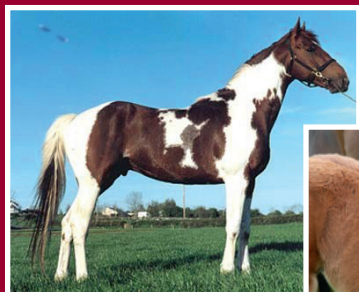


Farm Animal Welfare Advisory Council



Animal Welfare Guidelines for Horses at Gatherings and Sales



Department of
**Agriculture,
Food and the Marine**

An Roinn
**Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara**

Farm Animal Welfare Advisory Council

ANIMAL WELFARE GUIDELINES FOR HORSES AT GATHERINGS AND SALES

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AN INTRODUCTION BY PROFESSOR PATRICK FOTTRELL

Chairperson of the Farm Animal Welfare Advisory Council

The Farm Animal Welfare Advisory Council was set up to allow representative groups with a variety of perspectives on animal welfare, meet and exchange views, seek consensus on various issues and developments relevant to the care of farm animals. These guidelines are the product of this consensus and have been adopted unanimously by the Council. Horses, ponies and donkeys have long been part of the Irish way of life and not only in rural areas.

There is no doubt that horses and ponies make a significant contribution to the economy as well as to sport and recreation. The equine industry is a significant contributor to economic activity and a source of employment in the countryside.

The welfare guidelines have been produced so as to assist all those who are responsible for ensuring the welfare of horses at gatherings and sales. The document will refer to fairs or marts when making specific points relating to these channels of sale. However when the term markets is used in the document it refers to fairs, marts and sales. The term horses in this guide will mean all equidae including: horses, ponies, asses (donkeys), hinnies and mules. Reference is generally made to horses but should be similarly construed for other equids.

In maintaining the recommendations in these guidelines, all those involved in the areas of fairs, marts and sales can demonstrate their commitment to maintaining the highest standards of practice in horse animal welfare.

These guidelines are in addition to the Animal Welfare Guidelines for Horses, Ponies and Donkeys booklet previously published by FAWAC in 2005. (*See Appendix 1 for link to FAWAC publications*).

Professor Patrick Fottrell
Chairperson

THE FIVE FREEDOMS CONCEPT

The five freedoms provide a framework that underpins best practice to ensure animal health and welfare at both farm level and gatherings and sales and are listed below.

❖ **Freedom from hunger, thirst and malnutrition**

- Absence of prolonged hunger
- Absence of prolonged thirst

❖ **Freedom from pain, injury and disease**

- Absence of injuries
- Absence of disease
- Absence of pain induced by management procedures

❖ **Freedom from fear and distress**

- Good human-animal relationship
- Positive emotional state

❖ **Freedom from discomfort**

- Comfort around resting
- Thermal comfort
- Ease of movement

❖ **Freedom to express normal patterns of behaviour**

- Expression of social behaviours
- Expression of other behaviours

The five freedoms concept can be summarised for horses as follows:

- Access to fresh water and an appropriate diet to maintain health and vigour
- Adequate comfort and shelter, freedom from stress or fear
- The prevention of stable vices*, injury, parasitic infestation and disease
- Freedom of movement and the opportunity to exercise normal patterns of behaviour
- The company of other animals (particularly of like kind)

**Stable vices are stereotypies of equine, especially horses. They usually develop as a result of being confined, particularly with insufficient exercise (i.e. in a stable). Vices can develop out of boredom or hunger, excess energy, isolation. They present a management issue, not only leading to facility damage from chewing, kicking, and repetitive motion, but also to health consequences for the animal if not addressed. They also may raise animal welfare concerns.*

The following points should also be noted:

- Horses require calm, sympathetic handling by competent and experienced people
- Horses respond best to a firm but gentle approach and to rewards for correct responses
- Handlers should think ahead to ensure that horses are not panicked by unexpected occurrences

These guidelines do not address specific issues on the transport of horses. These are addressed in a separate FAWAC booklet. (See Appendix 1 for link to FAWAC Best Practice for the Welfare of Animals during Transport)

SCOPE

This guide is intended as an aid for all those who are involved in the marketing of horses at venues such as fairs, marts and horse sales. This is particularly important in terms of ensuring the welfare of the horses presented and the safety of the public attending these gatherings. It is acknowledged that the facilities will vary greatly among the different types of sales channels and venues. However the challenges and the management principles required to be used will apply regardless of facility type.

