

What is a welfare concern?

Fencing

Under the Five Domains of Animal Welfare, all equines require a safe, comfortable, and happy environment, fencing is an area that horse owners should focus on under physical environment.

It's advised that adequate fencing is used to prevent equines escaping and causing damage to themselves or others. Horse owners are responsible for ensuring their equines are kept securely.

Five Domains of Animal Welfare

1. Nutrition
2. **Physical Environment**
3. Health
4. Behavioural Interactions
5. Mental State

✓ Acceptable types of fencing materials

- **Wooden post and rails** - Ideally a minimum of two rails at heights suitable to deter and minimise escape risk.
 - **Hedging** - Of a non-poisonous variety that is sufficiently established growth to ensure all year security. This type of fencing may require additional fencing of another type to support security as required.
 - **Stock fencing** - If being used as divisional fences, it is recommended that off-set electric fencing should be used. Stock fencing can be used as a boundary fence alongside hedging, but care must be taken that shoes cannot get caught in the fencing.
 - **Horse Safe netting** - Advised to be constructed the correct way up (smaller holes lower down) with an additional rail on the top to improve security and visibility.
 - **Stone walls** - Well maintained at sufficient height, reinforced with safe fencing as needed.
 - **Plain wire** - If used as a divisional fence, visibility for the horse(s) must be maintained, for example use ribbon/visibility strips. If used as an electrified divisional fence, then single strand (with ribbon/visibility strips).
 - **Electric fencing** - Can be used with a supply from the main electricity supply. Wooden posts can provide permanency to the structure.
- Advised to use a minimum of two strands (either tape or cord or flexi construction) and at different heights. Can be used as temporary fencing (battery/solar supply) electric tape/rope (with plastic posts).
- Recommended for use in divisional sectioning of fields, not sole boundary fencing.

