

July 9, 2001

Department of Agriculture
Administrative Order 15
Series of 2001

Subject : RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE WELFARE OF HORSES IN BREEDING FARMS, STABLES, RACE TRACKS, TRAINING CENTERS, RIDING SCHOOLS, POLO CLUBS AND OTHER SIMILAR FACILITIES

Section 1. BASIC POLICY AND OBJECTIVES

Welfare considerations are important for the keeping and farming of horses. Standard procedures in animal welfare are not only legally important, but they also have direct economic benefits because they enhance productivity.

Good husbandry is essential for good welfare60

knowledge. The application of experience and common sense are still important.

Section 2. DEFINITION OF TERMS

- 2.1 **Breeding Farm** refers to farms for the purpose of improving the three (3) P's such as pedigree, progeny and performance of horses with a minimum of ten (10) mares to one (1) stallion.
- 2.2 **Castration** refers to the surgical removal of testicles.
- 2.3 **Committee on Unsound Horses** refers to the Committee created by the Philippine Racing Commission tasked to monitor racehorses during workouts and exercises and evaluate their soundness to participate in races whenever warranted. They decide which horses will be allowed to race.
- 2.4 **Corral** refers to an enclosure for holding animals, such as, but not limited to, holding corral, paddock, stable, stockyard and chute.
- 2.5 **Covering** refers to the act of mating in horses.
- 2.6 **Docking of Tails** refers to the cutting of part or portion of the tail.
- 2.7 **Doping** refers to the act of administering prohibited substance/s for purposes of altering the performance of the horse.
- 2.8 **Draft Horse** refers to horses used for work.
- 2.9 **Equitation** refers to the act or art of riding on horseback.
- 2.10 **Farm Paddock**

- 2.30 **Surgical Procedure** refers to any procedure in the animal with the use of surgical instruments involving incision, excision, and/or transection of organs or part of it with the use of anesthetic.
- 2.31 **Training School** refers to a place where horses are trained for horse racing, equestrian competition, pleasure or draft.
- 2.32 **Trimming** refers to the cutting of the ear or a portion thereof.
- 2.33 **Twitch** refers to an apparatus which is applied to the upper or lower lip of the horse for restraining purposes.
- 2.34 **Whip** refers to an instrument used in horse racing, polo and equitation. The standard whip length varies in racing, polo games and equitation.

Section 3. MANAGEMENT OF HORSES

- 3.1 Administering a substance/s not authorized by PHILRACOM is punishable under this Administrative Order (AO), except for health purposes as administered or prescribed by a PHILRACOM – accredited licensed veterinarian. However, this exception is without prejudice to PHILRACOM’s decisions in races.
- 3.2 Surgical intervention to remove registered brands is prohibited. Tattoos, markings and other identification gadgets im Twas pr ide5 r.ipunllce/snsed

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- 3.12 Shoeing shall be carried out regularly and whenever necessary by a Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) – Stud Book and Registry Division (SBARD) registered farrier.
- 3.13 Animal grooms and caretakers shall be properly trained.

Section 4. HEALTH CARE

- 4.1 There shall be regular vaccinations, deworming and hoof trimming/shoeing program for horses. The vaccination program shall be based on the requirements of the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) and PHILRACOM and shall be recorded accordingly.
- 4.2

- 5.7 Stallions shall be kept away from the mares when not in service.

Section 6. STABLES

- 6.1 Proper shelter for boarding and stabling of horses intended for either breeding, racing and riding or for any purpose shall be provided. Existing structures shall be subject to evaluation by the BAI including its deputized agencies. Provided, however, that for new structures, upon effectivity of this Order, it shall be at least 3.5 m x 3.5 m and ground to ceiling clearance of at least 3.5 m per animal. Ideally, horses should have enough space to lie down.
- 6.2 Sharp objects shall not be allowed to protrude in the stables.
- 6.3 Stables shall have adequate drainage system, steady supply of water and feed troughs.
- 6.4 Stables shall be adequately ventilated and properly equipped with beddings. Beddings shall be changed not less than once a month.
- 6.5 Precautions against fire shall be undertaken by providing sufficient fire exits to allow evacuation in case of emergencies. Electrical installations shall be periodically checked, preferably monthly. Firefighting equipment shall also be installed.
- 6.6 Appropriate lighting system shall be installed.
- 6.7 The above requirements shall apply to race horses, polo ponies and horses for equitation/equestrian competition.

