



National Arabian Racehorse Assoc.

ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY

The purpose of this animal welfare policy is to ensure the welfare of Arabian racehorses is maintained while they are involved in..

- racing;
- training;
- activities associated with racing or training.

By maintaining the welfare of Arabian racehorses, the interests of the public and the participants in Arabian racing activities is protected.

POLICY STATEMENT

The National Arabian Racehorse Assoc. is committed to the welfare of the Arabian racehorse. The maintenance of appropriate welfare standards for Arabian racehorses is critical to the viability of the Arabian racing industry.

The *Racing Act* defines "welfare" of an animal, to mean protecting the health, safety and wellbeing of the animal, including for example:

- drug control relating to animals,
- the prevention and management of diseases that may affect animals.

It is the policy of the National Arabian Racehorse Assoc. (NARA) to ensure that appropriate standards for the welfare of Arabian racehorses are maintained. Further, NARA believes that any person who does not abide by the minimum standards for welfare of Arabian racehorses has no place in the racing industry. Accordingly, all persons are placed on notice that breaches of established animal welfare standards may result in their licence being cancelled.

NARA will regularly review established legal and scientific information relevant to animal welfare and may make standards, procedures and rules as necessary to ensure the protection of animals. Matters which

NARA may make standards, procedures and rules about may include, but are not limited to:

- the husbandry and keeping of horses in urban surroundings;
- travelling with horses;
- racing in extreme conditions
- racecourse conditions.,
- racecourse accommodation for licensed thoroughbred horses;
- misuse of the whip;
- the use of prohibited substances on Arabian racehorses;
- racing of pregnant mares;
- euthanasia;
- emergency disease management plan- and
- veterinary inspections;

NARA will provide information to licensees and owners of Arabian racehorses via NARA's website about responsible racehorse ownership.

Any licence issued by NARA to a person involved in caring for Arabian racehorses, may be immediately suspended in the event that a NARA representative or a representative of any approved Arabian Race Club, forms the belief during the conduct of an audit of a licensee, that the safety of animals are in danger and that belief is reviewed and adopted by the NARA board or another person appointed by NARA.

Disciplinary action is to be taken against persons who fail to ensure that Arabian racehorses are cared for in a manner that ensures that the welfare of the animal is maintained according to established standards.

Duty of care

All persons in charge of an animal owe that animal a duty of care and must not breach that duty of care. NARA requires all persons in charge of an animal to act at all times in a way which protects the welfare of animals.

In the case of trainers, this duty of care cannot be transferred to another person. If a trainer engages a person, for example, a transport operator to transport horses, the trainer has a responsibility to engage competent persons who abide by the established standards of animal welfare.

Prohibition of cruelty

NARA will not tolerate animal cruelty. NARA will investigate allegations of cruelty and will institute disciplinary action against a person found to be treating animals cruelly. Where serious breaches of animal welfare, towards either racing or non-racing animals, are discovered or suspected, NARA will inform the appropriate Animal Welfare authority.

Administration of chemicals, drugs, poisons and other treatments to animals

Treatments must only be administered to racing animals by competent and qualified persons. Treatments must be administered in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

APPLICATION

This Policy applies to all persons:

- having care and control of an Arabian racehorse and
- involved in caring for an Arabian racehorse.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- stewards;
- veterinarians;
- race club officials;
- trainers;
- jockeys and riders;
- stablehands;
- barrier stall attendants;
- transport operators;
- farriers;
- breeders; and
- owners.

NARA Procedures for Racing in Extreme Heat

NARA has introduced the following protocols to be adopted when races are conducted when the temperature exceeds 30 degrees Celsius.

The protocol is designed to control and manage the effects of excessively hot and/or humid weather on horses at race meetings

- Stewards in all regions are to be mindful at all times when races are conducted, of the welfare of horses that are racing in extreme heat conditions.
- Stewards should check prior to the start of the meeting that the hosing down area is in working order and ask clubs if additional hoses could be on stand by.
- Prior to any race/race meeting being commenced in extreme heat conditions, the chairman of stewards for the meeting is to contact the club holding the meeting, to discuss with the club whether extra veterinary support is required.

