



Standard Veterinary Procedures Policy

Effective Date: 1/1/2011

Last Modified: 3/23/2014

POLICY

Gentle Spirit Horses Rescue & Sanctuary, Inc.'s (GSH) policy is to provide standard veterinary services to the equines in the organizations care.

PROCEDURE

Standard Care

The following routine care will be provided to all equines residing in a GSH location or an approved foster homes. Any foster home must obtain pre-approval for any veterinary care in accordance with the Veterinary Procedures Policy.

Except for the Coggins testing, all timelines are guidelines, and exceptions can be made for any reason.

Initial or Annual Vet Check

- 1) All equines in GSH's care shall be seen by a veterinarian in the spring for an annual health check. Exceptions may be made for severely emaciated equines, ill equines, untouchable/untamed equines, or upon the recommendation of a veterinarian. This must be completed no later than May 31 of each year.
- 2) Absent signs of illness or injury, or obvious need of dental care, GSH does not require an intake evaluation by a veterinarian.

Annual Vaccinations

- 1) Equines with an unknown or no vaccination history shall be vaccinated within approximately one (1) month of arriving at GSH. Exceptions may be made for severely emaciated equines, ill equines, untouchable/untamed equines, or upon the recommendation of a veterinarian.
- 2) Equines with a known vaccination history shall be vaccinated when their vaccinations are due, or on the next GSH scheduled vaccination date. Exceptions may be made for severely emaciated equines, ill equines, untouchable/untamed equines, or upon the recommendation of a veterinarian.
- 3) Standard Annual Vaccinations (Spring, by May 31 of each year)
 - Preferred method of vaccination is Vetera Gold + Rabies, or:
 - VEWT [Venezuelan, Eastern, and Western Equine Encephalitis (i.e. Sleeping Sickness), Tetanus]
 - Rabies
 - Flu/Rhino
 - WNV (West Nile Virus) - optional
 - Strangles vaccination may be given to horses four years of age and younger.
 - Potomac Horse Fever may be given to horses that are kept near standing water.
- 4) Boosters
 - Previously unvaccinated equines should receive boosters as directed by a veterinarian
 - Equines in boarding situations or facilities with high equine traffic should receive a Flu/Rhino booster in October/November of each year. This boosters can be given by the caretakers and do not require a vet visit

Routine Dental Work

- 1) All equines should have their teeth checked annually by either a veterinarian or qualified equine dentist. Floating will be performed if recommended by a veterinarian or equine dentist. Some horses may require dental work more frequently.
- 2) Emaciated equines or equines struggling to maintain their weight should have their teeth checked by a veterinarian or qualified equine dentist and floated if recommended within approximately one(1) month of intake or weight loss.

Coggins Testing

- 1) Unless required by state law in the state where the equine resides, an annual Coggins test is not required.

- 2) All equines crossing state lines must have a current, negative coggins test. A current test is one performed within the past twelve months unless otherwise specified by state law. A nursing foal under the age of six months may use their dam's coggins test.
- 3) Permission to transport without coggins can be obtained from the appropriate state government bodies in an emergency. All testing requirements from the state will be followed in those cases, and permission must be obtained before transport can take place.

Castration

- 1) All colts shall be gelded within one month of their testicles descending into their scrotum. All undescended colts over the age of 4 months should be checked daily if in a mixed herd; weekly if in a herd that consists of only geldings or other colts.
- 2) All stallions, intact jacks, and male mules will be gelded within approximately two weeks of intake once a veterinarian deems them healthy enough to undergo the gelding procedure. Exceptions may be made for severely emaciated equines, ill equines, untouchable/untamed equines, or upon the recommendation of a veterinarian.

Pregnant Mares & Foal Care

- 1) Any mare with an unknown history or known to have been kept with stallions may be vet checked and palpated if heat is not observed within the first sixty days of intake or the mare shows physical signs of pregnancy. Exceptions may be made for severely emaciated equines, ill equines, untouchable/untamed equines, or upon the recommendation of a veterinarian.
- 2) Pregnant mares shall receive:
 - Pneumoabort vaccine at five, seven and nine months of gestation
 - Vaccinations for VEWT, Flu/Rhino, and rabies one month prior to giving birth
 - Exceptions may be made upon the recommendation of a veterinarian
- 3) Between twelve (12) and twenty-four (24) hours after birth, the foal will be tested for passive transfer of immunity by a qualified veterinarian. If passive transfer of immunity has not occurred, antibodies may be delivered to the foal via IV.
- 4) The following vaccinations should be given at three and four months of age:
 - VEWT (Venezuelan, Eastern, and Western Sleeping Sicknesses. Tetanus)
 - WNV (West Nile Virus)
 - Rabies
 - Flu/Rhino