



Law Enforcement is the authority on scene. The veterinarian has the expertise to collect potential evidence, in the form of a medical examination of the horses. Request assistance from the State Vet in large-scale cases.

Document Each Horse and The Environment

Assign Horse ID # (*attach to halter, mane or rump*) and document (*photographs and physical exam notes— see attached exam form*) each horse. Document any critical horses as thoroughly as possible prior to treatment, but not at the expense of causing further distress.

Color	Priority	Meaning
Red	First	Critical
Blue	Second	(<i>potentially</i>) Infectious- examine last, isolate/quarantine
Yellow	Third	Concern
Green	Fourth	Stable

Photographs should be taken in a series:

1. Photo board (*dry erase board*) with case #, date, location, Horse ID# and photographer’s name
2. Horse with the photo board
3. Overall photos -obtain from the front, rear, left, right +/- top of the horse
4. Any findings (*such as wounds*) should have an orientation photo followed by a close-up photo with and then without a ruler or scale.
 - a. Photograph soles of hooves with thrush, chronic laminitis, and white-line disease; or excessively chipped, cracked, or overgrown hooves
 - b. Photograph weapons or projectiles used to injure the horse before retrieval of the object and again before treatment.
5. Photos should never be erased even if taken by mistake or of poor quality

Videos can be valuable to document lameness, inability to move, vocalizing, or aggression.

Radiograph skeletal abnormalities including leg or hoof injuries.

Rectal palpation and/or ultrasound on any suspect pregnant mares.

Laboratory: Biochem (*spin blood on site to prevent artifactual decrease in serum glucose*), CBC, Coggin’s test, and fecal flotation.

Euthanasia may be the most humane option. Ideally, have consensus of more than 1 vet, Necropsy (*state lab*).

The condition of other species on the premise should be noted.

Deceased Animals: Search, Assign non-animal physical evidence item#, Document, Necropsy (*state lab*)

Post-Removal Photos: Mid-range and close-up photos of the living space after the horse has been removed— presence or lack and quality of food and water, shelter and fence construction and possible hazards, manure, and urine.

Non-Animal Evidence: Assist law enforcement in identifying medications, supplements, surgical supplies, and other items.

Maintain the chain of custody of evidence (including the horse).



CASE #: _____ DATE: _____ TIME: _____ HORSE ID# _____

EXAMINING VETERINARIAN: _____ LOCATION: _____

BRAND/TATTOO/MICROCHIP: _____ GENDER: _____ COLOR: _____

MARKINGS: _____ SCARS: _____

AGE: _____ [] check if estimated BREED: _____ [] check if estimated

BODY CONDITION SCORE (1-9): _____ WEIGHT: _____ # [] weight tape estimate HEIGHT: _____ h

BEHAVIOR (docile, aggressive, compulsive, manic): _____

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION NOTES:

Subjective: bright alert responsive dull depressed
Objective: T P R hydration status
Cardiovascular: MM CRT heart auscultation
Respiratory: nostrils lung auscultation
Eyes: ophthalmic exam
Ears: pinna
Lymph Nodes: submandibular LN
Integument: skin haircoat
Wounds
Hooves
Musculoskeletal: joints digital pulses lameness
Neurologic: mentation (bright, obtunded/lethargic, stuporous, comatose) cranial nerves
GI: Mouth/Oral exam abd. auscultation manure
Genitourinary: external genitalia urine if mare: [x] pregnancy
suspect
Collected: [] Coggins [] Chem [] CBC [] Fecal [] estrus noticed

Other diagnostics:

Assessment:

Plan/Treatment:

ENVIRONMENT NOTES (circle condition or describe, as appropriate):



Shelter: Stabled Pasture/paddock w/man-made shelter, tree or natural shelter None

