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## **AWEA ANIMAL WELFARE AND MANAGEMENT POLICY**

One of the key aims of the Albury Wodonga Equestrian Association (“AWEA”) is to provide enjoyable recreational and competitive horse riding opportunities. To this end, both rider and horse welfare must be considered in order to provide a functional, safe and well maintained environment. The following are guidelines for care and accommodation of horses at AWEA. It is proposed that the mandatory recommendations are to be adopted and strictly enforced by AWEA groundsman and committee executives on the basis of a three-strikes-and-you’re out policy.

### **MANDATORY:**

- Clean water must be available to the horse at **all** times. To ensure this, the trough or container must be able to be cleaned easily, not be easily tipped over and be free of protrusions (a height of at least 1m is suggested). As a guide, 25-45 litres per day may be consumed in hot weather so please ensure your horse has ample amounts of water available at all times..
- Fences and gates must be kept in good condition (the responsibility of AWEA management) and yards in a clean and hygienic condition (the responsibility of agistees) to avoid injury and health problems for the horse. To this end, manure and urine-affected bedding in stables and yards **must** be removed at least daily (preferably twice daily) and water troughs cleaned regularly to maintain hygiene and to discourage mosquitoes breeding.
- Bedding such as rice hulls or sawdust, **must** be provided as a condition of stabling or accommodation in covered yards for all horses housed for more than one (1) night.
- All manure and bedding to be placed in Manure pits provided. Day Paddock manure is to be put in the middle of the day paddock’s laneway for the groundsman to remove with the tractor.
- An adequate supply of food is required to maintain horses’ condition at the centre in paddocks as well as stables, yards and day paddocks. In paddocks, it is important to evaluate the quantity and quality of feed in the paddock, particularly during changing seasons and conditions, and provide supplementary feed where necessary. In stables, covered yards and day paddocks, horses must be fed **at least once a day**. It is also important to supply adequate roughage in the form of hay to supplement the horse’s natural grazing pattern. A diet of only concentrated feeds may disrupt the natural workings of the horse’s gut and risk colic. (For further advice on feeding requirements, contact your vet, local department of agriculture, or other animal husbandry experts.)
- Agistees agree to abide by the EA Horse Welfare policy as stipulated on the EA web site.
- Continuously stabled horses must be exercised every day for at least 30 minutes of exercise out of their box.

## **RECOMMENDED:**

- **Feed storage** – Ideally, feed should be stored in containers with close-fitting lids to prevent the entry of vermin. Materials should also be water resistant to prevent spoiling of feed exposed to weather.
- **Rugging** – Rugging appropriately for the conditions is paramount in maintaining the health and condition of your horse. Changing seasons, in particular, require a commitment to removing heavier rugs during the warmer days of autumn and spring to avoid excessive sweating that can cause dehydration and loss of condition.
- **Regular safety checks** – The committee and or AWEA staff will carry out regular inspections to ensure the feeding, watering and care of horses at AWEA is being carried out in accordance with the guidelines.

*(This policy is based on minimum standards and guidelines set by the Department of Primary Industries and RSPCA. The Albury Wodonga Equestrian Association also operates in accordance with EA Horse Welfare policies.)*