



Terms of Reference

Equine Health & Welfare Committee

The Equine Health & Welfare Committee is a duly constituted committee of the Saskatchewan Horse Federation, consisting of a chairperson reporting to the V.P. - Grass Roots, and a minimum of two other selected individuals, all to be approved by the Board of Directors. The Executive Director is an ex officio member of this committee.

All should be fully familiar with (1) the accepted stated **standard of care** of horses: *'The standard by which conduct or treatment will be measured is that which a reasonable person, informed and experienced in generally accepted equine training and exhibition procedures would determine is neither cruel, abusive nor inhumane'* and (2) the S.H.F. **statement of principle**: *'The Saskatchewan Horse Federation sanctions the humane treatment of the equine species in all matters pertaining to their use, and upholds the rights of people to own and use horses for purposes of work, sport and recreation'*. Additionally, committee members should reflect the several **points of commitment** of the S.H.F. upholding the responsible management, welfare, respect, and compassion horses deserve.

The committee is charged with **review** of equine health & welfare recommendations and/or concerns brought directly or indirectly in writing to the attention of the S.H.F. Executive Director, and is charged with **response** back to the Executive Director for consideration by the Board of Directors. Recommendations or concerns may originate from any member of society, but must be channeled as stated to be considered by the Equine Health & Welfare Committee.

Upon notification and receipt of the written recommendation or concern, the committee chairperson shall convene a **meeting of the committee** members for purposes of review, and formulation of recommendations preferably in the form of a motion back to the Executive Director for consideration by the Board of Directors. Such a meeting may be by way of solicited comments via email, by way of teleconferencing, or attendance in person, at the discretion of the chairperson, and will depend upon urgency and extent of discussion necessary.

The **committee may recommend** for informational purposes only, or for direct action (or inaction) by the Saskatchewan Horse Federation, or for action by way of referral to a mandated agency.

The committee shall participate jointly with the Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan Inc. in all aspects of the co-sponsored **"Awards of Distinction for Equine Welfare"**

including review of terms of reference, marketing and promotion strategies, selection of and presentation to honorees in each of the four(4) categories.

Resources available to the committee may include liaison with appropriate personnel in the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association, the Saskatchewan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan, the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, other Provincial Equine Federations, Equine Canada EHWC, and with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, beyond the substantial resource within the membership of the Saskatchewan Horse Federation itself.

An inherent **goal** of the committee, and therefore of the federation, is to enhance awareness by all horse owners and users of the importance of equine health & welfare, both in real terms and that perceived by others. We can all work toward this end, but a visible functional committee under the S.H.F. umbrella is evidence *prima facie* of the S.H.F. commitment.

A clear distinction between 'animal welfare' and 'animal rights' needs to be emphasized. Surely, if, when and where cases of equine neglect, mistreatment, or abuse occur these need our responsible attention. However, a **strategy** needs to be enunciated and in place to deal with unsubstantiated, unrealistic, biased claims by people who's proclaimed ethics and philosophy differ from that of everyday owners, caregivers and pleasurable users of horses.

A submission of estimated annual **budgetary requirements** needs to take place on an annual basis. Some or none or more budget may be ear marked according to need. A current allowance of \$ 500.00 is in place if needed.

The **2008-2009 makeup** of the Equine Health & Welfare Committee includes: B.W.R.(Byrne) Rothwell, D.V.M., chairperson, Ms. Sandy Assman, Ms, Jillian McDonald, Dr. Grant Royan, Ms. Cindy Wilinski, Ms. Shirley Brodski, Mr. Jim Graham, Ms. Sharon Butt, Mrs. Mae Smith, ex officio.

Reporting requirements may be met in two ways: 1) outgoing recommendations in response to incoming written recommendations/concerns, and 2) summary reporting to the V.P. Grass Roots or as a stand alone report depending on the level of activity of the committee over the fiscal year.

B.W.R. Rothwell, D.V.M., Chair

April 21, 2008.