Defining Essential Equine Care During a Pandemic

Essential equine care should be evaluated in terms of the **actions and activities that must happen during the pandemic to ensure animal welfare standards are met.**

Below are examples of essential and nonessential equine care actions and activities.

**ESSENTIAL**

- **✓ Providing FOOD AND WATER**
- **✓ Practicing PROPER HANDLING**
- **✓ Implementing appropriate HEALTH CARE***
- **✓ Providing an APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENT** for their use and protection from harmful weather conditions
- **✓ MINIMIZING FEAR, PAIN, STRESS, AND SUFFERING**

**NONSESSSENTIAL**

- **✗ RIDING** lessons, programs, or camps and any general or recreational riding
- **✗ MEETINGS** for clubs or organizations
- **✗ VISITS TO AN EQUINE FACILITY** by:
  1) anyone besides an essential employee, or
  2) a boarder not explicitly responsible for the daily essential care of a horse
- **✗ Anything that COULD BE PUSHED TO A LATER DATE** without causing undue fear, pain, stress, or suffering

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*As designated by an equine veterinarian. Consult your vet regarding specific questions about your horse’s essential health care.