

Assessing Health Status



Ensuring your equine has a good quality of life is important, especially as they age. At Bransby Horses, we understand there may be various reasons why an equine's quality of life has declined, and why difficult decisions may have to be considered.

We've designed this form to help you monitor aspects of your equine's life and assess whether further action may need to be taken. We house a broad range of equine advice topics which you can view [here](#), ranging from Care of the aged equine to End of Life & Euthanasia. If you require further information on any of these topics, or advice on your equine's future, please don't hesitate to contact us on 01427 787 369 or email welfare@bransbyhorses.co.uk.

How to use the form

We have outlined various aspects of your equine's daily life that you can monitor and assess. Tick the relevant 'Yes or No' boxes when answering questions and add up the score at the end. If there are any points in the no category, then we would advise investigating this concern further. If there is a significant number of 'No' it is likely that your horse's quality of life is deteriorating, and a change of management or seeking professional advice would be recommended.

Category	Question	Yes	No	N/A
General health	Does your equine have Body Condition Score (BCS) between 2.5 and 3.5			
	Does your equine have good quality hooves and skin?			
	Is your equine generally in good health?			
	Does your equine breathe normally, with ease and with the correct rate between 8-12 per minute at rest?			
	Is your horse passing the normal amount and consistency of droppings?			
Feeding	Does your equine show interest in food?			
	Can your equine eat an appropriate quantity to maintain a good body condition?			
	Has your equine received routine dental care in the last 12 months?			
	Can your equine eat a varied diet of grass, hay and bucket feeds?			

Category	Question	Yes	No	N/A
Hydration	Is your equine drinking its normal amount? Is your equine passing the normal amounts of urine with ease?			
Pain	Is your equine pain free? Can pain be managed?			
Environment	Does your equine express interest in their surroundings? Does your equine interact with other equines? Does your equine interact with yourself or others? Does your equine appear content in their environment?			
Mobility	Is your equine weight bearing on all four limbs and has a normal stance. Does your equine move freely in all three paces? Can your equine lay, roll and stand unaided from a lying position? Can your equine lay down and rest / sleep sufficiently? Does your equine have sufficient mobility to express natural behaviours? Such as rolling, playing and running, etc. Will your equine's mobility improve with a change of management?			
Handling	Is your equine showing normal behaviour during routine handling?			
Mental state	Is your equine responsive to stimuli? E.g. Sounds, sights, food etc. Is your equine free from distress and not showing any stereotypical behaviours?			

SCORE