



COLD STRESS IN EQUINES

If acclimated to cold temperature, equines can tolerate colder temperatures.

WHAT IS COLD STRESS?



Cold stress or hypothermia occurs when the body's temperature drops below average (37 to 38°C). Equines are more sensitive to cold stress if: they still have their summer coats (or their coats are wet); are in poor body condition or health; they do not have access to shelter; they are restricted in their movement; and if they are fed a low-energy diet. Furthermore, very young or old equines cannot handle lower temperatures.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS?



Shivering (may stop if condition worsens)



Pale mucous membranes (gums)



Low rectal temp (< 35°C)



Depression, staggering, down, unwilling to move



Skin is cold to the touch



Little interest in food or water

WHAT CAN I DO?



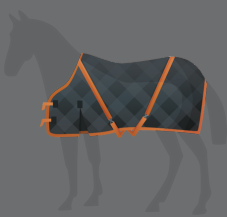
Protect from wind, rain, and snow



Provide clean water*



Provide good quality feed



Provide blanket**



Keep Dry

*Snow is not considered a sufficient sole source of water.

**Equines with good winter coats and in good condition may not need a blanket, but clipped or thin equines may. Check at least weekly for sores or overheating.

LEARN MORE!



NATIONAL FARM ANIMAL CARE COUNCIL
CONSEIL NATIONAL POUR LES SOINS AUX ANIMAUX D'ÉLEVAGE

The Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Equines
2.1.2 Shade and Outdoor Shelter – Pages 13 & 14



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