Section 7. RACING

- 7.1 Horses shall have completed two (2) lunar years (24 months) before they are allowed to race.
- 7.2 Horses to be raced shall be inspected by PHILRACOM - accredited licensed veterinarians.
- 7.3 Starting gates and paddocks at the racetracks shall be kept safe.
- 7.4 Horses that are totally blind including those with unilateral blindness shall not be allowed to race. Horses with unilateral blindness acquired during the first six (6) months of racing shall not be allowed to run. However, horses that have been in the races for more than a year that developed the same shall be allowed to continue running depending on the recommendation issued by the PHILRACOM Committee on Unsound Horses.
- 7.5 The use of sharp and pointed spurs is prohibited.
- 7.6 Excessive use of the whip during a race is not allowed including the use of whips after the finish line.

- 7.7 Horses with gross anatomical lesions on joints as well as any other discomfort, illnesses, or infectious physical infirmities that affect their flexibilities and are showing signs of lameness shall not be allowed to run.
- 7.8 Horses shall not be fitted with improvised or unauthorized racing paraphernalia. The paraphernalia used shall be in accordance with PHILRACOM standards.
- 7.9 The BAI may deputize PHILRACOM in the registration of racetracks and stables.

Section 8. POLO PONIES

- 8.1 Polo ponies shall not be used before having completed four (4) lunar years of age or until such time that the epiphyseal plate is closed.
- 8.2 There shall be a Committee on Unsound Horses for polo clubs which shall formulate the guidelines on health and welfare of the horses, during and after games. The Committee shall submit the guidelines to the AWD for approval.
- 8.3 This Committee shall be composed of the following: chairman of the polo committee, polo club veterinarian, representative from a professional veterinary association such as the Philippine Association of Equine Practitioners (PAEP), BAI representative and stable manager. The licensed veterinarians shall have been accredited by the PHILRACOM.
- 8.4 Sections 3, 4, 5 and 6 shall also be applicable to polo ponies.

Section 9. TRANSPORT OF HORSES FOR RACING, RIDING, POLO GAMES AND OTHERS

- 9.1 Shipping permits and authority to ship shall be secured from the BAI or its local agencies as required by BAI.
- 9.2 Transport vehicles shall have appropriate flooring materials to prevent horses from slipping.
- 9.3 Vehicles shall be so constructed and be provided in order that the animals inside can be inspected from the outside, and for this purpose shall be provided with suitably arranged openings and footholds.

Section 10. OTHER HORSES (Karitela, Draft, Ponies, etc.)

- 10.1 Horses that are used for whatever purpose such as draft shall be covered by an annual veterinary health certificate.

Section 13. HUMANE SLAUGHTER FOR HORSES

13.1 Minimum standards for humane slaughter

13.1.1 No person may keep alive any horse which is in such a condition that is cruel to keep it alive.

13.1.2 Slaughter may be performed only by persons who are able to prove competence or appropriate training in the method selected.

13.1.3 Adequate precautions must be taken to protect other animals and people from injury.

13.2 Acceptable methods for the humane slaughter of horses are:

13.2.1 Rapid intravenous injection of a euthanizing agent (it should be warned that tissue residues will render the carcass unfit for human or pet consumption in this technique

13.2.2 Use of a captive bolt or humane killer.

13.2.3 Shooting, using a firearm.

13.2.4 The above procedures must be performed only by persons who are able to prove competence or appropriate training in using the method selected.

13.3 The point of entry of the captive bolt or gun shall be the point of intersection of diagonal lines taken from the base of each ear to the opposite eye.

13.4 The target area and direction of the bullet are shown below:



Figure 1. *The target area for humane destruction of a horse by shooting just above the intersection of the broken lines.*



Figure 2. *The direction in which a bullet should be fired at the target area.*

Section 14. ACCREDITATION

14.1 The BAI shall deputize PHILRACOM to assist in the implementation of this