For mart personnel these guidelines must be read in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) guidelines and rules.*

*See Appendix 2 - DAFM Code of Practice for Marts Selling Equines (Horses and Donkeys)

KEY PRINCIPLES

Animal Welfare

Although some horses may be well handled and able to cope with novel situations, for many, a sale will represent a new experience and therefore, a potentially stressful event, e.g. unhandled foals. Horses will be faced with a number of welfare challenges such as loading, unloading, mixing with or proximity to unfamiliar horses, exposure to people and the sales ring. Horses' reactions to new environments might include escape behaviour such as jumping or bolting and aggressive behaviours such as rearing, biting and kicking. This combination of unpredictability, agility, natural flightiness and size means there is potentially a high risk of injury.

There is an onus on the owner to take into consideration whether the horse is able to cope with the stressors these gatherings present. There is also a responsibility on those that operate these events to provide conditions that limit the welfare challenge to the animal.

Duty of Care

This is a requirement which encompasses the responsibilities of owners, keepers and persons



in charge of animals while attending animal gatherings, fairs, marts, horse sales and events, notwithstanding the ultimate responsibility of the operator and organisers of the gathering.

Owners and keepers of horses have a moral and legal responsibility to care for their horses and to ensure their physical and general well-being at all times. This includes the care and management given by each individual owner/keeper of the horse/horses at markets. They should be able to meet the welfare needs of their horse/horses and be capable of safeguarding them under all foreseeable circumstances.

Horse Identification and Passports

- Owners and keepers of all horses at all horse gatherings must have the passport identification available for inspection for each horse presented and new owners of equidae must register change of ownership with the Passport Issuing Body who are required to record the new ownership on their database and on the central equine database*.
- A clearly designated person or persons must be available to inspect passports. These personnel should be aware of the horse identification requirements and the procedures required to be carried out to ensure compliance.

**This is a legal requirement to provide permanent identification for all horses. It is also a legal requirement to have all horse premises registered with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM). (See Appendix 1 in relation to legislation and requirements on Identification of Equidae, Transfer of Ownership and Control on Places where Horses are Kept).*

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

- **Facilities:** The design, lay-out, maintenance and management of the on-site facilities should be fit for purpose;
- **Animal handling and care:** All relevant basic needs with regard to the welfare of animals must be met in the context of the animal gathering;
- **Enforcement, supervision:** It is essential that mechanisms are put in place to ensure that acceptable standards are maintained that foster continuous improvement in practices.

MANAGING AND STEWARDING

- It is essential that all on-site handlers, stewards and personnel directly involved in hands on management and organisation on site, are experienced, competent, knowledgeable and trained individuals. Each person must be clear in relation to their specific role and responsibilities and of the overall plan for the management and stewarding of the event.

- Particular emphasis should be placed on stewarding of the high risk areas such as entry into the sales ring and the exit route from this area. This plan should also include all other high risk areas, particularly the loading/unloading areas.
- In the interests of equine welfare and the safety of the general public, sale sites must be organised and managed by efficient stewarding by experienced personnel so as to effectively separate the horses from the general public.
- All operatives and stewards on site should be clearly identifiable as members of staff /committee particularly in relation to marts.
- Market management should consider the appointment of an animal welfare officer.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

A range of education and training programmes are available in Ireland for members of the equine industry. The programmes are designed to fulfil different needs ranging from RACE (Racing Academy and Centre of Education), Festina Lente, Teagasc, third level education at University College Dublin and the University of Limerick, to the Cherry Orchard Equine Training and Education Centre. Such programmes are vital to supporting best practice.

