

Check-list of recommended equipment when assessing working equids



- Guidance notes for relevant animal-based indicators.
 - To enable assessors to refresh their understanding of assessment protocol and scores.
 - To enable comparisons to be made with photographs and the animal being assessed.
- Halters/head-collars and lead-ropes in a variety of sizes.
 - To enable safe and welfare-friendly restraint of animals during welfare assessment.
 - Consider the range of sizes that will be necessary according to the equine animals to be assessed.
 - Spare rope, long and flexible enough to be used to make a simple rope halter, should always be carried too.
- Hand-washing provisions (antiseptic soap, towel, alcohol gel).
 - To minimise risk of transmitting disease between animals or zoonotic infection to humans.
 - If water sources are scarce in the area, consider carrying jerry-cans of water too.
- Portable water bucket/trough for animals.
 - To provide a means of offering water to animals in need; important for optimising animal welfare and for demonstrating good practice to others.
 - If water sources are scarce in the area, consider carrying jerry-cans of water too.
 - Should not be used for hand-washing, as soaps and other cleaning chemicals may contaminate the bucket and discourage animals from drinking.
- Animal first aid kit.
 - Should be carried if suitably-trained personnel are involved in welfare assessment and able to correctly use the contents.
- Human first aid kit.
 - Should be carried if suitably-trained personnel are involved in welfare assessment and able to correctly use the contents.
 -
- Fully-charged mobile phone.
 - To enable communication in case of emergency.
 - To enable liaison with local animal health practitioners and farriers.
- Contact details for local animal health practitioner.
 - To enable referral, follow-up or emergency treatment if necessary.
 - Welfare assessors should not undertake veterinary treatment of animals unless suitably-trained and qualified to do so, according to legal requirements in the country.
- Contact details for local farrier.
 - To enable referral, follow-up or emergency farriery care if necessary.
 - Welfare assessors should not undertake farriery unless suitably-trained and qualified to do so, according to legal requirements in the country.
- Data sheets, pens/pencils (for paper-based data collection).
 - For recording scores from welfare indicators.
 - Paper-based records should be backed up securely at the end of each day, e.g. by saving in a spreadsheet.
 - Clipboards are also recommended for resting and securing data sheets whilst working.
- Electronic recording device (for digital data collection).
 - For recording scores from welfare indicators.
 - Power source, spare batteries and charger should be carried.
 - A paper-based method of recording data should also be carried as an alternative in case of technical problems.
 - Electronic records should be backed up securely at the end of each day, e.g. onto cloud storage.
- Hoof-pick.
 - To enable cleaning and removal of debris from hooves, if examining the frog or sole.
 - An alternative implement of similar shape, such as a pointed stick or bent flat-headed screwdriver, is also suitable.
- Measuring tools for lesions.
 - To enable standardised measurement of skin lesions, if assessing those parameters.