

# Sample Assessment

## Show Horse Scenario

In evaluating horse farm 1 and horse farm 2, I placed horse farm 1 over horse farm 2 based on housing, loading into the trailer, health, social interactions, and stereotypic behaviors.

On farm 1 the horses live outside on 50 acres with good grazing, allowing the horses to exhibit the natural behavior of grazing for a majority of the day. Farm 2, however, keep their horses in 12'x12' stalls with only grating and windows in the stalls to allow for interaction between horses.

Farm one takes as many water and rest breaks as necessary per trip to a show. A majority of the horses, 4 out of 5, load into the trailer readily, which indicates that the horses may not find trailering to be stressful. However, farm two only allows for one water and rest stop per trip and only 2 out of 5 horses load into the trailer readily with 1 out of 5 needing sedation. This may be due to bad loading or trailering experiences that may have been caused by poor handling.

Farm one shows much fewer incidences of respiratory illnesses and fewer lamenesses. Farm two shows an increased number of respiratory illnesses, probably due to the amount of time spent in stalls, and more incidences of lameness. The deworming schedule for farm 2 is probably sufficient, but the deworming schedule for farm 1 is more comprehensive.

The horses on farm 1 spend 25% of their time in social interactions with other horses, due to the large amount of time spent in the pasture, as opposed to the <5% of the time spent in social interactions for horses at farm 2. Stereotypic behavior is exhibited <1% of the time on farm 1 and 5-10% of the time on farm 2. The increase of stereotypic behavior on farm 2 is at least partially due to the small amount of time spent interacting with other horses.

I recognize that horses on farm 2 possess more desirable body condition scores, but as the body condition scores on farm 1 are acceptable and the horses are healthy, this was not a deciding factor. Therefore, based on housing, health, social interactions, and stereotypic behavior, farm 1 shows better overall welfare than farm 2.