



The
Open
College of
Equine
Studies

Taster Pack:

Foundation/Novice Short Course:

Care and Management of Horses

Taster Pack:

Foundation/Novice Short Course: Care and Management of Horses

Thank you for your interest in the Foundation/Novice Short Course: Care and Management of Horses. We hope that you choose to study with us, and we thought you might enjoy a few activities to give you a taste of what to expect on this course.

Completion of this pack is not mandatory, but it would help your knowledge and understanding and will also help you to prepare for your studies with us.

Video links are provided throughout this pack. You should make notes whilst watching the videos and then complete the learner activities provided.

Foundation/Novice Short Course: Care and Management of Horses

Introduction

As a professional in the equine industry, the welfare of horses in your care should always remain a priority. It is important that the various needs of the animals in your care are met, and that any problems are quickly identified and addressed. This short activity pack aims to encourage you to think about the welfare of horses in your care, and if this could be improved at all.

The five freedoms

Many organisations now use “**the five freedoms**” as a measure to ensure that the basic needs of horses (and other domestic animals) are being met.

The five freedoms are below. You should also scan the code to the right with your phone (or click the code) to learn more about the five freedoms and why these are so important.

1. Freedom from hunger, thirst and malnutrition
2. Freedom from pain, injury and disease
3. Freedom from discomfort
4. Freedom from fear and distress
5. Freedom to express natural behaviour



Learner activity: The five freedoms

The five freedoms would seem like basic standards that we should meet with all horses in our care, but some people would argue that we do not meet the needs of domesticated horses all of the time. Can you think of examples where you (or others) could have made sure that the five freedoms were met more fully? You should also make a suggestion of what you would do differently to further meet the animals' needs. **A basic example has been given below to help you start.** *You may use examples from horses under your care, or from examples that you have seen during your time with horses, or even what you may have seen on television.*




Freedom	Briefly explain a situation where you feel this freedom has not been fully met...	Explain what you would do differently...
Example response: Freedom from hunger, thirst and malnutrition	<i>A friend of mine competes in unaffiliated eventing. She competes most weekends, but only takes a limited supply of water with her in the trailer (usually about 5 litres). I have noticed that the horse is usually very thirsty when he arrives back at the yard.</i>	<i>I would take sufficient water with me, but I would only give this to the horse at about ¼ bucket at a time, and I wouldn't give this immediately after exercise. I'd make sure that the horse wasn't 'blowing' before giving the first ¼ bucket.</i>
Freedom from hunger, thirst and malnutrition		
Freedom from pain, injury and disease		
Freedom from discomfort		
Freedom from fear and distress		
Freedom to express natural behaviour		

Standards of care: Learner activity

We all try to look after our horses to the very best of our ability. However, the standards in which we keep our horses can vary, depending on things like our knowledge, our finances, the time we have available to us, the use of the horse, our riding ability and countless other factors.

Links to three videos are provided below. You should watch these videos with an open mind and briefly note what you feel is good with regard to horse care, and what you think could be done differently. You should consider the *way* things are done, not just the equipment & facilities available.

Remember, it's not always about expensive facilities!

Yard One	Yard Two	Yard Three
		
<i>What you like:</i>	<i>What you like:</i>	<i>What you like:</i>
<i>How horse care could be improved (related to the five freedoms):</i>	<i>How horse care could be improved (related to the five freedoms):</i>	<i>How horse care could be improved (related to the five freedoms):</i>

Recap:

Using the knowledge you have gained, and your responses to the learner activities, **produce a basic list of do's and don'ts** which could be followed by a newcomer to horses, to help them to meet the five freedoms and therefore safeguard the welfare of a horse in their care.

	<i>Do...</i>	<i>Don't...</i>
Freedom from hunger, thirst and malnutrition		
Freedom from pain, injury and disease		
Freedom from discomfort		
Freedom from fear and distress		
Freedom to express natural behaviour		

The next step...

We hope you enjoyed completing this pack and that you feel you have learned from it. Course material is designed and reviewed by a team of qualified experts and is presented in a user-friendly distance learning format, in print and/or online. The friendly team at TOCES is dedicated to providing you with the best levels of advice and support; office and tutorial staff are available to assist you at all reasonable times via telephone and e-mail.

There are many courses on offer at TOCES, ranging from those who are complete newcomers to horses, to specialist diplomas and equine higher education distance learning programmes.

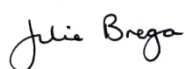
Whilst TOCES offers a greater range of courses, is highly professional and is associated with more world-renowned equine organisations than any other equine distance learning college, we are proud of our reputation of having a friendly and personal approach with our students.

Comprehensive range of courses + flexible delivery mode + full tutor and administrative support = a great learning experience.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or would like further information.

We hope you choose to join us!

Best wishes



Julie Brega

Director and Head of Centre

To get in touch:

Web: www.equinestudies.co.uk

Telephone: +44 (0) 1274 811 401

Email: info@equinestudies.co.uk

Sample TOCES Material:

You may use this to help you to complete the learner activities in this pack, or for your general knowledge.

INTRODUCTION

The majority of horses are kept partially stabled (normally at night) and partially turned out. A horse's natural environment is out of doors, wandering, eating and sleeping at liberty, so time spent turned out each day is essential.

There are however, advantages to us by keeping horses partially stabled.

We start by looking at the advantages and disadvantages of stabling the horse.

THE ADVANTAGES OF STABLING A HORSE

- It enables food and water intake to be monitored. Controlling the intake of grass helps to keep the horse at the correct weight. This is also important if the horse or pony suffers from laminitis, when grass intake must be controlled.
- It provides protection against cold and wet in winter, heat, flies and midges in summer.
- By keeping him warmer he will not grow such a thick coat, therefore making him easier to groom.
- It is more convenient for the rider to get a stabled horse ready to ride.
- As the horse is protected from the elements he can be clipped and rugged, making it easier for him to work hard and maintain condition.
- It prevents paddocks from getting 'poached', i.e. churned up, in the winter.
- Provides added security both against bullying by other horses and from thieves.

Can you think of further advantages not mentioned here?

-
-
-

What do you consider to be the main drawbacks of stabling horses? Write them in the box and then compare your answer with the main disadvantages detailed overleaf.

THE DISADVANTAGES OF STABLING A HORSE

- Frustration will result if the horse is stabled for long periods.
- The horse cannot socialise with other horses.
- The horse's natural instincts of continually wandering and grazing are denied.
- The horse is unable to exercise himself and will need to be exercised every day.
- It creates more work, e.g. mucking out, feeding, watering and exercising.
- There are additional costs, for example – bedding, hay and food.

Can you think of any other disadvantages?

-
-

A balance has to be struck – in many circumstances the ideal solution is to use a combined system of stabling the horse at night or in extreme bad weather and turning out at all other times. In the summer, when the weather is very hot and flies are a problem, the horse may be stabled during the day and turned out at night. Alternatively, a shelter should be provided in the field.