





**Horse welfare developments
in the Netherlands**

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Twelve Guidelines for Horse Keepers




Adequate Nutrition

- providing sufficient amounts of good quality feed
- unrestricted access to fresh drinkwater
- adequate feedings of forage at least twice a day, or sufficient pasture grazing




Stabling and Exercise

- minimum measurement stable for horses > 1.56m: 10m squared
- minimum measurement stable for mares In foal or with foal:
12 m squared, unless the mare (and foal if applicable) are turned out in a pasture for more than 8 hours a day
- minimum measurement stable for pony : 2 x ponyheight
- 15 year transition period for existing stables
- after January 2017 tie stalls are forbidden



Exercise

Sound horses stabled individually should receive at least 4 hours of daily exercise outside their stalls



Light Exposure

At least 80 lux for 8 hours a day



Stalls and pastures

- should be in good repair and safe
- barbed-wire to enclose horse pastures is forbidden from January 2013
- 24/7 outdoor kept horses should have shelter (a shed or cover provided by trees or shrubs)



- adequate prevention and treatment against disease and disorders should be implemented, such as vaccinating and deworming
- treatments should be recorded in a horse's passport
- it should be possible for ill/lame horses to be separated from other horses
- young horses should be exercised moderate according to their age
- professional organizations should set their own conditions (certification) for membership and exercise control over the quality of care provided



Health, continued

- horses should be trimmed and shod by a sector recognized farrier
- horses should be examined and treated as necessary by a sector-recognized equine dentist
- It is forbidden to completely remove a horse's sensory hairs
- it is forbidden to shave the hair on the inside of a horse's ears. Protruding hairs may be trimmed



Docking

Horses born after 2004 with docked tails may not participate in events in the Netherlands, unless docking is the result of non-elective veterinary surgery



Horse markets

May be held only in accordance with the protocol of the:

- Royal Dutch Society for Veterinary Medicine (KNMvD)
- Equine Medicine Group (GGD)
- Horse Sector Council (SRP)
- Animal Protection



Companionship

Keeping a single horse is not recommended, unless it can have daily contact with one or more other horses



Weaning

- should be done gradually or in a group of at least 2 foals
- foals may be weaned from the age of 4 months
- foals should be raised in a group of at least 2



Stereo-typical behavior

- should not be discouraged, unless it poses a threat to the horses health



Whip use

- Excessive whipping is forbidden
- A whip may be used to correct, but not to punish a horse



Questions?