Equine Welfare Tips

October 2016

We are going to Conference! Community Connections Day

Bring your questions and ideas! November 2, 2016

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• PATH Code of Ethics - respect the rights, dignity, and well-being of all individuals (human and horses) and promote well-being for all involved. In the environment of PATH centers, where might we bring greater well-being – in body, mind and spirit -- to our horses and their relationships with the people who are a part of their daily life? What are the signs that we can, and should, improve their well-being?

• Do you know what the “Five Freedoms are”? From the Farm Animal Welfare Council of the UK –
  1) Freedom from hunger and thirst.
  2) Freedom from discomfort.
  3) Freedom from pain, injury, or disease.
  4) Freedom to express normal behavior.
  5) Freedom from fear and distress.
• Do you know what it would cost per year to support a retired equine partner? How has your Center created for-
ever homes for its retired equine partners? What about end of life issues?

- Does your Center have a policy that effectively describes and limits each equine’s work load? What “factors” do you consider? Age, Breed, Conformation, Balanced rider, Top line muscles, Footing, Weather. You can see that this important question cannot easily be answered with a formula or “blanket” statement.

- How do you educate your board of directors on the PATH Standards? No one on our Board of Directors has any horse experience. This has caused a lack of understanding at times between the management of equines and the business of running a Center. I have had to reorganize the equine report in a way that addresses their equine knowledge. What’s your communication with your Board?

- How is your **Veterinarian** a resource for your Center? Have you been to the **AAEP** (American Association of Equine Practitioners) website and looked up the Equine Care Guidelines? They include guidelines on – emergency and disaster preparedness, vaccinations, parasites, rescue, retirement, education, purchase exams, and more. Check it out!

- Are you doing EVERYTHING that can be done to ensure the well-being of your horses? Come and share! For the Horses!