



Horse 4 Life

Equine Rescue & Rehabilitation Support

H4L guide to assessing and managing health and safety risks to your equine

This questionnaire has been designed to help you assess risks to the health and safety of equines in your care. The questions cover a variety of general issues applicable to private owners/riders and are examples for guidance. Continual risk assessment and reviews are necessary to keep your equine, yourself, and others safe. Further advice is available by contacting Horse 4 Life – please see www.horse4life.org for details.

Score the following questions:

1 point for YES;

0 points for NO or DON'T KNOW

SCORE RATING	
5 or less	Severe risk
6 – 7	High risk
8 - 9	At risk (loopholes)
10	Performing well

The question to ask yourself:	What is the risk?	Initial score	How can I reduce risk?	Review score
Can your equine stand, turn round, lie down, and roll over easily in his/her stable, without risk of injury?	Increased risk of injury		Remove items that could cause injury; ensure suitably sized stall/stable available.	
Is the stable of solid construction?	Danger of falling debris, trip hazards or potential causes of injury		Identify and repair unstable structures	
Are fixtures and fittings safely positioned and in good condition?	Your equine damage them and cause injury to his/herself		Remove, reposition and/or repair items that could cause injury	
When empty, is the hay net higher than the equine can reach by pawing?	Hoof can get tangled up and frighten him/her		Reposition hay net as appropriate to size of equine	
Do you inspect tack and personal protective equipment regularly for damage and replace when necessary?	Fragile or damaged tack/helmets etc can break during use – risking injury/fright.		Inspect whilst cleaning, repair or replace if damaged/fragile	
Are fences and gates well maintained and regularly inspected for damage?	Protruding/rusty nails, splintered wooden posts etc can injure; intruders; equine absconding		Inspect regularly, repair and replace when necessary	
Are the fields free from ragwort, poisonous plants, acorns etc? and cleared of droppings at least twice a week?	Poisoning, ill health		Regular and frequent poop picking; Remove/weed regularly; be aware of plants toxic to equines, and symptoms of toxicity	
Are the fields free from metal, wire etc?	Increased risk of injury		Remove items that could cause injury	
Has all clutter been removed from the area – including thrown/lost shoes?	Nails from shoes, barbed wire, buckets etc - Increased risk of injury		Remove items that could cause injury	
If there are trees etc that drop nuts/fruit, do you pick them up daily?	Poisoning, ill health		Daily clearance	

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