OPERATOR TRAINING AND COMPETENCY

- There is a responsibility on market operators to ensure that all staff handling equines are adequately informed of the basic principles of the current legislation and are aware of best practice as outlined in the Guidelines/Codes of Practice
- Staff should be kept updated on changes that may affect their particular day-to-day activities
- Staff should be encouraged to give feedback to management about the standards of the penning / flooring and the adequacy of equipment
- A reporting system should also be in place regarding all aspects of animal welfare and risks for animal handling
- Stewards must also be aware of all procedures including those related to contingency plans and emergency response plans to promptly and efficiently deal with emergencies such as serious injuries of personnel or animals, loose horses, and other such accidents

FACILITIES

Horse fairs and some horse sales tend to attract large numbers of people, many of whom are not engaged in the buying or selling of horses, but who want to get close to the animals being presented for sale. This is particularly the case at the traditional

fairs. The ability of horses to cope in such circumstances will depend very much on individual temperament and training; in some cases the fact that a pony will stand quietly throughout the whole process may possibly increase its sale value.

There is a wide variation in the standard and design of facilities for horses at sale venues.

- At the top thoroughbred and performance horse sales there is individual stabling, well laid out handling and exercise areas, horse walks and purpose designed sale rings. Additionally, passageways and sale rings allow both handler and horse to walk comfortably together since they are designed on the basis that horses are normally individually led.
- Facilities at the traditional fairs are put in place incrementally over many years, but they tend to require a higher level of input in temporary precautionary measures and on - site stewarding on the day in order to reduce risks to the animals and to the general public. An additional risk at fairs and marts is the tendency of some vendors to present groups of unhandled horses. Also the presence of driving horses in gigs, can present further safety risks at fairs. The control of access to animals and limiting the areas where animals can be exercised and driven should be facilitated by the provision of specially designated areas such as lunging rings.

Management should develop and have posted a site plan and flow diagram of horse and people movement on site. This is in order to assist in the identification of hazards and the establishment of controls thereby reducing risks.

At mart horse sales, horses are accommodated in facilities primarily designed for cattle, therefore numerous problems can arise. The spacing of rails in pens can result in trapped legs; floor surfaces are not always suitable for horses and can cause them to slip and fall; horses may have to walk over cattle weighbridges in order to gain entry to the sales ring.

In addition, the differences in design of horse boxes and trailers compared to conventional livestock transporters can create problems at unloading and loading points at both marts and fairs and some horse sales.

PROVISION OF WATER

Arrangements must be in place to ensure that horses have access to clean drinking water during their time in the market (before, during and after the sale). If suitable functional drinkers are not present in the pens, an alternative arrangement must be put in place (as minimum, suitable facilities must be readily available for owners to fill buckets and supply water to their horses).

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

- As a general principle, facilities should be constructed and maintained so as to prevent injury and unnecessary suffering to animals. Ideally, horse fairs and sales should only take place at venues where facilities are specifically designed for horses needs.
- For sales of halter broken, lead and riding horses this should include the provision of appropriately sized and designed accommodation in terms of loose boxes. Loose boxes and pens must be constructed to provide protection for horses from adverse weather conditions while also ensuring adequate ventilation.
- In marts where floors are specifically designed for cattle and sheep, rubber matting would be a beneficial addition to improve the surface for horses particularly at the unloading and loading points.
- Where new facilities at markets are being built or existing ones improved, expert advice should be sought to ensure that the facilities take account of the welfare needs of the animals. Venues that are well equipped with well laid out facilities in animal handling terms, will deliver the smooth and efficient operation of the market.
- The more successfully designed premises in terms of animal welfare can be the result of visits to other markets, coupled with a willingness by operators, owners and auctioneers to share ideas.



