

North Carolina Equine Sheltering Guidelines

Due to natural disasters or other events requiring evacuation of horses, sheltering needs may arise. These guidelines provide answers to many questions that have been proposed.

Sheltering Facilities:

- 1) Facilities should be assessed pre-event to determine the following:
 - Suitable location: easy access for large trucks and trailers, usually not affected by disasters, power, water, fencing/containment, security etc.
 - Current capacity: surge capacity if supported by outside resources, and list of those needed resources
 - Personnel needs: will sheltered animals be taken care of by owners, volunteers, or a combination of both types of personnel

Sheltering Policies:

- 1) Registration of horses and owners should be done using the Equine Shelter Registration Form (see "Sample Forms" section). Included as a part of registration, a copy of the current Coggins test or a similar description of the horse should be completed.
- 2) Horses should be vaccinated for Encephalitis as well as tested for Coggins (within year's date of sheltering). If a horse does not have proof of Coggins, they should be sheltered in "isolation", 200 yards from other horses. Sheltered horses without a current Coggins test or current vaccination status should be tested and vaccinated as soon as possible at owner's expense by a Veterinarian of the owner's choosing, or if not available any other accredited Veterinarian. If a horse tests positive, it will immediately be removed from the sheltering facility and handled according to the policy already in place for Positive EIA horses. Unvaccinated horses should receive vaccination if they are to be sheltered for 72 hours. This may be at owner's expense.
- 3) Owners will be given instructions upon arrival as to sheltering guidelines and owners will be required to visit or contact shelter operations to inquire of the horse's status each day. Owner contact information gathered at registration will

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include emergency contact numbers. Owners will sign release forms that will cover emergency care and abandonment policy.

- 4) Hay and other feedstuffs for horses should be anticipated before the event, but usually, if large amounts are needed, donated goods will be available. Storage areas of feedstuffs, tack, etc should be planned for according to capacity of the shelter.
- 5) Arrangements should be made with local veterinarians, if possible, to provide emergency care for sheltered horses. This service would be provided at cost to the owner.