If a Thoroughbred meeting is cancelled or abandoned because of extreme heat and Arabians horses are scheduled to race within that program, then the Arabian race/races will also be cancelled/abandoned.

No races for Arabians horses will be conducted if the temperature is above 40 degrees centigrade.

- Official Racecourse Veterinary Surgeons must endeavour to inspect all horses presented :
 - in the birdcage area prior to presentation in the mounting yard,
 - in the mounting enclosure prior to the race,
 - on arrival at the barriers,
 - on return to the enclosure after the race and,
 - while being detained in the sampling area for whatever reason
- In the **pre-race** period if a horse appears to be unduly affected by the heat and/or humidity (e.g. agitation, panting, and/or excessive sweating), the Veterinary Surgeon shall report his or her observation(s) to the Stewards immediately.
- Appropriate treatment should be applied as soon as is practicably possible to any horse found to be exhibiting signs of heat stress or heat stroke in the post-race period
- If any horse presents at the racecourse in an apparently distressed state, the on-course veterinarian should be contacted immediately.
- The stewards are to request the on-course veterinarians to:
 - * Inspect all horses that have travelled a long distance to the races, upon the horse's arrival at the races;
 - * monitor all runners on entering the enclosure and at the barriers for any signs of heat stress, which may cause the horse to pull up distraught after the event.
- Should a veterinarian observe that the heat has affected a horse, the trainer should be consulted about the condition of the horse.

- Trainers should ensure that following each race, runners are hosed down, and if necessary this procedure should be repeated. The horse will need access to water to satisfy its thirst after the event.
- If after a race, stewards are concerned about a runner, the steward is to request the oncourse veterinarian to assist the trainer with post race recovery of the animal.
- If swab stalls are air-conditioned, distressed animals should be given priority over normal swabbing routine requirements.

Appropriate treatment shall include:

- Liberal and prolonged application of cold water to the entire body of the horse (i.e. standing under a hose or rigorous sponging with cold running water). This should be repeated if symptoms persist or return.
- Locating the horse in a shaded well-ventilated location (air movement is very important for cooling).
- Intravenous fluid drip (if considered appropriate) e.g. Lactated Ringer's Solution or Saline fortified with Potassium at 10 to 15 mEq/L. The latter preparation should be administered slowly to effect with careful clinical monitoring.

When very hot and humid weather conditions are forecast attention should be given to the following.

- Ensuring adequate cold running water is immediately available in suitable locations to thoroughly and repeatedly wet affected animals. This will maximise conductive/evaporative cooling. Hoses for this purpose should be provided in or adjacent to the mounting enclosure and in the birdcage area. Due to the possibility of collapse the areas selected for hosing should be covered in grass or sand.
- Having a veterinary surgeon regularly patrol the horse stall areas etc. to monitor horses at risk.
- Having an adequate supply of Intravenous fluids and giving sets (for emergency situations).
- Ensuring the sampling stall is as cool as is practicably possible (e.g. hosing the roof).
- Monitoring horses being sampled post-race to ensure that they are as cool and comfortable as possible during the collection of samples. In particular, horses should be monitored for excessive sweating and any signs of distress. Horses affected in any of these ways should be removed from the stall and hosed.

Note: Heat stress or heat stroke is most likely to occur on days when the ambient temperature is greater than 35° C, and, more particularly, when the humidity is also high.

Some or all of the following signs may be indicative of heat stress :

- Rapid shallow breathing
- Flared nostrils
- Very high body temperature (skin can be hot to touch)
- Excessive sweating or alternatively an abnormally reduced level of sweating
- Agitation and restlessness progressing to a deranged mental state
- Rectal temperature greater than 41 degrees Celsius
- Kicking out behind, loss of hind limb control and staggering possibly progressing to collapse
- Dehydration

Evaporative cooling, which is facilitated by sweating, is the most important cooling mechanism for the exercising horse. On hot humid days however the cooling effect of sweating is greatly reduced. This is why the liberal and prolonged application of cold water in a shaded, well ventilated location is essential to lowering the body temperature of heat stressed horses