



Canadian Society for the Andalusian Horse

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

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

WHAT IS MEANT BY 'WELFARE'?

Welfare is defined as the physical and psychological well-being of an animal. The importance of providing good welfare for our horses is both an ethical and moral issue.

Welfare is measured by various indicators including behaviour, physiology, longevity, and reproduction. Most animal welfare agencies use [The Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare](#) to determine whether or not an animal's minimum welfare requirements are being met.

WHAT IS AN ABUSED HORSE?

Horse abuse, simply put, translates into the intentional physical abuse of an equine. Abuse includes physical abuse (intentional injury), sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and staging animal fights. Physical abuse includes the infliction of injuries or causing unnecessary pain, including inappropriate methods of training. Sexual abuse includes any sexual conduct with animals, which may or may not result in physical injury to the animal. Emotional abuse may include repeated or sustained 'mental violence' including withholding social interactions.

Abuse can take many forms but is always an intentional act.

Federal and provincial legislation affords animals protection from abuse. Recognizing and reporting abuse is important. Not only because we, as horse owners, are charged with that responsibility to our animals, but also due to the link between animal abuse and human violence.

REPORTING ANIMAL ABUSE

If you witness abuse of a horse, a report should be filed with the appropriate local authorities for investigation. Contact information for Provincial authorities can be found on the Report page of [our website](#).

Source: <https://www.canadianveterinarians.net/>

WHAT IS A NEGLECTED HORSE?

Neglect is the failure to provide adequate levels of food, water, shelter, and veterinary care to animals causing poor physical condition. Neglect can be deliberate or unintentional.

Neglect is far and away the most common issue animal authorities handle. Neglect involves a wide scope of situations with owner ignorance leading the way. Financial setbacks, apathy, and chemical dependency are next in line.



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HOW TO IDENTIFY NEGLECT

As horse owners, we all have ideas on what the ideal situation for a horse looks like. Some owners prefer stalls and blankets while others prefer shelters and pastures. The problem with identifying neglect is that, the majority of the time, someone is calling a horse neglected based on their own ideals. Therefore, it is important that the playing field be leveled and everyone uses one or two methods of determining neglect.

Probably the best way to identify a neglected horse is with the Henneke Body Conditioning Scale. The Henneke Scale is a system of evaluating fat cover on equines based on a scale of 1 to 9. A horse falling into the range of 4-7 is considered acceptable with a body condition score of 5 being ideal. Horses with body condition scores of 1 and 2 are considered emaciated and those with scores of 8 and 9 are considered obese. [Click here for more information about using the Henneke Scale](#). If you see a horse with a body condition score that is less than 3, it warrants further investigation.

Keep in mind that a lot of older horses and some suffering from chronic illness may struggle to maintain body condition. One skinny horse in a herd of several otherwise healthy horses is typically either old or suffering from a chronic condition. But it also could be a case of owners being unaware of herd dynamics and may need to make adjustments in the distribution of feed and/or the number of feed receptacles available to the herd.

However, a herd of horses with body condition scores below 3 is very concerning and requires further investigation. Sometimes it is a matter of educating the owner how to provide better care for the animals but, in the event that the owner is unwilling or unable to improve the conditions of the animal, reporting to an animal authority is required.

Another good way to assess neglect are using other indicators such as untended wounds/injuries, untended illnesses, non-weight-bearing lameness, trapped (stuck in fence, ditch, etc), and excessively long or curled hooves.

If you suspect neglect based on the above methods, report your observations to the local animal welfare authorities.

Sources: <https://savetheworldshorses.wordpress.com/horse-abusenelect/>

WHAT IS AN UNWANTED HORSE?

It is a horse that is no longer wanted by their current owner because the horse is old, injured, sick, unmanageable, fails to meet the owner's expectations, or the owner is no longer able to financially afford the keep of a horse.

Who is responsible for unwanted horses? All of us.

Top 10 reasons for horses becoming unwanted in order of popular response (from the 2009 Unwanted Horses Survey by the Unwanted Horse Coalition):



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- could no longer afford the horse
- horse was too old
- horse was injured
- horse was unmanageable
- lost interest in owning a horse
- change of employment status
- no longer had a use for the horse
- horse did not meet expectations
- no longer had time to spend with the horse
- horse was sick

Source: <http://www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/unwanted-horse-survey.pdf>

WHAT DOES 'RESPONSIBLE BREEDING' MEAN?