FITNESS TO TRAVEL

- No animal can be transported unless it is fit for the intended journey and all animals must be transported in conditions guaranteed not to cause them injury or unnecessary suffering.
- Unfitness to travel includes animals if for example;
- they are diseased, ill, injured, lame, deformed, emaciated, weak or exhausted, or unmanageable;
- they are pregnant females for whom 90% or more of the expected gestation period has already passed or females who have given birth in the previous week. *(For a complete list see Annex 1, Chapter 1 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005)*

- Management of markets must make it clear that unfit animals will not be presented for sale.
- Owners and hauliers must ensure that only fit, healthy animals are transported and presented at markets.

FACILITIES FOR UNFIT ANIMALS AND ISOLATION PENS

Isolation Pen

If an animal arrives at the market and there is an indication or suspicion of disease, the animal becomes ill or it is injured whilst on market premises, it is in the interests of both animal welfare and disease control that it is penned separately. There will also be occasions where animals become sick or are injured whilst at the market.

- The market operator must take responsibility to ensure that any sick, injured or unmanageable animal receives prompt examination and, where necessary, veterinary treatment (the costs of which are borne by the vendor).
- Arrangements must be in place with a local veterinary practitioner to be available to deal with any animal health or welfare emergencies that arise before, during or after the sale.
- Contingency arrangements should be in place for emergency euthanasia when required, based on Veterinary advice.

ANIMAL HANDLING FACILITIES/OPERATING SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES

General

- Horses presented at markets should preferably be well handled and at least halter broken.
- Feet should be maintained in an acceptable physical condition and animals should be in reasonable body condition.
- Horses should only be handled by competent people with relevant training and / or experience.
- Horses should be moved in a calm and sensitive manner around the market. Unless handlers can remain calm and in control, horses are likely to become further unsettled.
- Excessive force should not be used by handlers at any time.
- Horses must not be subjected to rough treatment such as ear or tail pulling and should not be hit or prodded with any stick, whip, crop or other instrument.
- Horses must only be shown, ridden, driven or jumped under supervision in a clearly marked designated area.

- Jumps should never be of such a height that clearly exceeds the ability of the horse to clear them.
- Horses should not be ridden over unsuitable ground e.g. weighbridges.
- Horses must not be excessively ridden or over jumped beyond their ability to do so.
- Children should be under the supervision of parents at all times.
- Any person riding an animal on the sale premises must wear a protective riding hat.
- The use of appropriate well fitted tack is advisable for the health and safety of riders and the welfare of horses.
- The design of the lunging ring, if available, should be based on recommended dimensions lay-out and type. (See Appendix 1 for Farm Buildings Specifications)
- Horses should not be loose unless in a pen.

LOADING/UNLOADING

General

- Due to the high injury risk associated with loading and unloading of horses, constant presence of stewarding is important in this area. This should be in place from the beginning through to the end of the event.
- Loading/unloading of all horses presented at the venue must take place in specially designated, clearly identified stewarded locations.
- Ground conditions and ramp surface and gradient must be such that they do not pose a slip hazard.
- Loading/unloading of loose horses should be avoided where possible.
- Stewarding of the loading/unloading area should ensure that loading bays, if present, are kept free of obstruction at all times.
- Loading/unloading bays should be suitable for all types of livestock vehicles used.
- When unloading single/groups of un-broken horses ideally the sides of raceways leading from the loading/unloading bay into the market pens should be solid (i.e. it should not be see through).

Marts

- In order to minimise the distance of movement within the mart there should be separate loading and unloading bays for each species closest to the pens where the animals are to be held.
- A specific loading/unloading area for horses should be provided as the ramp gradients suitable for other farm animals are not suitable for horses. These loading/unloading bays must be used when provided by the mart.
- The loading/unloading of un-broken, unhandled fractious horses in car parks and on road sides must not be allowed. Please refer to site plan of flow charts.

