

SWEETWATER VETERINARY CLINIC

HOW TO MAKE AND KEEP YOUR HORSE IN A SAFE ENVIRONMENT



- ▣ 1) The Horse
- ▣ 2) How their environment affects a horses health and well being
- ▣ 3) County requirements for equine housing
- ▣ 4) Components of a safe environment
- ▣ 5) Discussion



THE HORSE

Large in Size

- ▣ 1) Need adequate room to move around
- ▣ 2) Need adequate room to standing in waste too much
- ▣ 3) Large body mass exposure to sun, cold, wind

“Prey Animal”

- ▣ Senses are tuned to avoid threats to their life
- ▣ 1) Easily claustrophobic
- ▣ 2) Wary of dark closed in spaces
- ▣ 3) “Run before thinking”

Process a lot of Food and Water

- ▣ 1) Drink 5-15 gallons of water per day minimum
- ▣ 2) Eat 5-30 pounds of food per day

Can be inquisitive and often leads to being destructive

- ▣ 1) “1000 pound two year olds”
- ▣ 2) Environment needs to be constructed keeping in mind that horses have 24 hours a day to look for trouble

How their environment can affect a horses health and well being

Weather

- ▣ Exposure to excessive heat, cold, and/or wind can lower resistance to disease

Contaminated Water

- ▣ Contaminated water can affect water consumption as well as increase exposure to disease

Wet, Adulterated Feed

- ▣ Wet, contaminated, or soiled food can affect consumption and increase possibility of colic and disease

Injuries

- ▣ Trauma and injuries can easily result from unsafe areas in environment

County requirements for an Equine environment

- ▣ 1) Secure fencing
- ▣ 2) Basic shade
- ▣ 3) Clean source of water

Components of a safe horse environment

Ground

- ▣ 1) Composition
- ▣ 2) Drainage
- ▣ 3) Elevation

Fence

- ▣ 1) Sturdy
- ▣ 2) Secure
- ▣ 3) Maintains eaasily
- ▣ 4) Can not easily injure
- ▣ Barbed wire
- ▣ Boards nailed on wrong side





Shelter

- ▣ 1) Size
- ▣ 2) Shelters against strong winds but is not too confining
- ▣ 3) Sturdy
- ▣ Galvanized panels without protection

Water

- ▣ 1) Adequate capacity
- ▣ 2) Out of direct sun
- ▣ 3) Sturdy
- ▣ 4) Easy to clean
- ▣ 5) Easy to repair

Feeder

- ▣ 1) Large enough capacity
- ▣ 2) Off Ground
- ▣ 3) Easy to keep debris and sand away from immediate surroundings
- ▣ 4) Will not accumulate moisture

DISCUSSION

Thank you to

- ▣ 1) Everybody at Sweetwater Veterinary Clinic
- ▣ 2) Acton Aqua Dulce Library and staff
- ▣ 3) Acton Town Council
- ▣ 4) Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
- ▣ 5) Joan Fry