Shelter: Adequate size Inadequate (Describe) _____

Fencing: Adequate Inadequate (Describe type, condition, safety hazards) _____

Enclosure size: # of horses: ____ # of other animals: ____ (note species) _____

Manure accumulation: Minimal Moderate Heavy

Ammonia Odor (Urine smell) None Minimal Significant

Fly presence: Minimal fly burden Moderate fly burden Significant fly infestation

Water: Freely available Adequate Quality *that does not discourage consumption*

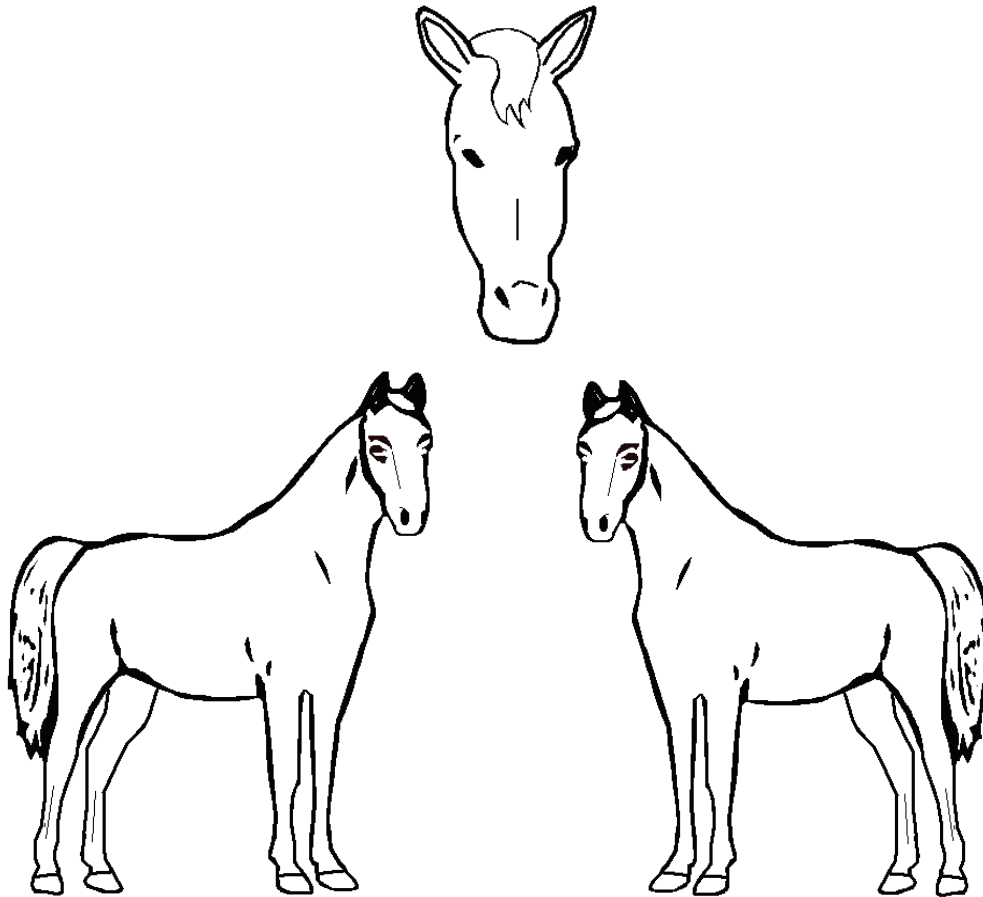
Not Freely available Inadequate Quality

Hay available: Adequate quality + quantity Adequate quality, inadequate quantity

Inadequate quality, adequate quantity Inadequate quality + quantity (*dust, mold, toxins, weeds*)

Other Feed (if available): Adequate quality + quantity Adequate quality, inadequate quantity

Inadequate quality, adequate quantity Inadequate quality + quantity (*dust, mold, toxins, weeds*)



Additional Notes:



- SLR Camera
- 16 G SD Card
- AAA Batteries
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- Dry erase board
- Dry erase markers
- ABFO #2 scale
- 6" straight scale
- 3" straight scale
- Pens
- Black sharpies
- Note pad
- Clip board
- Red duct tape
- Yellow duct tape
- Blue duct tape
- Zip lock bags
- Tupperware containers
- Universal microchip scanner
- Q-tips
- ID tags and/or Livestock auction tags/stickers
- Flash light
- Tow Ropes for recumbent horses
- Forms
- Body Condition Score Form
- Equine Exam Forms
- Necropsy Submission Form
- Medical Evidence log
<https://www.aspcapro.org/resource/disaster-cruelty-animal-cruelty-animal-fighting/sample-documents-cruelty-cases>
- Evidence Receipts
- Evidence tape
- Packaging *www.shopevident.com carries forensic and law enforcement supplies*
- Tyvek tags
- Emergency medications, euthanasia solution
- Weight tape
- Hoof pick
- Digital thermometer
- KY Jelly
- Exam Gloves
- Halters
- Lead ropes
- Small cooler with ice packs
- Twitch
- Clippers
- #10 clipper blades
- Clipper cool lube
- Electric power strip
- Extension cord
- Vet wrap/bandaging supplies
- Bandage scissors
- Ophthalmoscope/otoscope
- Eye wash
- Gauze squares
- Dose Syringe for oral exams
- Small mouth flash light for oral exams
- Blood collection tubes, needles
- Formalin
- Evidence Bags (Plastic/ 9"x12")
- Evidence Bags (Plastic/ 5"x8")
- Evidence Bags (lunch bags)
- Evidence paper envelopes
- Packing tape
- Trash bags

Note: Communication between the Veterinarian and Law Enforcement can determine what items each will provide on scene.