Fairs

- Where possible haltered broken horses should be loaded/unloaded in suitably designated clearly demarcated areas.
- When loading/unloading occurs in a place other than an unloading bay, it must be under the supervision of market staff. This is most important at the end of sales.
- Ideally, entry on to sale premises should be supervised by a senior member of market staff, an experienced trained volunteer or other qualified person. He/she will identify sick/injured animals and those not fit for sale and have the authority to refuse entry to the sale.
- Procedures must be in place to deal with a horse that is injured or visibly ill on arrival. This must include access to a veterinary practitioner on site for emergency first-aid or other relevant treatments.
- At least one isolation pen, situated reasonably close to the loading/unloading bays, should be clearly identifiable and available and ready for immediate use.

OPERATING SYSTEMS

- Overcrowding of facilities must be avoided at all times.
- Individual markets should assess their capacity. Numbers entered in the sale should not exceed this.
- Wherever possible animals should be booked in for sale in advance to ensure adequate penning. For those horses not booked in, it should be made clear that if there is insufficient space they will be turned away.
- First arrival time and last departure time should be published prior to the sale.
- Gates and general maintenance of the pens should be checked on the morning of the sale to ensure nothing is present which may injure horses.
- The local DAFM District Veterinary Office (DVO) must be notified by the sales or event organisers in writing at least one week in advance of any proposed horse sale together with details of the premises registration number. This notification must include the date and times proposed for the sale, as well as the name, address and contact details of the person(s) who are responsible for the organisation and management of the sale. All directions from the DVO with regard to the sale of horses must be put in place prior to the start of the sale.
- Records should be maintained by the sales or event organisers to include, feedback and recommendations on each sale /event. This should also include a reporting system from the veterinary practitioner on duty, the welfare officer, all handlers and stewards on site.
- A copy of the FAWAC Animal Welfare Guidelines for Horses at Gatherings and Sales should be posted on site.

PROCEDURES

- Procedures should be put in place to ensure that only horses with a valid passport will be accepted for sale (**legal requirement!**). (The only exemption

allowed to this rule is that a foal at foot may be sold without a passport when sold with its dam.) The sale organiser/manager must keep a record of all movements of horses onto and off the sales premises.

This record must include:

- (1) the identification number/microchip of the horse
- (2) the name and address and premises registration number of the vendor
- (3) the name and address and premises registration number of the purchaser

Note: In marts, sales should only take place on the mart premises and in areas designated in marts for the sale of horses. A microchip number reader (scanner) must be available at the mart to enable the organiser/manager to check the identification of micro chipped horses.

- Horses will frequently fight with other, unfamiliar horses and even with those they know if they are too closely confined. This presents a risk of injury in itself; however this may be exacerbated if the subordinate animal cannot get away. To prevent horses biting and kicking each other requires either physical or spatial separation. Unhandled horses and ponies are best held in solid sided pens (at least to shoulder height) in small groups with room to get out of each other's way. Even with suitably designed facilities there must be some flexibility in practice. Familiar animals need not be separated if this is likely to cause distress. Where, in principle, it might be sensible to pen certain horses' together, sales operators must always be ready to separate them again when necessary. Regardless of the penning or stabling arrangements, horses must always be kept within sight and sound of other horses.
- Some animals may become distressed, difficult and dangerous to handle whilst on the market premises. In order to reduce the potential distress that these 'fractious' animals may experience and to reduce the risk of injury to animals and handlers, they should be penned where they are least likely to be disturbed, and should be sold from the pen and not the sales ring*.
- Each pen should be identifiable. On arrival each lot can then be placed in an allocated pen.
- Pens must be cleaned and disinfected using a DAFM approved disinfectant** before and after each sale.
- In general horses should only be penned with their comrades. Stallions and colts must be kept separate from other animals at all times - before and after going through the ring. Horses of significantly different sizes should not be penned together unless previously kept together. Horses and donkeys must be kept in separate pens at all times (unless in the exceptional circumstance where known stable mates are involved).
- Shod horses must be penned individually.

