

The Evaluation System of Equines Taking Part in Equine Assisted Services (EvaSE)

Comprehensive evaluation protocols were created as part of the intellectual outputs and methodology of the ERASMUS project 2020-1-CZ01-KA204-078277



Task 1: Evaluation of Equine Conformation

- **Summary:** This task involves evaluating various aspects of the equine's physical build, including the overall body structure, symmetry, limbs, head, neck, and back.
- **The objective** is to identify conformational traits that could impact suitability for specific activities like hippotherapy or adaptive riding.



Task 1: Evaluation of Equine Conformation

1. How to Apply:

- Begin by visually examining the horse's overall conformation for symmetry, limb alignment, and musculature.
- Measure specific areas such as the neck, back, and body frame using standard ratios and tools.
- Observe the equine in motion to identify any conformational limitations.

2. Subtasks:

- **Frame:** Measure the body frame using the oblique body length ratio to determine the horse's shape.
- **Neck Length & Set:** Compare the neck length to the body and assess alignment visually.
- **Back & Loins:** Check the length and structure of the back and loins.
- **Shoulder Blade & Pasterns:** Evaluate shoulder blade alignment and the pasterns' condition for stability.
- **Hoofs & Body Width:** Examine hoof angles and body width to assess suitability for clients.



Task 1: Evaluation of Equine Conformation

3. Evaluation Scale:

- **Frame:**
 - **Square:** Balanced and suitable for most activities.
 - **Medium:** Moderately elongated, allowing versatile use.
 - **Oblong:** More rectangular, offering limited suitability.
- **Neck Length & Set:**
 - **Short/Long Neck:** Impacts movement mechanics and stride stability.
 - **Well-Set Neck:** Facilitates a balanced movement pattern.
 - **High/Low Set:** Influences rotational movement and posture.
- **Back Length & Type:**
 - **Short/Long Back:** Affects impulse transmission and movement mechanics.
 - **Correct/Sway/Roach Back:** Determines flexibility and suitability.
- **Shoulder Blade & Pasterns:**
 - **Upright/Oblique/Sloping Blade:** Influences stride length and forelimb action.
 - **Weak/Correct/Steep Pasterns:** Determines gait smoothness and stability.
- **Hoofs & Body Width:**
 - **Sharp/Flat/Contracted Hoofs:** Impacts limb motion and gait impact.
 - **Narrow/Reasonably Wide/Wide Body Width:** Determines suitability for different clients.



Task 1.1: Evaluation of Equine Conformation - Frame

| Subtask | Description | 1 | 2 | 3 | Notes |
|---------|---|--------|--------|--------|--|
| Frame | Use equine measurements such as the oblique body length, which is the ratio of a horse's height to its length | Square | Medium | Oblong | The space is too limited and not appropriate for positioning larger clients. A rectangular shape is preferred, with a properly aligned back and strong loins required. |



Square frame

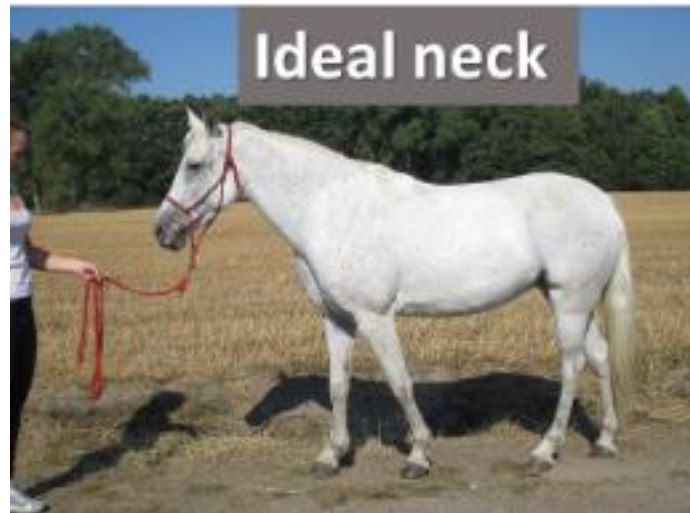


Oblong frame



Task 1.2: Evaluation of Equine Conformation - Length of neck

| Subtask | Description | 1 | 2 | 3 | Notes |
|----------------|--|------------|------------|-----------|--|
| Length of neck | Assess the overall length in relation to the body length by using specific body measurements | Short neck | Ideal neck | Long neck | The length of the neck influences movement mechanics. A short neck results in a higher gait frequency and a shorter, less stable stride, which makes it unsuitable for activities like hippotherapy for spastic clients. Conversely, a long neck is ideal for physiotherapy. |



