

Mission Acres

Inspire, Equip, Transform



“When a rider looks into a horse’s eyes they find a part of their soul”

Mission Acres is dedicated to reflecting the nature of the horse. We are committed to honoring their natural instincts and thereby creating an environment for them that fosters physical and emotional health. This is reflected in our decisions surrounding their feeding and how they are kept on the property. This document focuses on Missions Acres policies on horse care and management. The following overview taken from “Straightness Training” displays the differences between how horses live in the wild and how domesticated horses often live. We have used their template to reflect how we will care and manage horses at Mission Acres.

	IN THE WILD	DOMESTICATED
Collecting food	Horses spend 60% of their time on feeding (14 to 15 hours per day). This leads to 55,000 chewing movements.	Sometimes horses spend 2 x 5 minutes eating pellets and 3x 1 hour eating hay. This leads to 7,000 to 10,000 chewing movements.
Amount of food	Little bits throughout the day	3 times a day a lot at one time
Movement	5 to 10 km spread over the whole day	Sometimes only 1 hour a day
Rest	30% of their time (7 hours per day). The horse can lay five minutes per day completely flat out	Sometimes 23 hours in the stall. Laying down completely is sometimes not possible at all
Social contact	A lot of contact with other horses.	Sometimes the only contact is with humans. Many horses (especially stallions) are kept alone in the pasture and alone in the stable.
Foals	Foals spend half of their time playing with other foals. Weaning: Separation at 9 months.	Sometimes the foal's only companion in the pasture is the mother. Weaning: Separation at 4 months.
Young horses	Living together with other horses. Developing friendships. Education provided by counterparts. Behavioral rules, learning horse language. Developing social skills.	Sometimes alone or with only one other horse. Often in a socially inadequate living environment. Education provided by human.
Young adults	Stallion: bachelor band. Mare: first foal when she is 5 years old.	Stallion: often castrated. Mare: frustrated oestrous cycle
Protection	Coat, strong legs, good natural immunity.	Less immunity, often ill because of the stable climate; too humid, too dark, too dusty, blankets and bandages.
Grooming	Mutual care. Rolling.	Humans brush the horse. Rolling sometimes not possible.
Hooves	Hooves wear out naturally.	Farrier takes care of trimming the hooves. Because the horse is not able to move sufficiently in a stable which is too dry or too wet, hoof and leg problems can develop.

	IN THE WILD	At Mission Acres
Collecting food	Horses spend 60% of their time on feeding (14 to 15 hours per day). This leads to 55,000 chewing movements.	Horses will have access to feed on a 24 hour basis.
Amount of food	Little bits throughout the day	Pasture if available. If hay and/or straw needs to be provided it will be done through the use of netting as needed and under the direction of the Horse Care/Management Director
Movement	5 to 10 km spread over the whole day	Exercise regimen will be created and/or field turn out. Horses will not be subjected to standing in a paddock for hours on end
Rest	30% of their time (7 hours per day). The horse can lay five minutes per day completely flat out	Sufficient space will be given in order for horses to fully rest/lay flat
Social contact	A lot of contact with other horses.	"Outside" training horses or stallions will be housed in individual paddocks but will either be next to each other or if needed, one paddock apart, all other horses will be placed in herds that are comprised of 3+ horses. If not placed in a herd, stallions or "high level horses" will have social interaction with miniature horses or ponies. As per "Straightness Training" – "make sure you create an area where the companion can squeeze underneath the fence and the stallion can't, so the companion has a safe area. If you fulfill the needs of the 'animal' and 'horse' first, you can avoid problem behaviors related to stallions." – Horse Care/Management Director to direct how this will be done.
Foals	Foals spend half of their time playing with other foals. Weaning: Separation at 9 months.	As per "Straightness Training" - Sometimes the foal's only companion in the pasture is the mother. Weaning: Separation at 4 months.
Young horses	Living together with other horses. Developing friendships. Education provided by counterparts. Behavioral rules, learning horse language. Developing social skills.	This will be created as needed and under the direction of the Horse Care/Management Director.
Protection	Coat, strong legs, good natural immunity.	All horses will be have limited exposure to box stalls so that we ensure their physical and emotional health. Use of boxstalls will be under the direction of the Horse Care/Management Director.
Grooming	Mutual care. Rolling.	Humans brush the horse. Rolling sometimes not possible. Owners are required to groom their horses.
Hooves	Hooves wear out naturally.	Owners are required to care and maintenance.

Policies for Horse Care and Management at Mission Acres

Food, water, salt/minerals, and shelter – will be available to every horse 24/7

- Food - Pasture if available. If hay and/or straw needs to be provided it will be done through the use of netting as needed and under the direction of the Horse Care/Management Director
- Water – clean water – watering system to be cleaned out on regular basis - Horse Care/Management Director to create schedule. Also, staff member needs to test to ensure there is no electric issues (i.e. place hand in water)
- Salt/Minerals - As per “The Horse. Com” - A 1,100-pound horse has a daily maintenance sodium requirement of just under 10 grams of sodium, which can be met by consuming about an ounce of sodium chloride salt. –Horse Care Management Director to provide recommendations
- Shelter – All horses will have access to shelter no matter where they are located

Routine

Reduce stress in horses by creating routines for them such as bringing them in or turning them out, feeding, etc. Horses will not be held in box stalls for unlimited time.

Companionship

If a horse is in a box stall, paddock, or field, another horse will be placed with it, unless it is for short period of time and/or training. Instruction, including the length of time in a box stall will be given by the Horse Care Management Director.

Horse Inspection

On a daily basis, Staff member will inspect horses for injury and ensure blankets are securely fastened, if applicable – Horse Care Director to provide written document on steps that need to be addressed

Horse tack and blankets:

- Halters, ropes, etc., will not be permitted to stay on a horse when it is in a field. If someone says, “I cannot catch my horse” then the lessons occur in the field until you are able to successfully do so or they can be moved to a temporary paddock if approved by the Horse Care Management Director
- Blankets are permitted but cannot be left if the conditions are such that it is a detriment (i.e. too hot outside or conversely too cold and not having the proper blanket on which can then lead to the horse being colder with a blanket on – Horse Care/Management Director to elaborate). Education surrounding blanketing will be provided by the Horse Care/Management Director

Feeding systems

Metal feeders are not to be used when feeding horses but if there is a circumstance where that has to occur they will then be secured based on manufacturer's instructions.

Horses will have access to pasture land and/or hay or straw. Netting will be used when applicable and all feeding protocols will be established by the Horse Care Management Director.

Smoking on the property

Smoking is only permitted on the property if the person is in their vehicle with the windows closed in order to minimize the risk of a fire on the property.

Note, an Emergency evacuation plan and bio-hazard plan is being developed and will be submitted to Buffy and Chris for their approval.