

1. Welcome

The welfare of horses and the correct, safe, and enjoyable interaction between humans and horses are central to sustainable equestrian sports. The equine welfare certificate aims to give horse enthusiasts the confidence that they are engaging with their horses in a responsible, horse-friendly manner. Scientifically supported knowledge about horse welfare forms the foundation of the equine welfare certificate. At the same time, such a certificate must align with daily practice and the wishes and needs of horse-loving Dutch equestrians. Therefore, we want to hear from as many horse enthusiasts as possible about what they find important regarding horse welfare.

So, please help and contribute your thoughts!

2. Consent

Participation means you will fill out an online questionnaire about your ideas and expectations regarding horse welfare.

Voluntary and Anonymous

Participation in this research is voluntary, and your responses are anonymous. You can withdraw from the study at any time and do not have to explain the reasons why. However, since the data are anonymized immediately, it will not be possible to remove your data after completing the questionnaire.

What happens to the data?

The anonymous research data may be used as the basis for the Horse Welfare Certificate of the SRR and can be used for articles and presentations. We store all research data securely according to the guidelines of Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences.

Questions or Complaints

If you have questions or complaints about this research, please contact Dr. Inga Wolframm: inga.wolframm@hvhl.nl

Partners

This research is conducted on behalf of the SRR.

Please indicate below whether you wish to participate. By clicking the 'I agree' button, you indicate that you:

- have read and understood the information above
- are voluntarily participating in the research
- are 16 years of age or older

If you do not wish to participate in the research, you can click the 'I do not want to participate' button.

I agree

I do not want to participate

3. Who are you?

What is your gender?

Female

Male

Non-binary

Prefer not to say

How old are you?

18-24

25-34

35-44

45-54

55-64

65-74

75 and older

In what capacity are you primarily involved with horses?

I own or work for a company or organization with horses (riding school, livery yard, breeding, training stable, trade, other) (primary sector)

I own or work for a company producing horse-related products (tack, clothing, feed, stable supplies, and more) (secondary sector)

I own or work for a company in horse-related services (health, education, other) (tertiary sector)

I own (or have access to) one or more horses and ride competitively at the highest level nationally or internationally.

I own (or have access to) one or more horses and ride competitively at amateur level

I own (or have access to) one or more horses and am a recreational rider and do not compete in official competitions

I do not own a horse and ride at a riding school

Other (please specify)

4. Equine husbandry

The following question is about equine husbandry. Questions about riding/driving and interaction with horses will follow later on in the survey.

A friend of yours has bought a horse. She wants to stable the horse at a livery yard. Horse welfare is her top priority. She asks for your advice on what to look for in a new stable to ensure the welfare of her horse. What would your advice be?

5. Driving or Riding?

What do you do most?

Driving

Riding

6. Riding

This section specifically concerns horse riding. Questions about interacting with horses will follow later on in the survey.

Suppose the daughter of a close acquaintance has just started riding. What should she know or be able to do to ensure she becomes a good rider, who is able to safeguard the welfare of horses?

Would you like to contribute thoughts on driving?

Yes

No

7. Driving

This section specifically concerns horse driving. Questions about interacting with horses will follow later on in the survey.

Suppose the daughter of a close acquaintance has just started driving. What should she know or be able to do to ensure she becomes a good driver, who is able to safeguard the welfare of horses?

Would you like to contribute thoughts on riding?

Yes

No

8. Riding

Suppose that a young driver also wants to start riding. What else should she know or be able to do to ensure she also becomes a good rider?

9. Driving

Suppose that a young rider also wants to start driving. What else should she know or be able to do to ensure she also becomes a good driver?

10. Back in time...

Thinking back to the start of your horse career: What do you wish you had known or been able to do then that you can do or know now?

11. Interacting with horses

Finally, below are a few questions about daily interactions with horses, aside from keeping horses or riding/driving.

What do you think everyone who interacts with horses should know or be able to do?

What would you like to know or be able to do to take even better care of your horse?

Are there any current challenges you face in interacting with your horse?

Consider things you might be afraid to do or unsure how to approach. Perhaps you sometimes miss the support of your surroundings, or you're unsure who to turn to with a question or concern.

12. Thank you!

*Thank you for sharing your ideas and experiences regarding horse welfare with us!
Would you like to stay informed about developments regarding the equine welfare certificate? Leave your email address here.*