Title: Husbandry Care of Horses and Donkeys

I. Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to outline the minimum standards of care for horses (Equus caballus and Equus africanus asinus).

II. Policy:

All units providing animal care for horses and donkeys used in agricultural research and teaching must meet or exceed these minimum requirements based on the Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals Used in Research (Ag Guide). Horses and donkeys used in biomedical research and non-standard Ag practice teaching must additionally meet the requirements in the USDA Animal Welfare Regulations (AWR) and the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (Guide).

III. Procedure:

**Daily (365 days a year):**
- Observe each animal and check for health concerns (Ag Guide pg. 22).
- Ensure adequate feed and ad libitum potable water is available (Ag Guide p. 21).
- Horses and donkeys housed inside or where they cannot graze should be fed and watered at least twice a day (Ag Guide pg. 94).
- Remove contaminated or spoiled food.
- Record sick and dead animals, and report them to Campus Veterinary Services (CVS) or designated clinical veterinarian per standard operating procedure for reporting sick or dead animals (Ag Guide pg. 9).
- Remove wet bedding and feces from stalls (Ag Guide pg. 92).
- Record daily completion of tasks, initial, and date log sheet.

**Weekly (Range horses only)**
- Observe each animal and check for health concerns (Ag Guide pg. 22).
- Record sick and dead animals, and report them to Campus Veterinary Services (CVS) or designated clinical veterinarian per standard operating procedure for reporting sick or dead animals (Ag Guide pg. 9).

**As needed:**
- Remove excreta and food waste to ensure worker and animal health (Ag Guide pg. 20).
- Sanitize primary enclosures, feed bunks, and surrounding environment (Ag Guide pg. 20, 92).
• Remove and replace worn or damaged equipment from primary enclosures and surrounding facility (Guide pg. 72).
• Maintain feed stuffs and remove spoiled or contaminated feeds (Ag Guide pg. 21). Expiration dates for bagged feed must be readily available.
• Clean and sanitize feed storage containers (Ag Guide pg. 21).

**Environmental Enrichment:**
• Refer to the Environmental Enrichment policy.
• Horses and donkeys should be provided the opportunity to demonstrate species typical behavior. Examples of enrichment for horses include social housing, exercise, balls, and hanging ropes (Ag Guide pg. 31-32).
• Devices must be checked regularly for wear and discarded when safety hazards are observed.

**Housing:**
• Facilities for horses and donkeys should provide physical accommodations that allow for normal postural adjustments at will, and permit the horse to lie down, stand up, turn around, and roll (Ag Guide pg. 90).
• Floors shall be selected for ease of cleaning and for sanitation, comfort, and safety of the horse or donkey, with proper bedding for indoor facilities (Ag Guide pg. 90-91).
• For outdoor housing, sufficient shade and shelter should be provided to protect from the elements (Ag Guide pg. 96).
• Whenever possible, horses and donkeys should be socially housed based on compatibility (Ag Guide pg. 96).
• Space requirements for agricultural research and teaching horses and donkeys can be found in Table Table 8-1 of the Ag Guide pg. 91.
• Space requirements for adult horses is 144 ft² per animal (Guide pg. 63)
• Space requirements for ponies and donkeys:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animals/Enclosure</th>
<th>Weight (kg)</th>
<th>Floor Area/Animal (ft²)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-4</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;4</td>
<td>≤200</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;4</td>
<td>&gt;200</td>
<td>≥72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Contributed by the Physical Plant Facilities Maintenance, as well as the IACUC’s Policy on Social Housing of Social Species.)