



**Ministry of Environment
and Food of Denmark**
Danish Veterinary and
Food Administration

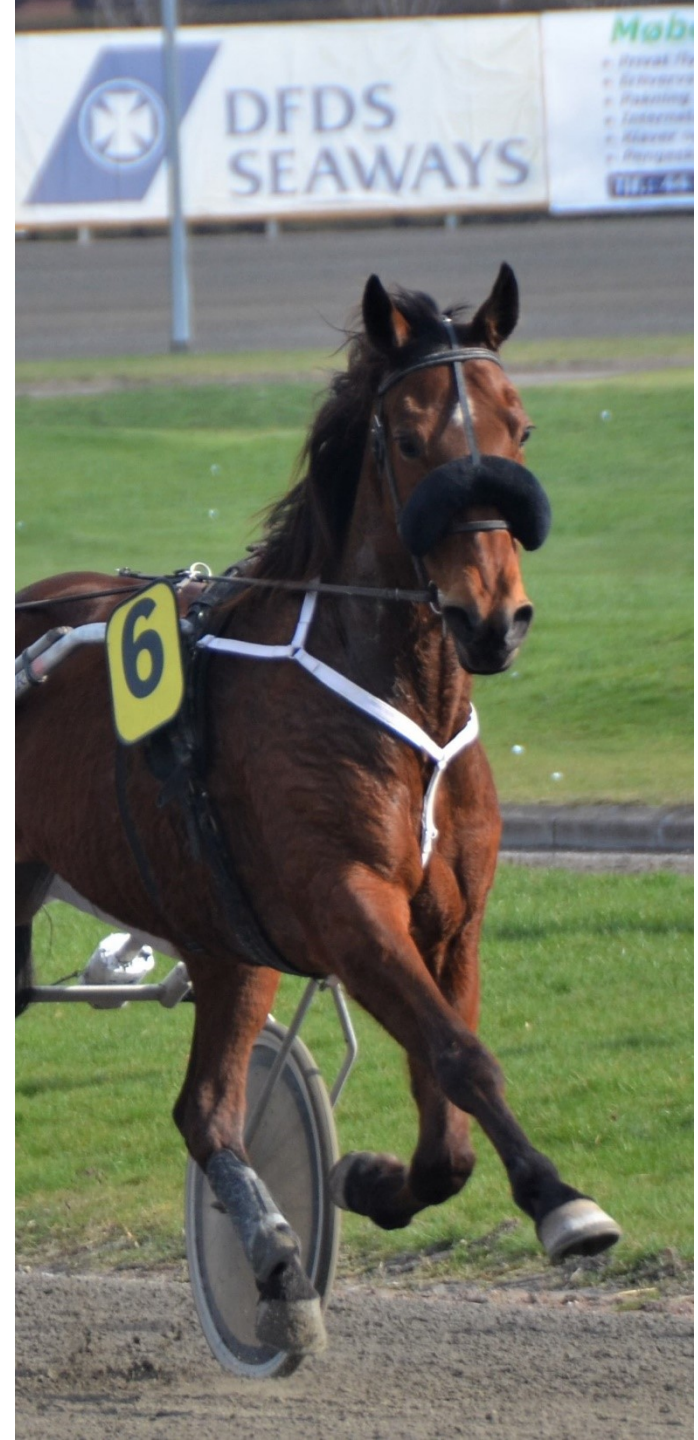
Voluntary initiative on equines Factsheets - horses

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The voluntary initiative on equines Status

November 2020

- ✓ At the meeting of the Platform on 7 October 2019 the 'Guide to good animal welfare practice for the keeping, care, training and use of horses' was acknowledged by a conclusion adopted during the meeting
- ✓ At the meeting of the Platform on 15 June 2020 the 'Guide to good animal welfare practice for the keeping, care, training and use of donkeys and donkey hybrids' was acknowledged by a conclusion adopted during the meeting
- ✓ Today factsheets based on the horse guide are on the agenda today to be acknowledged by a conclusion



The voluntary initiative on equines

The members

Member States:

- ❖ Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, and the Netherlands

Business and professional organisations:

- ❖ ISAE, FVE, and Copa-Cogeca

Civil society organisations:

- ❖ World Horse Welfare, Eurogroup for Animals, and Animal's Angels

Independent experts:

- ❖ Two experts

Secretariat:

- ❖ Eurogroup for Animals and World Horse Welfare



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The factsheets

It is our hope that the horse guide will be read in its entirety by those, who owns or in other ways are engaged in the keeping etc. of horses,

- ❖ However, we realise that this may not always be the case
- ❖ The group therefore decided to produce factsheets on a number of selected topics
 - ✓ Infectious disease and biosecurity
 - ✓ Feed
 - ✓ Water
 - ✓ Hoof care
 - ✓ Social interaction and comfort behaviour
 - ✓ Stable - indoor housing
 - ✓ Turnout – shelter and pasture



