

Australian Capital Territory

# Animal Welfare (Welfare of Horses in the ACT) Mandatory Code of Practice 2024

Disallowable instrument DI2024-11

made under the

**Animal Welfare Act 1992, Section 22 (Approved code of practice) and Section 23 (Mandatory code of practice)**

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

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### Summary

The *Animal Welfare (Welfare of Horses in the ACT) Mandatory Code of Practice 2024* (the Code) outlines minimum standards of welfare for horses.

This instrument revokes DI1993-162 *Animal Welfare (Horses) Code of Practice Approval 1993* and DI1996-9 *Animal Welfare (Horses Code of Practice) Variation Approval 1996*. It was determined that the previous Code of Practice required considerable updating and as a result was redrafted.

The Code is made under section 23 of the *Animal Welfare Act 1992*, which allows the Minister to approve a Code of Practice, part or all of which has mandatory force. Failure to comply with the mandatory standards in the Code is an offence. It is also an offence to fail to follow a direction to comply with this Code.

This Code of Practice includes mandatory standards and guidelines that are considered essential for meeting the requirements specified under the *Animal Welfare Act 1992*.

Where there are references in both the standards and guidelines, this has been intentionally done as the guidelines provide additional supporting information (that is not mandatory) in addition to the standard, which is mandatory. Most standards have a corresponding guideline which expands and provides more detail and guidance on ways to meet the standard.

## **Scope**

The Code is intended to provide the minimum standards of welfare for horses for general husbandry and management practices and emphasises that persons in charge have a legal liability to care for horses under their control.

This Code applies to all horses, ponies, donkeys and mules that are kept in the ACT, including for the purposes of:

- work (for example, carriage, delivery, stock, trail riding);
- competition (for example racing, eventing, jumping, showing, endurance riding, dressage and camp drafting);
- pleasure riding or driving, including riding schools;
- breeding; and
- pets.

## **Development of the Code**

Consultation was undertaken with the Justice and Community Safety Directorate, the Environment Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate, the Rural Landholders' Association, the Australian Veterinary Association, Canberra Racing Club, ACT Show Jumping Club, ACT Dressage Association, Canberra Riding Club Pony Club, ACT Equestrian Association, Canberra Harness Club, Royal National Capital Agricultural Society, Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses, Little Oak Sanctuary and horse agistment complexes within the ACT.