



Cornell University
Cornell Center for Animal Resources and Education

CARE609.01 Acquisition and Introduction of New Horses

The intent of this standard operating procedure (SOP) is to describe the processes to be followed when purchasing or accepting donated horses to Cornell University for the purpose of research or teaching. This SOP is intended for use by principal investigators, animal care personnel and equine facility managers. This SOP is approved by the Cornell Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) and the Cornell Center for Animal Resources and Education (CARE). Any exemption must be approved by the IACUC prior to its application.

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1. Introduction

This protocol describes the guidelines and standards to follow before purchasing or accepting donations of horses for Cornell University research and teaching purposes. The intent is to protect personnel, ongoing research projects, teaching animals, and hospital animals.

- a. Definition of a New Horse:
A new horse will be defined as a horse that is acquired through purchase or donation by Cornell to be used in a holding, teaching, or research protocol.

2. Materials

- a. Health history and applicable health certification for each new horse.
- b. Cornell equine medical record form.
- c. Physical examination supplies (e.g. stethoscope, thermometer, & halter).

3. Procedures

- a. Considerations
 - i. Only accept purchased or donated horses after consultation with CARE veterinary staff. Points addressed include the following:
 - suitability of the purchased or donated horses for use under a current IACUC approved protocol;
 - facility availability for appropriate quarantine;
 - review of previous testing/vaccination and completeness of the corresponding paperwork to comply with applicable state regulations;
 - suitability of the horse(s) for safe handling by students and staff;
 - availability of facilities for subsequent housing (after quarantine).
 - b. Prerequisite testing
 - i. For new horses originating in NY State, a negative Coggins test report conducted within the present or previous calendar year.
 - ii. For new horses originating outside of NY State, a negative Coggins test drawn within the previous 12 months and a USDA Interstate Certificate or a certificate of veterinary inspection within the previous 30 days prior to shipment.
 - iii. Hospital cases donated for research and teaching.
 - Horses will on occasion be donated to the Cornell University Hospital for Animals (CUHA) or Equine Park (EP).
 - The criteria for accepting a donated horse can be at the discretion of the clinicians and administrators of the CUHA/EP.
 - Place CUHA donated horses on the Cornell veterinary clinic patient donation protocol. Follow all IACUC regulations and procedures from the time of relinquishment.
 - Inspect the donated horses (done by a CARE veterinarian or designee) prior to transferring from the Cornell veterinary clinic patient donation protocol to another protocol. This inspection establishes an initial animal record for tracking purposes and allows for determining the suitability of the horse for proposed teaching/research protocols. Document this initial examination for the horse's permanent medical document as per CARE SOP 542-Maintaining Clinical Records for Animal Research Models.
 - Horses accepted for donation will have the prerequisite testing performed within 7 days if not provided as described in section 3b.
- c. Housing
 - i. Restrict housing of all new horse(s) to suitable quarantine accommodations (description below; section 3,c,ii) for a minimum period of 14 days, so that resident animals are not exposed to new pathogens. Finish vaccinations (section 3,d,ii) and/or testing procedures during the quarantine period.
 - ii. Establish minimum quarantine such that new additions can not come into nose-to-nose contact with resident animals or share grooming instruments, tack, feed or water vessels.
 - Provide daily care for quarantined animals after the resident animals.
 - Provide appropriate quarantine signage, footbath, and PPE within the quarantine area.

- iii. Keep horses without shoes unless needed to prevent lameness or if required while on a specific study.
- d. Preventive Medicine
 - i. Physical examination and observations.
 - (a).Examine the horse as per section 3,b,iii of this document.
 - (b).Isolate ill horses from the rest of the quarantined animals for at least 10 days beyond resolution of clinical signs.
 - (c).Vaccinations
 - Rabies: Confirm documentation that each horse has been vaccinated against rabies within the last 12 months or be without neurologic signs and vaccinated against rabies for 2 weeks prior to release from the quarantine.
 - In addition to rabies, the following vaccinations are considered “core vaccines”: eastern equine encephalitis, western equine encephalitis, equine herpes virus 4, influenza, and tetanus.
 - Other vaccinations will be at the discretion of the attending veterinarian and the PI.
- e. Horses from a CARE Recognized Equine Vendor
 - i. Horses being accepted from a CARE Recognized Equine Vendor will be examined on the vendor premises at least 24 hours prior to transport to Cornell. The examination will include:
 - physical exam and review of existing paperwork and records;
 - nasal swabs for bacteriological culture;
 - blood drawn for EIA (i.e. Coggins test) as per section 3,b,i of this document;
 - suitability testing as outlined above.

4. Safety

- Horses can cause fatal injuries; use an assistant to restrain horses during physical examination, injections, blood sampling or similar procedures, please refer to CARE SOP 707- Animal Related Injury.
- Horses have the potential to transmit disease to humans, please refer to the CARE Zoonosis web page for details.
- Horses have the potential to create allergies in humans, please refer to Cornell University’s Environmental Health & Safety information regarding animal related allergens.

5. Contingencies

In the event of an animal emergency call the large animal Ambulatory Service at 607-253-3140 or page CARE at 1-800-349-2456.

6. Reference

- [CARE SOP 542-Maintaining Clinical Records for Animal Research Models:](http://www.research.cornell.edu/care/documents/SOPs/CARE542.pdf)
<http://www.research.cornell.edu/care/documents/SOPs/CARE542.pdf>
- CARE SOP 607-[Treatment](#) of Sick Animals:
<http://www.research.cornell.edu/care/documents/SOPs/CARE607.pdf>
- CARE SOP 609-Acquisition and Introduction of New Horses:
<http://www.research.cornell.edu/care/documents/SOPs/CARE609.pdf>
- CARE SOP 707-Animal Related Injury:
<http://www.research.cornell.edu/care/documents/SOPs/CARE707.pdf>
- CARE Zoonosis Web Page:
<http://www.research.cornell.edu/care/zoonoses.html>
- Cornell Animal Related Allergen Information:
<http://www.research.cornell.edu/Care/documents/OHS/AllergyPreventionFactSheet.pdf>
- Current CARE Recognized Equine Vendor: Mr. Larry Dodge, Brooktondale, NY.
- <http://www.nyshc.org/legaldocs/Equine%20Infectious%20Anemia.pdf>

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