

Keiser University Policy on the Care and Welfare of Horses for Educational and Research Use

1. Introduction

Keiser University is dedicated to ensuring the highest standards of care and welfare for horses used in research, teaching, and other educational activities. This policy outlines the ethical guidelines and regulatory compliance necessary to protect the well-being of horses involved in University programs, while promoting high-quality research and educational outcomes.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all Keiser University activities involving the use of horses in research, teaching, athletic programs, and other educational purposes. Faculty, staff, and students who handle or work with horses are required to adhere to the principles outlined in this document.

3. Ethical Use of Horses

The ethical use of horses in educational and research activities is paramount. Horses may only be used when necessary and when alternative methods are insufficient to achieve educational or scientific objectives. Keiser University is committed to the ethical principles of the *Three Rs*:

- **Replacement:** Alternatives to horse use should be considered wherever feasible.
- **Reduction:** The number of horses used in any program should be minimized.
- **Refinement:** Procedures must be designed to minimize stress, pain, or discomfort and promote the well-being of the horses.

4. Regulatory Compliance

Keiser University ensures full compliance with all applicable regulations, including but not limited to:

- [The Animal Welfare Act \(AWA\)](#)
- [The Horse Protection Act \(HPA\)](#)
- [The Public Health Service \(PHS\) Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals](#) (where applicable)
- [Guidelines established by the American Association of Equine Practitioners \(AAEP\)](#)
- [The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals](#) (National Research Council)

5. Institutional Equine Care and Use Committee (IECUC)

Keiser University shall maintain an Institutional Equine Care and Use Committee (IECUC), which specifically oversees all horse-related activities. The IECUC is responsible for:

- Reviewing and approving protocols for the use of horses in research, teaching, and other activities.
- Conducting routine evaluations of the equine care program.

- Inspecting equine facilities, pastures, and barns to ensure compliance with welfare standards.

6. Training and Education

All personnel involved in the care, handling, or use of horses must complete mandatory on [Equine Welfare and Management](#) or similar if approved in advanced. This training covers:

- Proper handling and restraint techniques
- Understanding horse behavior to prevent injury and stress
- Ethical considerations and the University's equine welfare policies
- Procedures to recognize signs of distress, injury, or illness in horses

Continuous education programs are provided to ensure that all individuals working with horses remain current on best practices in horse care and welfare.

7. Equine Care and Housing

Keiser University is committed to providing horses with appropriate care, housing, and veterinary support. Horses shall be housed in facilities that:

- Are clean, well-ventilated, and spacious enough to allow free movement
- Provide access to clean water, proper nutrition, and environmental enrichment
- Are designed to protect horses from adverse weather conditions and other environmental stressors

Pastures and exercise areas must be maintained to minimize hazards, and horses must be allowed sufficient outdoor time to promote physical and mental well-being.

8. Veterinary Care

Keiser University ensures that horses receive regular veterinary care, including preventive health measures such as vaccinations, deworming, and dental care. Veterinary professionals must be available to address emergencies and routine health needs promptly. All horses must be regularly monitored for signs of illness or injury, and any concerns must be addressed immediately.

9. Exercise and Enrichment

In addition to meeting basic needs, the University recognizes the importance of physical exercise and mental stimulation for horses. Horses used in research and educational programs should be provided with opportunities for daily exercise, social interaction with other horses when appropriate, and enrichment activities designed to prevent boredom and promote natural behaviors.

10. Monitoring and Reporting

Any concerns regarding the treatment or welfare of horses should be immediately reported to the IECUC or Keiser University's equine care oversight team. Reports may be made anonymously without fear of retaliation. The University commits to investigating all reports promptly and taking appropriate corrective actions when necessary.

11. Violations and Penalties

Failure to adhere to this policy or approved equine protocols may result in disciplinary action, including the suspension of equine-related activities. In cases of severe violations, individuals may face further disciplinary measures, including legal penalties in accordance with federal and state law.

12. Continuous Improvement

Keiser University is committed to the continuous review and improvement of its equine welfare policies. Advances in equine science, veterinary care, and welfare practices will be regularly incorporated into Keiser University's policies and procedures to ensure the highest standards of horse care.

This policy focuses on ensuring the ethical treatment, care, and use of horses at the University while supporting educational and research objectives in compliance with both state and federal regulations.