

ABUSE

Horse abuse, simply put, translates into the *intentional physical abuse of an equine animal*. 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.

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