

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
AT MARTIN

HORSE TEACHING AND RESEARCH FARM

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

EFFECTIVE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The intent of this document is to describe the routine husbandry and standard operating procedures at University of Tennessee at Martin Teaching Farm Complex. This document is approved by the UT Martin Agricultural Animal Use and Care Committee. Each facility may have supplemental SOPs that further describe their specific manner of operation. Any exemption must be submitted for approval to the Agricultural Animal Care and Use Committee. The rules and recommendations in this SOP follow those set forth by the *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Agricultural Research and Teaching* (referred to as "Ag Guide" in this document).

1. Animal Care
2. Animal Health
3. Facilities
4. References
5. Supplemental SOPs

1. Animal Care

a. Observation of Animals

- i. Animals are observed and cared for daily, including weekends and holidays, by qualified personnel to assess their health and well-being

b. Emergency Care

- i. Emergency veterinary care is available at all times including after working hours and on weekends and holidays provided by the University veterinarian or by veterinarians in the area.
- ii. Contact information for emergency assistance is posted in the barn office or farm manager's office.

c. Animal Identification Methods

- i. Permanent identifying marks or tags are not usually placed on horses. All horses have registration identification and negative Coggins with which they may be identified.

d. Records and Documentation

- i. Veterinary records and documentation are kept of each animal. These records include vaccinations, deworming, injuries, treatments, etc. The University veterinarian has a copy of all records along with the farm manager.

e. Feeding Routine

- i. Animals are fed to meet current National Research Council recommendations for equine nutrition. Different horses may and will be fed differently depending on amount worked, time of year, individual needs of the horse. Feed ingredients and finished feeds and hay are stored and delivered to the horses in a manner that minimizes their contamination or spoilage. Feeds that are not consumed are removed daily from troughs. Each horse should be fed either individually or with others

allowing enough space for each horse to get their share of the feed. While feeding, all horses should be checked to make sure they are eating normally and none appear injured or ill.

- ii. Water is available at all times and is checked daily for cleanliness. Automatic waterers should be checked and bowls cleaned out weekly. For horses watered in buckets, fresh water should be available at all times. For horses watered in troughs, empty troughs and clean them as needed.

f. Social and Environmental Enrichment

- i. Visual contact with other horses is maintained at all times unless one horse is stalled for veterinary care while others are pastured. Horses may be pastured in groups when possible to maintain herd mentality. If horses cannot be pastured together, they may be pastured individually with visual contact of others.

2. Animal Health

a. Vaccination Program

- i. All horses maintained on University of Tennessee at Martin are adult, non-breeding horses. These horses are vaccinated yearly for Eastern and Western Encephalomyelitis, Tetanus, Rhinopneumonitis, Influenza, West Nile, and intra-nasal Stangles vaccine. Hoses are vaccinated with aseptic procedures in a timely and humane manner.

b. Quarantine Procedures

- i. All horses brought in from outside farms are quarantined from other University horses for at least two to four weeks.

- ii. Available health records of these animals are evaluated to assess the need to vaccinate or treat incoming animals as required before they are mixed with UT Martin herd. All equine must have a negative Coggins test or AGID for Equine Infectious Anemia before entering UT Martin teaching farm/herd.

c. Deworming

- i. Horses may be dewormed daily with Strongid-C or wormed quarterly with Quest Plus, Eqavalan Gold or dewormers of this quality. Fecal egg counts will be done periodically to assess parasite status of herd.

d. Procedures resulting in potential stress or discomfort

- i. Foot Care - Horses receive shoes and/or hoof trimming every 6 weeks. Horses that are stalled should have their feet cleaned and examined daily.
- ii. Due to the use of the horses at UT Martin Teaching Farm, procedures resulting in potential stress or discomfort are rare. Yearly vaccinations, Coggins, and quarterly deworming will be performed under or conducted by faculty/staff having equine knowledge.
- iii. Dental Care – Horses' teeth shall be examined yearly. Horses that need teeth floated will have this done by a veterinarian. If a horse seems to have problems with teeth, exams and dental care will be as needed.

e. Euthanasia and Disposal of Dead Animals

- i. Horses will only be euthanized if the animal is very ill or combating a progressive debilitating disease. They will be euthanized only under the recommendations of a veterinarian and by an overdose of barbiturates administered by a veterinarian.

- ii. Disposal of dead animals is described in the Implementation of Agricultural Animal Welfare by UT at Martin.

f. Pest Control

- i. Rodent and insect control is performed by farm personnel.

3. Facilities

a. Housing

- i. Horses are housed both indoors and outdoors.
- ii. In barns/stalls, horses are kept in stalls which are large enough to permit the horse to lie down, get up, turn around, and not lie in, stand on, or eat from areas contaminated with its own feces or urine. The stalls at UT Martin Teaching Complex follow the recommended areas listed on p. 48 of the Ag Guide. Bedding of stalls along with ventilation, temperature, and lighting shall follow the recommendations of the Implementation of Animal Welfare at UT Martin and the Ag Guide.
- iii. On pasture, horses shall be maintained at stocking rates recommended by the Ag Guide. Horses will be checked daily and shelter is provided for the horses.

b. Cleaning and Sanitation

- i. Stalls should be cleaned at least once per day. Manure shall be placed on compost pile or hauled away for mulch and fertilizer. Fresh bedding may or may not be needed daily depending on the horse. For horses on pasture, upkeep is limited. If a paddock becomes excessively wet or muddy, the horses will be removed for their comfort.

c. Transportation

- i. Horses will be transported via horse/stock trailer. During transportation, attempts should be made to minimize trauma and anxiety of the horses. Considerations include loading, manner of driving, interior space, footing, ventilation, and possibly interior padding. Recommendations found on p. 53 of the Ag Guide will be followed.

4. References:

- a. *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Agricultural Research and Teaching (FASS, 1999)*
- b. Cornell Center for Animal Resources and Education, CARE 520.01, Animal Husbandry
- c. University of Missouri Horse Teaching and Research Farm, Standard Operating Procedures
- d. University of Minnesota Animal Use Standard Operating Procedures Questionnaire

SUPPLEMENTAL SOPs

Intramuscular injections

Procedure:

1. Use a disposable syringe with needle.
2. Needle sizes: 18 or 20 gauge, 1 ½ inches long.
3. ALWAYS read and follow label directions.
4. Restrain the animal.
5. With proper syringe and needle, draw the correct dosage into the syringe.

6. Small amounts may go into the neck in the "triangle" formed by the nuchal ligament, jugular furrow, and shoulder. Large amounts must go in semimembranosus or semitendinosus muscles.
7. Insert the needle into the animal at a 90 degree angle.
8. Make sure needle goes into the muscle and no blood appears in hub of needle on slight aspiration.
9. Push the plunger giving the drug.

Venipuncture

Procedure:

1. Use a disposable syringe with needle or vacutainer may also be used.
2. Needle sizes: 18 or 20 gauge, 1 to 1 ½ inches long.
3. Restrain the animal.
4. Locate jugular furrow and view jugular vein.
5. Draw blood from cranial 1/3rd of neck where jugular vein is superficial.
6. Aseptically insert the needle into the jugular.
7. Draw back plunger and collect sample.
8. Venipuncture will be performed only under veterinary or knowledgeable equine professionals supervision.