

To order this CD call  
1-800-292-5697



# Basic Horse Care



LIVESTOCK CARE  
**ALERT**

Call if you have livestock care concerns

**1-800-506-2273**

[afac.ab.ca](http://afac.ab.ca)

Supported by Alberta's Livestock Industry

**AFAC**  
ALBERTA FARM  
ANIMAL CARE



[albertasPCA.org](http://albertasPCA.org)

**1-800-455-9003**

**Ensure horses are humanely  
cared for at all times.**

**Alberta**  
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**Horse Industry Section**

**403-948-8541**

**Alberta**  
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT



**AFAC**  
ALBERTA FARM  
ANIMAL CARE

*"Horse neglect of any kind is unacceptable. It is against the law. Alberta livestock producers expect high standards of animal care."* – Greg Ruzicka, horse rancher, Viking AB

## Feed

- Provide good quality hay or forage – 2% of body weight per day.
- Provide 3-5 acres of good pasture per horse during summer.
- Feed grain (oats, barley) or commercial feed if additional energy is required.
- Provide salt free choice.
- If a horse is losing body condition or is less than 2 years old segregate and feed separately.
- Feed to maintain a body condition score of 5 on a scale of 1 to 9. Ribs should not be visible but easily felt.

(See over to order Body Condition Scoring CD).

## Water

- Provide access to water on a daily basis. Consideration must be given to the nutrition, age, shelter and body condition of the horses.
  - On average, horses require 5.5 litres (1.5 gal) of water per 100 kg (220 lbs) of body weight. Individual demands vary depending on feed intake, activity and temperature. This means a 500 kg (1,100 lbs) horse needs from 18 litres (4 gal) to more than 36 litres (8 gal) per day.



## Care

- Inspect horses frequently to ensure good physical health and to detect any problems early, including parasite control.
- Consult a veterinarian to develop a health care program.
- Maintain a hoof care program.
- Provide older horses with specialized care and when needed, euthanize in a timely manner.

## Shelter, Pasture/Yards

- Provide natural (trees) or constructed shelter to provide adequate protection from adverse weather.
- Horse paddocks must be properly fenced to safely keep horses confined.
- Paddocks must be free of debris that may cause injury to horses.