veterinarian or competent individual with adequate experience.

Hooves must be trimmed and/or shod as often as is necessary to maintain hooves in functional condition. Whether shod or unshod, hooves must not be allowed to grow to excessive lengths causing injury or discomfort to the horse.

BODY CONDITIONING

Please refer to Addendum 1 regarding body conditioning. Corrective action must be taken at a Body Condition Score (BCS) of 3 or lower and at a BCS of 8 or higher. Veterinary advice must be obtained if animals do not respond to the corrective action or if geriatric equines that are emaciated (i.e. BCS of 1 or 2 out of 9).

Equines must not be starved or prevented from eating for prolonged periods in order to reduce BCS - the change in feed to reduce BCS must be gradual.

FIRST AID SUPPLIES

First aid supplies should be kept current and stored in a sealed container in a safe, dry, secure place. Make sure to have the vital signs printed out on the piece of paper, along with the vet phone numbers, inside it. When in doubt, call a vet.



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Normal ranges for vital signs in horses and donkeys when at rest and relaxed:

Adult horses	
Heart rate	28-44 beats per minute
Respiration rate	10-14 breaths per minute
Rectal temperature	37°C-38.5°C (99.5°F-101.3°F)
General	
The gums should be pink and moist, and should return to that color within 2 seconds of pressing with your finger on the gum line above the teeth and then releasing (this is known as the capillary refill time).	

TRAINING AND HANDLING

Horses must not be trained in a manner that subjects them to avoidable pain or that causes them injury as a direct result of the training method used. They must never be subjected to training methods which are abusive or intentionally injure the horse. This includes, but is not limited to, soring, excessive use of whips or forcing the horse's head position by tying the horse to a fixed object.

Horses must only undergo training that matches their physical capabilities and level of maturity. Equipment in use must be maintained in good repair and must fit the horse correctly. Corrective action must be taken if restraint devices or equipment cause injury to horses. Tethering must not cause injury and must only be used if the horse is under supervision. The person applying the tether must be knowledgeable in its use.

Because Andalusians are such extremely willing horses, owners must find trainers that are very light, extremely observant (one that can spot even a 'try' from the horse and reward them), and can move as fast or as slow in training as the horse requires. Andalusians also have a high sense of fairness, meaning they do not adapt well to situations and/or handlers that are unfair in their practices. Horses feeling they are treated unfairly will sometimes act out or shut down.

Andalusians take a longer time to mature physically so their bodies aren't ready for heavy riding before they are 5 years old. Light riding at 4 is acceptable but anything before that may risk the longevity of your horse's soundness. Before 4 years of age, many of your horse's growth plates will not have fused. See Addendum II for a table of estimated growth plate fusion times in years compiled by the authority on conformation, Dr. Deb Bennett. Please take into consideration the age of your Andalusian before taking on under saddle work.