



**Sunshine Horses**

Helping Horses, Helping People

**Policies, Procedures, and Protocols**

<b>Title: Veterinary Care-(Also see Bio-Security Policies and Procedures)</b>	Original Date:	3/2/2019
	Last Review Date:	5/29/2019
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**Approved by: Mary B. Minkoff**

**Title: Director of  
Communication, Quality  
Assurance and Safety**

**Date: 9/2020**

Purpose	To ensure proper care and treatment of our Equines and minimize health risks to our volunteers. (Also see Bio-Security Policy and Procedure)
Content	<p>Routine and emergent veterinary care services for Sunshine Horses, Inc. is provided by:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">North Country Veterinary Services Pulaski Office 4592 US RT 11 Pulaski, NY 13142 315-298-5141</p> <p>Quarantine and Isolation (also see Bio-Security Policy and Procedure)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Equines being rescued from a kill pen are quarantined off-site for approximately one month. During this time two negative cultures for strangles (equine streptococcus) are required. Any equine that tests positive for strangles, or otherwise shows signs of a possibly contagious illness, will not be allowed on the property.</li> <li>2. All equines coming from a private farm require updated vaccinations with records and a current negative Coggins test with record. These equines are kept separate from the herd for at least two weeks while they are observed for possible behavior issues and any signs of illness. If signs of disease or illness are noted a veterinarian will be notified immediately. (See Bio-Security Policy and Procedure) Once cleared by the Equine Care Committee, the horse is introduced to the appropriate group.</li> <li>3. In the event that an equine requires quarantine on-site, the equine will be relocated to the foaling barn and placed on quarantine. Should the foaling be fully occupied, the equine will remain in his or her existing stall with plastic hung around the stall in order to provide a barrier between the neighboring horses.</li> <li>4. Signs will be hung indicating the horse is on quarantine and or isolation.</li> <li>5. Quarantined horses are cared for last in the shift (stalls mucked, feed, groomed, etc.).</li> </ol>



6. All care givers must thoroughly wash their hands after handling quarantined horses.
7. Equipment (brushes, harnesses, rakes, shovels, wheelbarrows, etc.) that come into contact with a quarantined and or isolated horse stay with that horse and are not used for any other horse until thorough cleaned and disinfected with a disinfectant solution. (See Bio-security Policy and Procedure
8. When equine is on isolation-Disposable coveralls are worn whenever close contact (e.g. grooming) with a quarantine equine occurs. The disposable coveralls are removed and disposed of in the designated waste container prior to leaving the isolation/quarantine area.
9. Prior to leaving the quarantined area, boots and wheelbarrow wheels are washed of all visible debris, rinsed, and disinfected with disinfectant solution. (see Bio-security Policy and Procedures)
10. Waste from a quarantined animal is brought directly to the dumpster to be hauled off-site. Quarantined animal waste is not allowed in the manure spreader.
11. An equine found to have rain rot, ring worm, or other such skin infections will have bushes and grooming equipment dedicated to that animal until the infection is cleared. Grooming equipment is disinfected as stated above prior to being used for other equines.

#### Routine Care

12. Physical exams are performed by a designee from Equine Care Facility on every horse upon arrival and documented in the medical record. (see admission forms)
13. Routine fecal exams are performed as needed per veterinarian protocol. Any equine that tests positive for parasites will have a repeat test performed post-treatment to evaluate the efficacy of treatment. Other horses in the same group as the infected horse will be also be treated.
14. Equines are de-wormed every 3 months/quarterly. De-worming medications are rotated in order to target different types of parasites.
15. The following immunizations are administered yearly in the Spring. Immunizations are documented in the medical including type, serial number, and source of product.
  - Eastern encephalitis
  - Western encephalitis
  - Influenza
  - West Nile
  - Rabies
16. Equine rhinopneumonitis immunizations are given as needed per veterinarian recommendation.
17. Specific immunizations and pharmaceuticals are subject to change based on availability and/or donations made to the organization.
18. Killed vaccines are used whenever possible to minimize the potential for



adverse reactions

19. Equines are screened every two years for Equine Infectious Anemia (Coggins test). As stated above, horses from kill pens are screened for two negative strangles cultures prior to entry to Sunshine.
20. Clinical pathology, major surgical procedures, and necropsy services are not performed on-site. These services are coordinated through North Country Veterinary Services.
21. Minor surgical procedures may be performed on-site by licensed veterinarian from North Country Veterinary Services. The veterinarian will bring all necessary instrumentation, medication, restraint equipment, and supplies.
22. Incisions are observed at least twice daily for signs of dehiscence and/or infection. Additional post-operative care is determined by the veterinarian and documented the treatment book and/or medical record.