Breeders can help eliminate unwanted, neglected and abused horses by implementing the following best practices in their breeding programs:

- Breed quality over quantity.
- Be willing & prepared to possibly take care of the offspring your farm produces again someday.
- Add a "first right of refusal" clause in your purchase agreements/bills of sales (sample below):

"Seller retains first right of refusal for Horse should Buyer decide to transfer ownership of Horse at any time within the life of the Horse. Before Buyer may transfer ownership of the Horse to a third party, Buyer shall first offer the Horse to Seller on the same terms and conditions as are offered by the third party. Seller shall have 30 days during which to accept said offer. If Seller does not accept said offer within said time period, Buyer shall be free to accept the third-party offer. If Buyer does not enter into an agreement with the third party on said terms and conditions and then close the transaction within 60 days, Buyer's right to sell the Horse to the third party shall expire and the procedure described in this clause shall again be applicable.

Buyer may give Horse back to Seller at any time, for any reason, in Horse's lifetime. If Horse is returned to seller and has outstanding medical bills or other debt owed, that debt remains the obligation of Buyer.

Buyer agrees that Horse will never be sold at auction, through a sales barn, or to slaughter."

- Ask for references from potential buyers and then check them. Make sure your stock is heading to a good, knowledgeable home.
- Buy and breed only quality breeding stock (free from genetic disease and inheritable defects).
- Take advantage of the breeding stock evaluations offered by [APSL](#), [ANCCE](#), and [PRE Mundial](#). If your horse is not eligible for any of these registries, have an unbiased breed professional evaluate your stock using the respective registry's evaluation criteria:



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*[Click here](#) for the PRE Mundial Revision Score Sheet

*[Click here](#) for the IgANCCE Revision Score Sheet

*[Click here](#) to contact APSL for their inspection sheet

- Implement your own 'Full Circle' program for the stock you've bred. Keep track of ownership of your stock throughout their lives so that, if they need assistance at some point, you are able to step in and provide for them.
- If you stand a stallion at stud to the public, only accept good quality mares. Be particular about the quality and quantity of offspring you produce to ensure your stallion's offspring hold value.
- Don't let your foals leave your property unregistered. Registered horses have a much lower chance of being sent to an auction. Even if the new owners choose not to transfer ownership into their name, the registry can then contact you and you will be able to step in if that horse is found in need at any point in his/her life.

WHAT DOES 'OWNING RESPONSIBLY' MEAN?

Being a responsible owner involves much more than ensuring your horse has adequate food, water and shelter. Meeting the basic needs of your horse is the most obvious of your responsibilities, but those aren't your only duties as a responsible owner. In fact, your responsibility begins before you even purchase a horse. You must think carefully and plan accordingly instead of letting your emotions influence your decisions. Otherwise, that horse you dreamed of owning could become unwanted because it doesn't fit your needs, lifestyle or budget.

It is the job of every individual involved in horses to learn to own horses responsibly. What does that mean... "to own responsibly"? It means many things but, essentially, it means that before you buy or adopt a horse, you understand how it affects you and the horse, both in the present and in the future. To own responsibly means that you, as that horse's owner and provider, understand and consider all options available to your horse including sale, lease, donation, adoption, retirement, and alternative programs and uses. It means that you consider end-of-life decisions, including veterinary care, euthanasia, and disposal, before that time comes. It means you understand that there are day-to-day tasks of owning a horse, that you must have the desire and passion for learning all things 'horse' on a continuous basis, that you 'give back' to your horse and provide the long, comfortable life your horse deserves.

THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE BUYING/ADOPTING

- Choose a horse that matches your goals, riding skills and temperament. This ensures that the horse you buy isn't left looking for a home because it's unsuitable for your needs.
- What happens if there is an injury? While no horse owner likes to think of losing their equine partner, the reality is that injuries can occur that may impair your horse's ability to do the job you purchased it to do. A responsible horse owner thinks about the unexpected and devises a plan. Perhaps there is a less demanding job your horse could do if he becomes injured, or maybe a farm where he could live out his days.