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The factsheets

- ❖ The factsheets relate to the horse guide and thus the intention is that the text of the factsheets shall follow the text of the guide
- ❖ The factsheets has been in an open consultation in order to give Platform members a possibility to comment
 - ✓ As you can see from the Digital Tool, the consultation did result in some comments
- ❖ The comments have been scrutinised carefully, and for different reasons not all comments could be taken into account. The main reasons are that the comments suggest
 - to amend a part of the text, which is a compromise resulting from discussions in the group
 - to add a text, which is not reflected in the horse guide, and therefore would need to be discussed by the group – it's too late for that



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The factsheets

The fact sheet on feed

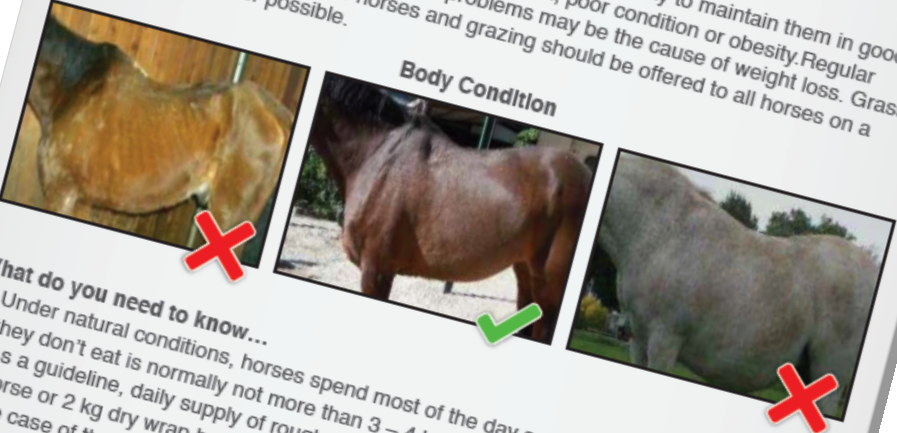
No comments

The guide for good animal welfare practice for the keeping, care, training and use of horses - factsheet

Feed

Horses should be fed a wholesome diet of a sufficient quantity to maintain them in good condition (normal weight) and to avoid malnutrition, poor condition or obesity. Regular dental care is recommended, as dental problems may be the cause of weight loss. Grass is an essential feed source for horses and grazing should be offered to all horses on a daily basis whenever possible.

Body Condition



- Under natural conditions, horses spend most of the day seeking feed. The period when they don't eat is normally not more than 3 – 4 hours.
- As a guideline, daily supply of roughage should be at least 1.2 kg of hay per 100 kg horse or 2 kg dry wrap hay per 100 kg horse, although this may need to be modified in the case of those prone to weight gain and/or laminitis.
- Consuming roughage should resemble the natural feeding pattern of a grazing horse as far as possible. If the horse has prolonged time without access to roughage (longer than 3-4 h), it may affect the overall health of the horse negatively (e.g. disposition for colic, stomach ulcers) and can cause the horse to develop abnormal and unwanted behavioural patterns (e.g. crib biting, eating sand).
- Many horses can live on grass or roughage alone, supplemented with vitamins and minerals if necessary.

Feeding concentrates

Some groups such as sport horses, young, growing horses or horses meant for breeding purposes may have a need for a higher energy consumption due to their level of exercise or basic needs. Therefore, they may need to be supplemented with a high energy feed (concentrate).