#### Medications and Controlled Substances

23. Medications for use during an emergency (anesthetics, analgesics, tranquilizers, fluids, etc.) are provided and administered by North Country Veterinary Services.
24. Routine prescription medications are given under the direction of North Country Veterinary Services.
25. Over the counter medications (e.g., powdered phenylbutazone, topical lineaments, etc.) are given at the direction of the Equine Care Committee.
26. Medications given with food are stored in the feed room. Other medications are stored in the supply room or designated refrigerator.
27. Documentation of prescription medications is done on the treatment record and includes the drug name, dose, and date and time of administration.
28. All medications are labeled with the name of the drug and expiration date. Prescription drugs also include the name of the horse, dose, frequency, duration, prescribing doctor, and any other necessary instructions.
29. Expired medications, prescription or over the counter, are not used.
30. Controlled medications are not stored on-site. When needed, they are provided, administered, and disposed of by a veterinarian from North Country Veterinary Services.

#### Medical Records

31. Prescription medications and treatments are documented on the medication/treatment record each shift and are part of the medical record.
32. Medical records are maintained by the Equine Care Committee and contain documentation related to all routine and emergency veterinary exams, treatments, surgical procedures, anesthetic procedures, lab tests, pathology reports, immunization records, equine identification information, and nutrition/diet information.
33. Copies of medical records are sent with any equine that is adopted or sent



to another sanctuary.

34. Copies of medical records are scanned and electronically filed to the Sunshine Horses online share drive.
35. The following medical statistics are tabulated and reported to the Board of Directors yearly:
  - a. Number of zoonotic disease transmissions
  - b. Number of equines placed on isolation (not including new arrivals)
  - c. Number of emergency veterinary visits

#### Contraception, Breeding, and Husbandry

36. No equines are intentionally bred at Sunshine Horses, Inc. Stallions are gelded prior to arriving at Sunshine Horses.
37. Any mare that arrives to Sunshine Horses pregnant is allowed to give birth whenever health of the mare allows. Foals stay with the mare for at least 4 months, unless the health and/or safety of the foal is at risk. Mare and foal are closely monitored for signs of rejection and a veterinarian is consulted in the event that rejection is likely to occur.

#### Diets

38. Equine diets are determined by the Equine Care Manager/Committee with input the veterinarian.
39. Diets are reviewed at least weekly and adjusted as needed.

#### Invasive Species Control (e.g. rats)

40. Sunshine Horses does not use live-capture rodent control (e.g., glue traps, cages, etc.) due to the risk of zoonotic disease transmission.
41. Use of Barn Cats for rodent control. (see protocol for Barn Cats)
42. Grain storage containers are not left open and grain storage areas are swept daily.

#### Emergent Care

43. Restraint equipment, such as twitches, are available for use in case of emergency but may only be applied by properly trained personnel.
44. Tourniquets are used only as a last resort and under the direction of a veterinarian.
45. In the event of a medical emergency, the shift leader is immediately notified, who in-turn notifies the Equine Manager /Equine Care Committee or designee will determine if it is necessary to call North Country Veterinary Services.
46. See also First Aid Policy

#### Disposition of Deceased Equines



	<p>47. See Euthanasia Policy</p> <p>Zoonotic Diseases</p> <p>48. Any equine diagnosed with salmonellosis, campylobacteriosis, ringworm, or cryptosporidiosis, rabies, or other zoonotic disease is placed on isolation immediately.</p> <p>49. Others equines in that group and/or barn are evaluated by a veterinarian and treated with prophylaxis if needed.</p> <p>50. Caregivers that are immunocompromised are not allowed to care for any equine on isolation for a zoonotic disease.</p> <p>51. In the event that a caregiver is exposed to a zoonotic disease (from a horse, rodent, or any other animal) he or she is encouraged to seek appropriate medical care immediately (Emergency Room, Urgent Care, Primary Care Physician). An incident report must be completed including the documentation treatment given and outcome of the person(s) involved.</p> <p>52. All volunteers must wash their hand thoroughly before handling human food. Food is not consumed in the immediate area of equine contact.</p>
References	AAEP Guidelines