- Tied horses should not be penned with loose horses, only in the circumstances when a mare has her foal at foot.
- The organiser/manager must ensure that in accordance with the following guidelines (mart code of practice) overcrowding of horses in pens does not occur.

*As a guideline, adult horses in pens at a mart for a relatively short period (3-4 hours) should be allowed a minimum of 3 metres squared per horse. Ponies and donkeys (fewer than 144 centimetres) in pens at a mart for a relatively short period (3-4 hours) should be allowed a minimum of 2 metres squared per pony. Where horses/ponies are penned for longer periods (>3-4 hours) the minimum space allowance per animal should be doubled. Mares in the last 10% of pregnancy must not be transported and therefore must not be presented for sale (**legal requirement- it is illegal to transport mares in the last 10% of pregnancy to a sale i.e. if a horse or pony mare is gone beyond approx. 300 days it is illegal to bring her to a mart for sale; if a donkey mare is gone beyond approx 320 days it is illegal to bring her to a mart for sale**).*

- Heavily pregnant mares must be kept separate from other animals at all times.
- Mares that have given birth within the last week must not be transported and therefore must not be presented for sale (**legal requirement²**).
- Mares with foals at foot must be kept separate from other animals at all times.
Note: Markets must not be used as a location for the weaning of foals.
- An emergency procedure for shutting the site and for managing loose horses should be in place and understood by all staff and organisers in the case of fairs.

*See Appendix 2 for DAFM Code of Practice for Marts selling Equines

**See Appendix 1 for link to list of DAFM approved disinfectants

TIME SPENT AT MARKET

- Horses should not be kept overnight in the market premises, particularly marts. In exceptional circumstances, where for some emergency/unforeseen circumstance a horse has to remain overnight at a market, water, and bedding and suitable fodder must be provided (**legal requirement³**).
- In the event of a horse being abandoned at a market the relevant authorities i.e. the local authority and the Gardaí should be contacted.

1. Commission Regulation (EC) No 504/2008 of 6 June 2008 & S.I. 357 of 2011

2. Commission Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 of 22 December 2004 & S.I. 675 of 2006

3. S.I. 70 of 1984

Appendix 1

Identification of Equidae

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:149:0003:0032:EN:PDF>

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/legislation/statutoryinstruments2011/SI3572011.pdf>

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/legislation/statutoryinstruments2012/SI3712012.pdf>

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/legislation/statutoryinstruments2014/EquineSILSB306045qqom130614.pdf> (SI 207/2014)

Transfer of Ownership

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/legislation/statutoryinstruments2014/SINo189of2014300414.pdf>

Control on Places where Horses are Kept

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/legislation/statutoryinstruments2014/SI113of2014130314.pdf>

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/animalhealthwelfare/animalwelfare/registrationofpremisesanimals/registrationofhorsepremises/>

General

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/animaltransport/>

<http://www.fawac.ie/publications/animalwelfareguidelines/>

<http://www.fawac.ie/media/fawac/content/publications/animalwelfare/BestPracticeWelfareAnimalsTransport.pdf>

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/legislation/statutoryinstruments2006/SI675-2006.pdf>

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/animalhealthwelfare/transportofliveanimals/Council%20Regulation%201%20of%202005.pdf>

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/farmingschemesandpayments/farmbuildings/farmbuildingspecifications/pdfversions/S156November2008.pdf>

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/animalhealthwelfare/animalwelfare/ApprovedDisinfectantList111012.pdf>

<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/1984/en/si/0070.html>

<http://www.dublincity.ie/RECREATIONANDCULTURE/CASUALTRADINGLICENCE/Pages/HorseFairControlandFeeBye-Laws.aspx>

Appendix 2

DAFM Code of Practice for Marts Selling Equines (Horses and Donkeys)