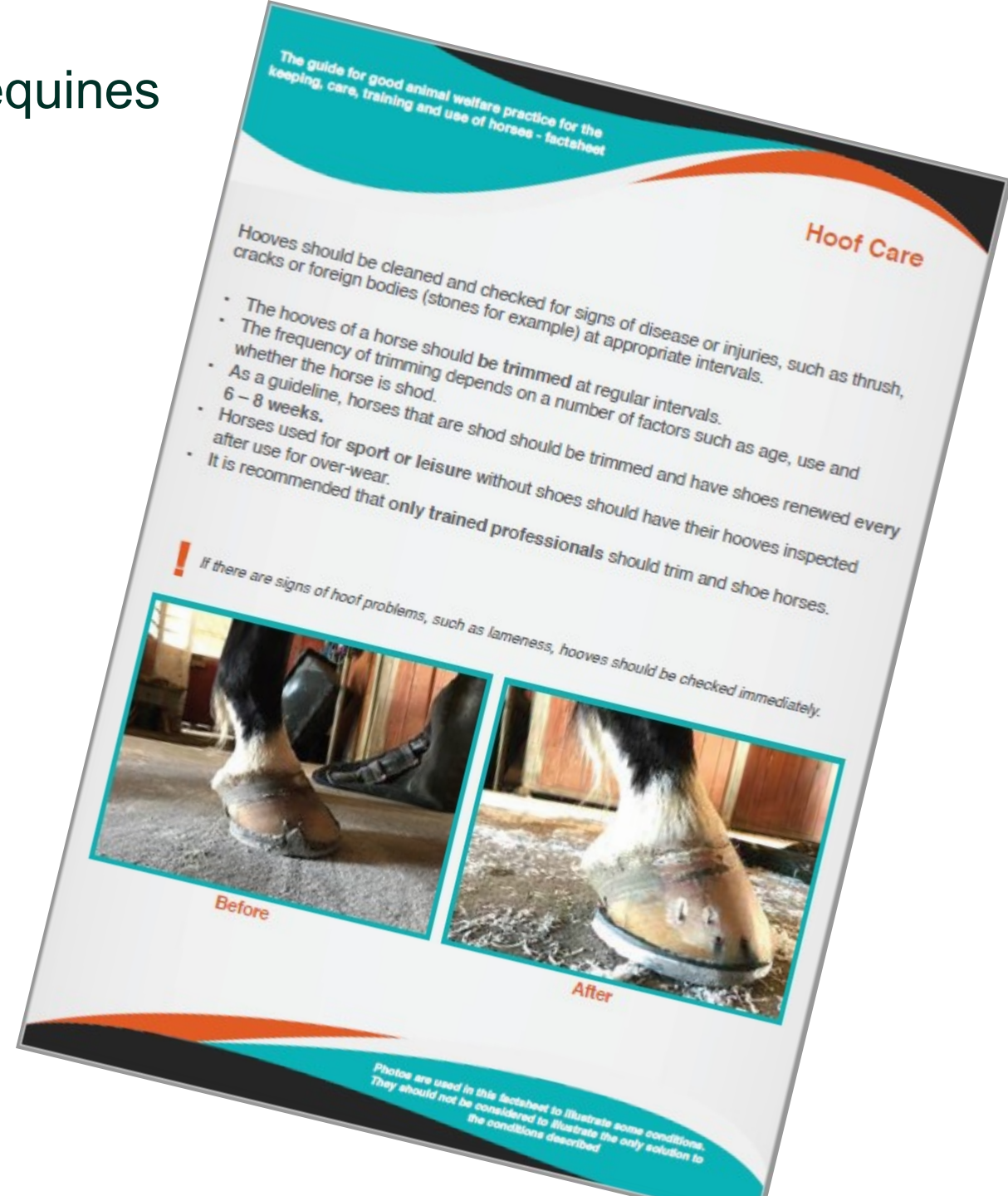
Photos are used in this factsheet to illustrate some conditions. They should not be considered to illustrate the only solution to the conditions described

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The factsheets

The factsheet on hoof care

No comments



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The factsheets

The factsheet on infectious disease and biosecurity

A comma has been deleted

Other comments are not taken into account



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The factsheets

The factsheet on social interaction and comfort behaviour

No comments



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The factsheets

The factsheet on stable – indoor housing

No comments

The guide for good animal welfare practice for the keeping, care, training and use of horses - factsheet

Stable – indoor housing

The need for social contact with other horses should be kept in mind when designing accommodation for horses.

How to do it well...

- When considering space requirements, the time the horse spends in the box should be taken into account. The box should be larger if the horse is stabled for a major part of the day.
- Individual boxes should fit the size of the horse so that the horse can lie down in natural lateral position (with extended legs, neck and head), turn around and get up unimpeded, and stand in a natural position.
- The lying area for horses should be non-slippery and provided with an adequate amount of suitable bedding material to ensure a **dry and comfortable** resting area.
- The upper part of the partitions between boxes should not be solid, but allow horses to see each other and allow adequate ventilation.
- **Dust levels, relative air humidity, temperature and gas concentrations** should be kept to non-harmful levels.



Group housing

- ✓ The total floor area should allow free movement, sufficient access and space at feeding and watering stations
- ✓ The bedded lying area should be large enough to allow all horses to lie down undisturbed at the same time
- ✓ Dead-ends and sharp corners should be avoided to prevent horses from being trapped
- ✓ The design of the group housing system should ensure that all horses are able to move away from each other and to access feed and water at any time
- ✓ Care should be taken to select groups of horses that are compatible

! It is recommended to give daily access to paddocks or pasture.

Photos are used in this factsheet to illustrate some conditions. They should not be considered to illustrate the only solution to the conditions described

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The factsheets

The factsheet on turnout – shelter and pasture

Comments, but not taken into account



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The factsheets

The factsheet on water

The photo has been replaced with this



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Closing remarks

- ❖ The aim of the factsheets is to supplement the horse guide and thus help improve horse welfare in the EU and beyond.
- ❖ To this end it is my hope that you – the Platform members – will be in a position to vote in favor for the conclusion, which acknowledges the factsheets
- ❖ Finally
 - Translation of the guides is ongoing – this is an important step to promote the guides in the EU and beyond
 - To support the promotion of the guides it is my hope that the Commission will consider to upload the translated versions along with the English version, which already appear on the part of the website about the Platform conclusions





Thank you – questions?