

Horses that are tethered for grazing, and any horse that wears equipment, needs to be checked regularly.

Horses need a lot of exercise, and they have a strong flight response when they think they are in danger. It is best you don't tether horses for long periods of time.

When tethering for grazing, even for a short while, Use equipment that is clean and fitted correctly to your horse, to avoid injury and to ensure the horse can breathe and drink properly.

They also need a constant supply of water, or cold. They need shelter, especially when it is really hot.

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■ **Horses**  
A "bit" of advice

## ■ More information

Many of these regulations have come straight from the codes of welfare. Codes set out minimum standards and recommended best practices when caring for animals. There are also regulations which apply to

- calves
- cattle
- dogs
- goats
- layer hens
- llamas and alpacas
- pigs
- sheep
- transporting stock

For more information on regulations and the codes of welfare please visit [www.mpi.govt.nz/animalregs](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/animalregs)

Ministry for Primary Industries  
Manatū Ahu Matua



While every effort has been made to ensure that this information is accurate, the Ministry for Primary Industries does not accept any responsibility or liability for error of fact, omission, interpretation or opinion that may be present, nor for the consequences of any decision based on this information.

## ■ Animal Welfare Matters

We're making life better for animals, and you can help others get it right too.

Owning an animal comes with responsibilities. Regulations make it easier for MPI and SPCA to take action against animal mistreatment. New penalties such as fines will be issued for certain actions. We will continue to prosecute the worst offenders under the Animal Welfare Act 1999.

Call us about an animal welfare issue  
0800 00 83 33 or contact SPCA on  
0800 SPCA NZ (77 22 69)

Email us your questions to  
[animalwelfare@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:animalwelfare@mpi.govt.nz)

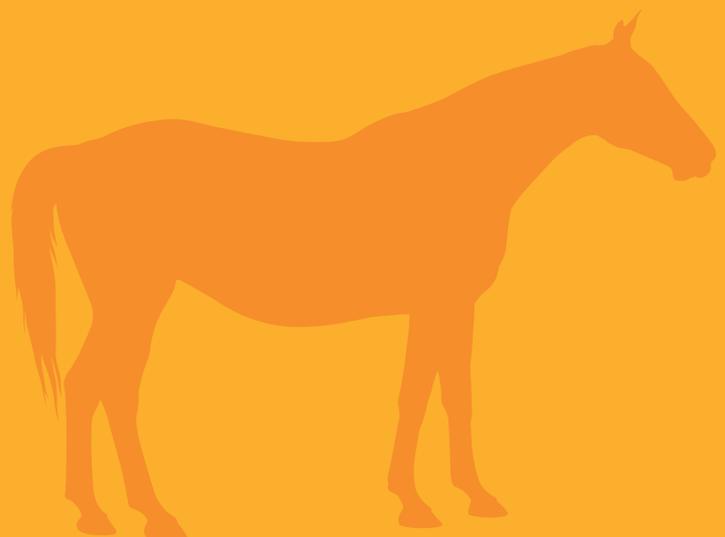
Are you doing it right? Encourage  
others to check too at  
[www.mpi.govt.nz/animalregs](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/animalregs)



## Animal Welfare Regulations

# Horses

■ From 1st October 2018



## ■ Tethering for grazing

Horses require lots of exercise and are social – they should not be tethered for long periods of time.

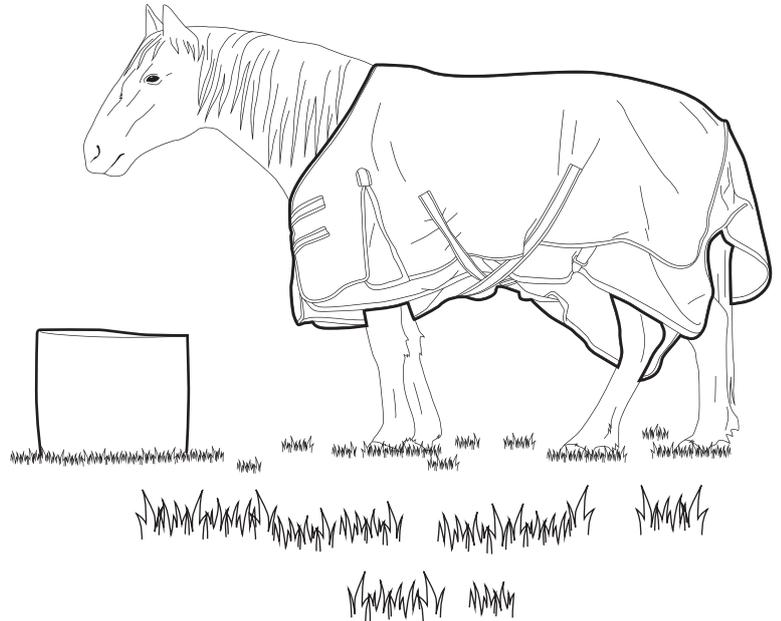
**!** **Be aware** if your horse is tethered for grazing, it must have constant access to

- ✓ water – especially in the summer when pasture is dry
- ✓ food
- ✓ shade and shelter to provide protection from extremes of heat and cold

**\$** **Otherwise you can be fined \$300**

**👍** **You'll be OK** if you

- ✓ check your horse regularly
- ✓ ensure they have time off the tether every day for exercise – tether material should be soft so they won't be injured if it becomes tangled
- ✓ provide plenty of food and water
- ✓ provide shelter, including natural barriers such as trees, and appropriate covers to protect from extremes of heat and cold



## ■ Equipment

Top gear

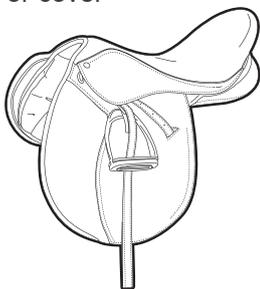
**👍** **You'll be OK** if the equipment you use on your horse, such as halters, bridles, saddles, lead ropes, bits and nosebands

- ✓ doesn't cause injuries, cuts or abrasions, or swelling around the head and neck
- ✓ allows your horse to breathe and drink normally

**\$** **Otherwise you can be fined \$300**

**!** **Be aware** it's important for your horse to

- ✓ keep equipment clean
- ✓ ensure saddles and covers are fitted correctly for your horse
- ✓ be checked daily if it is wearing equipment such as a halter or cover



## ■ Other regulations

We're not horsing around

**!** **Be aware** horses must not be struck on the head, with hands or any other object.

**\$** **Otherwise you can be fined \$500**

**!** **Be aware** castration is a painful, surgical procedure that must be carried out by a veterinarian using local or general anaesthetic.

**\$** **If a horse is castrated without local or general anaesthetic, or by a person who is not a veterinarian, you could face a criminal conviction and a fine of up to \$5000 for an individual (or \$25,000 for the business)**