1. Only equines with a valid passport will be accepted for sale (**legal requirement¹**). (The only exemption allowed to this rule is that foal at foot may be sold without a passport when sold with its dam.)
2. Where equines without a valid passport are refused entry to the sale the organiser/manager should take all reasonable efforts to ensure that such horses are not sold elsewhere on the mart premises (i.e. outside the ring)
3. The local Department of Agriculture office must be notified in writing at least 1 week in advance of any proposed horse sale. This notification must include the date and times proposed for the sale, as well as the name, address and contact details of the person(s) who are responsible for the organisation and management of the sale.
4. The sale organiser/manager must keep a record of all movements of horses onto and off the sales premises. This record must include (i) the identification number of the horse, (ii) the name and address of the vendor (iii) the name and address of the purchaser.
5. An ISO standard microchip reader (scanner) must be available and in working order at the mart to enable the organiser/manager to check the identification of microchipped horses.
6. Pens must be cleaned and disinfected before and after each sale. The disinfectant agent should be effective against common equine pathogens and correctly diluted and applied to surfaces after they have been thoroughly cleaned for the recommended contact time as per the manufacturer's instructions.
7. Stallions and mature colts must be kept separate from each other and other animals at all times- before and after going through the ring.
8. Horses and donkeys must be kept in separate pens at all times (unless in the exceptional circumstance where known stable mates are involved).
9. A marked isolation pen must be available where sick or injured animals can be kept isolated from other animals while awaiting veterinary attention.
10. The organiser/manager must ensure that overcrowding of horses in pens does not occur. As a guideline adult horses in pens at a mart for a relatively short period (3-4 hours) should be allowed a minimum of 3 metres squared per horse. Ponies (under 144 centimetres) in pens at a mart for a relatively short period (3-4 hours) should be allowed a minimum of 2 metres squared per pony. Where horses/ponies are penned for longer periods (>3-4 hours) the minimum space allowance per animal should be doubled.

11. Mares in the last 10% of pregnancy must not be transported and therefore must not be presented for sale (**legal requirement² - it is illegal to transport mares in the last 10% of pregnancy to a sale i.e. if a horse or pony mare is gone beyond approx. 300 days it is illegal to bring her to a mart for sale; if a donkey mare is gone beyond approx 320 days it is illegal to bring her to a mart for sale**).
12. Other heavily pregnant mares must be kept separate from other animals at all times.
13. Mares that have given birth within the last week must not be transported and therefore must not be presented for sale (**legal requirement²**).
Other mares with foals at foot must be kept separate from other animals at all times.
14. No Equines are to be kept overnight in the mart premises.
In exceptional circumstances, where for some emergency/unforeseen circumstance an equine has to remain overnight at a mart, adequate water, bedding and fodder must be provided (**legal requirement³**).
15. Arrangements must be in place to ensure that equines have access to clean drinking water during their time in the mart (before, during and after the sale). If suitable working drinkers are not present in the pens, an alternative arrangement must be put in place (at a minimum, suitable facilities must be readily available for owners to fill buckets and supply water to their horses).
16. It is recommended that only equines that are broken and capable of being led safely should be sold. Equines should be restrained by a secure and correctly fitted headcollar or bridle at all times and be led/held by a competent person.
17. Where exceptionally unbroken equines are being sold, particular care must be taken by all concerned in relation to welfare and health and safety.
18. All animals should be handled calmly and appropriately at all times with due regard for their welfare. Goads and electric prods etc. must never be used on equines.
19. Animals should not be ridden, lunged, long-reined or driven on the premises.
20. Arrangements must be in place with a local Veterinary Surgeon to be available to deal with any animal health or welfare emergencies that arise before, during or after the sale. Contact details should be prominently displayed in the sales venue.

August 2011

¹. **Commission Regulation (EC) No 504/2008 of 6 June 2008 & S.I. 357 of 2011**

². **Commission Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 of 22 December 2004 & S.I. 675 of 2006**

³. **S.I. 70 of 1984**

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