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- What is your plan to find a new home for your horse if you are no longer able to keep it for whatever reason? A responsible horse owner looks to the future – sometimes several decades into the future. With improved nutrition and advances in equine medicine, it's not uncommon for horses to live to be upwards of 30 years old, which means long-term planning is necessary to ensure their well-being. As a responsible owner, are you prepared to commit to the long-term care of your horse?
- If you aren't prepared to keep your horse through its golden years, what is your plan to ensure it has a home that will care for its needs and ensure it is euthanized humanely when the time comes?
- Being a responsible horse owner also means planning for your own unexpected injury, illness or death that could leave your horse's future in question. Have you made arrangements to ensure your horse is cared for if you were to suddenly become incapacitated, or worse? Every horse owner owes it to their equine partner to ensure its needs will always be met and that it will be treated humanely, with dignity and respect, throughout its life.
- Please be a responsible horse owner. We all play a role in preventing horses from becoming unwanted.

Costs of Keeping a Horse

Horses most often become unwanted because their owners are no longer able to afford them or are unwilling or incapable of caring for them. Just because you can afford the purchase price of a horse, do you have the financial resources to care for it? Are you prepared for unforeseen emergency costs? Do you have a plan in place if you were to lose your job? What will become of your horse if you lose interest? The two tables below are from a 2011 Equine Canada survey and give an estimate on how much it costs to keep a pleasure horse per year as well as per province. Of course, if you plan on showing or competing, these costs rise substantially.

Products & Services Purchased for the Care of Horses -- PLEASURE RIDING Sector	Average Expenditure per Horse
Hay	\$455
Horse Feed	\$184
Bedding	\$145
Feed Supplements	\$95
Grooming & Horse Care Products	\$105
Veterinary Services & Prescription Drugs	\$148
Farrier Services	\$312
Horse Dental Care	\$115
Horse Therapy Services	\$241
TOTALS	\$1,800



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Average Monthly Costs	CANADA	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Avg. Annual Cost to Keep a Horse	\$2,700	\$2,346	\$2,532	\$1,189	\$1,021	\$3,804	\$2,665	\$2,215	\$2,400	\$2,268	\$3,288
Avg. Monthly Cost	\$225	\$196	\$211	\$99	\$85	\$317	\$222	\$185	\$200	\$189	\$274
Avg. Monthly Charge for Boarding Services	\$307	\$356	\$334	\$127	\$306	\$335	\$225	\$279	\$296	\$324	\$159

The average life span of a light horse ranges between 20-30 years with 24 years being average. So, if you take the above costs and multiply by 24, you will see that keeping a horse over their lifespan is a big investment. Granted, you don't spend all that money at once but it is worth considering the total cost. Are you prepared to care for a horse for that many years?

Horses are an on-going expense - can you afford it?

Your Time

We all love being with our horses on those sunny warm days when the birds are chirping and the sky is blue. But owning a horse also means having to venture out on those not so nice days, too. One of the major reasons owners sell their horses is because of a lack of time to spend with them. Are you certain you can spare the time? Plan to spend at least an hour a day with your horse just for general everyday chores and caremore for anything else. If your horse is kept in a stall all day, you must exercise them daily – that takes even more of your time.

Can you spare it?

Knowledge

Do you have a basic knowledge of horse care, feeding, and equine behavior? Despite the countless books, magazines, and websites available with tips and ideas for managing a horse, there is a set of knowledge and skills that you must have to care for a horse on your own.

Alternative to Buying/Adopting

Think about this: You can take 10 riding lessons or trail rides each month for less than boarding your own horse at many barns. That's three rides a week with no other commitments, costs, or lack of spare time to worry about.

Although, owning a horse can be a very joyful and rewarding experience, it is also hard work. Those of us experienced and dedicated folks that own horses cannot think about being without them, however, it is not for everyone. Please consider all the above suggestions carefully before owning/adopting.

Sources:

<https://horse.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Be-a-responsible-owner.pdf>

https://www.equestrian.ca/cfs/files/resources/EtLyNtvq8vYnr665u/IN_2011_cnd_horse_study_chapter_4-e.pdf?token=eyJhdXRoVG9rZW4iOiIlifQ%3D%3D

http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/horses/tips/horse_care_guidelines.html?credit=web_id160092357



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IS THE CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR THE ANDALUSIAN HORSE A REGISTERED CHARITY?

Yes, the Canadian Society for the Andalusian Horse is a registered Federal Canadian charity. Our registration number is [7900801715 RR0001](#). All cash or in-kind donations over \$30 are eligible for an income tax receipt.

WHAT IS THE JURSDICTION OF THE CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR THE ANDALUSIAN HORSE?

The Canadian Society for the Andalusian Horse serves all provinces of Canada.