

FACILITY OWNERS

Best Practice

- Ensure you have a clear boarding contract that specifies what the facility is responsible for and what the boarder is responsible for.
- Have the BC Livestock Lien Act posted in clear view. The Act is available to download at: www.bclaws.ca.
- Have a good liability insurance plan in place and require your boarders have liability insurance in the event of damages incurred to your property or other boarders/horses
- Practice good biosecurity and inform your boarders what protocols are in place Establish clear lines of communication for your boarders and staff. Ensure they understand who to take their concerns to.
- Post rules of etiquette and “do’s and don’t’s” that are expected at your facility.
- Have an emergency contact list (such as vets, managers, maintenance, owners) and the barn address posted in clear view.
- Have a disaster plan and fire emergency plan in place. Ensure your staff and boarders are aware of it.
- Keep employees informed on individual horse’s needs and on special concerns.
- Keep an updated and accurate incident log.

It is the responsibility of the facility operator to ensure that the facility is well maintained and is a safe, clean, and organized environment. The facility operators should be experienced with livestock, capable and professional.

POTENTIAL BOARDERS

What You Should Ask

- Is the facility discipline specific?
- What is the typical feeding schedule?
- What is the typical turn-out schedule?
- Does turn-out vary due to weather conditions?
- Is there a variance in the feeding schedule?
- Is there a biosecurity plan in place?
- How does my horse get water?
- Is there a riding ring/ round pen/trails near by?
- Are there specific access hours for the riding ring?
- What kind of fencing do you have?
- Is there pasture turn-out, if so, are the fields rotated?
- If my horse isn’t always in the same paddock/pasture, will I be kept abreast of where it is kept?
- What will my horse be fed?
- Do you limit the amount of feed given and charge extra for a high consuming horse?
- If I provide supplements will you feed them? Is there an extra charge?
- Will my horse be turned out alone or in a group?
- What kind of bedding do you use? is there an extra fee if I want additional bedding added?
- Is there lockable storage space available for supplies, hay, grain, tack?
- Are there instructors and/or trainers on site? Can I bring my own?
- Do you have trailer parking, if so, is there an additional fee for it?
- May I use my own vet/farrier?
- What kind of footing is used in the arena?
- Do you take blankets/fly masks on/off?
- Do you have a deworming program?

- Are friends permitted to come to the facility and ride my horse?
- Are dogs allowed on the facility, if so, must they be leashed?
- Are you expected to provide your own stall picks/wheelbarrows etc?
- Are helmets required when I ride on the premise?
- What kind of turnover do you have?
- If conflict arises between boarders, how is this resolved?
- Do you have waivers and boarding contracts?
- What are the facilities hours of operation?
- Is there an on site manager/round the clock care?

What You Should Look For

- Take the time to visit a prospective facility and meet the owner/manager, ask questions and get a feel of the place and people currently boarding there. Well run facilities may not be fancy but should be clean and well maintained.
- Check where the hay and grain is stored, it should be in dry secure area. Feed should be of good quality free of molds and excessive dust.
- Inspect the pastures and paddocks there should be no debris, garbage or equipment stored where horses are loose. Look for safe well maintained fencing and an adequate water source.
- The stalls/shelters should be well built with no hazards and adequate space for a horse to move around and lay down without touching any walls or ceilings.
- View the horses, they should appear in good health and relaxed.

To choose the best facility evaluate your horses needs with your needs as a rider/ owner and try to find the best fit for you and your horse.

RESOURCES



The **Equine Code of Practice** is a good place to start. This outlines the industry accepted care of horses and is available online at www.nfacc.ca or call the HCBC office for a free hardcopy.

The **Basic Horse Care Booklet** is a free HCBC publication that will help you understand what your horses needs are to be in good health.

Check the HCBC online directory for a list of facilities, certified coaches and horse clubs in your area.

The HCBC bookstore has a good selection of books on horse care, training and riding. All HCBC members get a 10% percent discount on purchases. Come in to the store located in our office or go online to browse and order.

Horse.com is an excellent online resource covering horse health and welfare.

TYPES OF BOARD



Full Board

Usually includes hay, grain, turn in/out, stall cleaning and blanketing; some supplements may be fed

Semi-Board

The boarder usually provides their own hay/ grain; facility will do turn in/out and stall cleaning. If arranged blanketing may take place.

Self-Board

The boarder is fully responsible for the care of their horses and will provide all feed, clean own stall and turn in/out and blanketing etc. of their horse. Sometimes one is able to do chores in exchange for morning turn out.

All options are guidelines only and many facilities are willing to work with you to satisfy your needs.

HORSE COUNCIL
BRITISH COLUMBIA



Horse Council BC

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BOARDING FACILITIES MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE



**DOES YOUR BOARDING FACILITY MEET
THE NEEDS OF BOTH YOU
& YOUR HORSE?**

HORSE COUNCIL
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