Task 1.3: Evaluation of Equine Conformation - Set of neck

| Subtask | Description | 1 | 2 | 3 | Notes |
|-------------|---|---------|----------|----------|---|
| Set of neck | Use touch to identify and mark the tap line. Visualize the placement of the neck by drawing a straight line. Refer to diagrams or images for accurate neck positioning. | Low set | Well set | High set | The position of the neck influences movement mechanics and affects the range of motion. A high neck position leads to rotational movement of the back, making it more challenging for clients to maintain proper posture. In contrast, a low-neck position promotes anteroposterior movement of the back, which is especially beneficial for paediatric neurological clients. |



Task 1.4: Evaluation of Equine Conformation - Length of back

| Subtask | Description | 1 | 2 | 3 | Notes |
|----------------|--|------------|--------------|-----------|---|
| Length of back | Evaluating the body frame involves a comprehensive assessment of the overall structure, including proportions, alignment, and posture. | Short back | Correct back | Long back | It impacts the horse's movement mechanics and affects how impulses are transmitted to the client. |



Task 1.5: Evaluation of Equine Conformation - Type of back

| Subtask | Description | 1 | 2 | 3 | Notes |
|--------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|------------|---|
| Type of back | | Sway back | Correct back | Roach back | Ensuring a flexible yet snug fit is crucial for the versatile use of the horse. |



Task 1.6: Evaluation of Equine Conformation - Length of loins

| Subtask | Description | 1 | 2 | 3 | Notes |
|-----------------|--|-------------|-----------------------|------------|---|
| Length of loins | A body frame assessment involves a comprehensive evaluation of the overall skeletal structure, proportions, and alignment to determine its suitability for specific tasks or activities. | Short loins | Medium length - ideal | Long loins | Long hips contribute to faster wear and potential structural issues. They also affect the stability of the client, leading to increased wear and tear on the horse. |

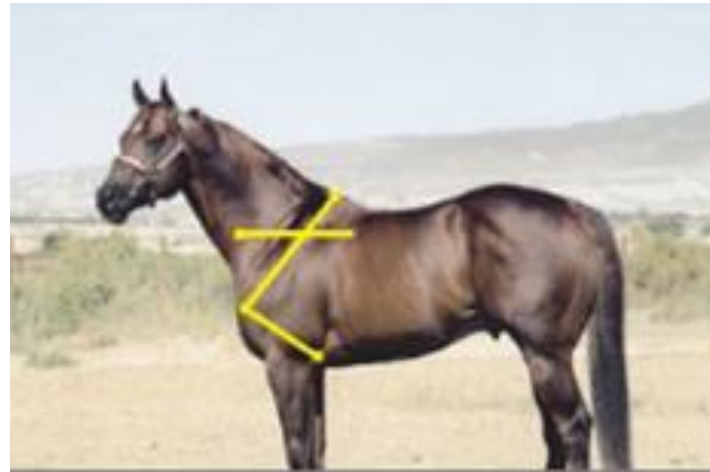


Task 1.7: Evaluation of Equine Conformation - Shoulder blade

| Subtask | Description | 1 | 2 | 3 | Notes |
|----------------|---|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Shoulder blade | Visualize an imaginary angle to determine the position of the blade. Refer to a photo for guidance on blade placement | Upright shoulder blade | Oblique shoulder blade | Sloping shoulder blade long | The placement significantly impacts the horse's gaits, spatial awareness, and the movement and carriage of its forelegs. It also influences the balancing surface utilized in therapy sessions. A longer stride may result in more spacious limb movements, while a shorter stride may lead to higher forelimb action due to the positioning of the shoulder blade. |



Upright shoulder



Oblique shoulder blade

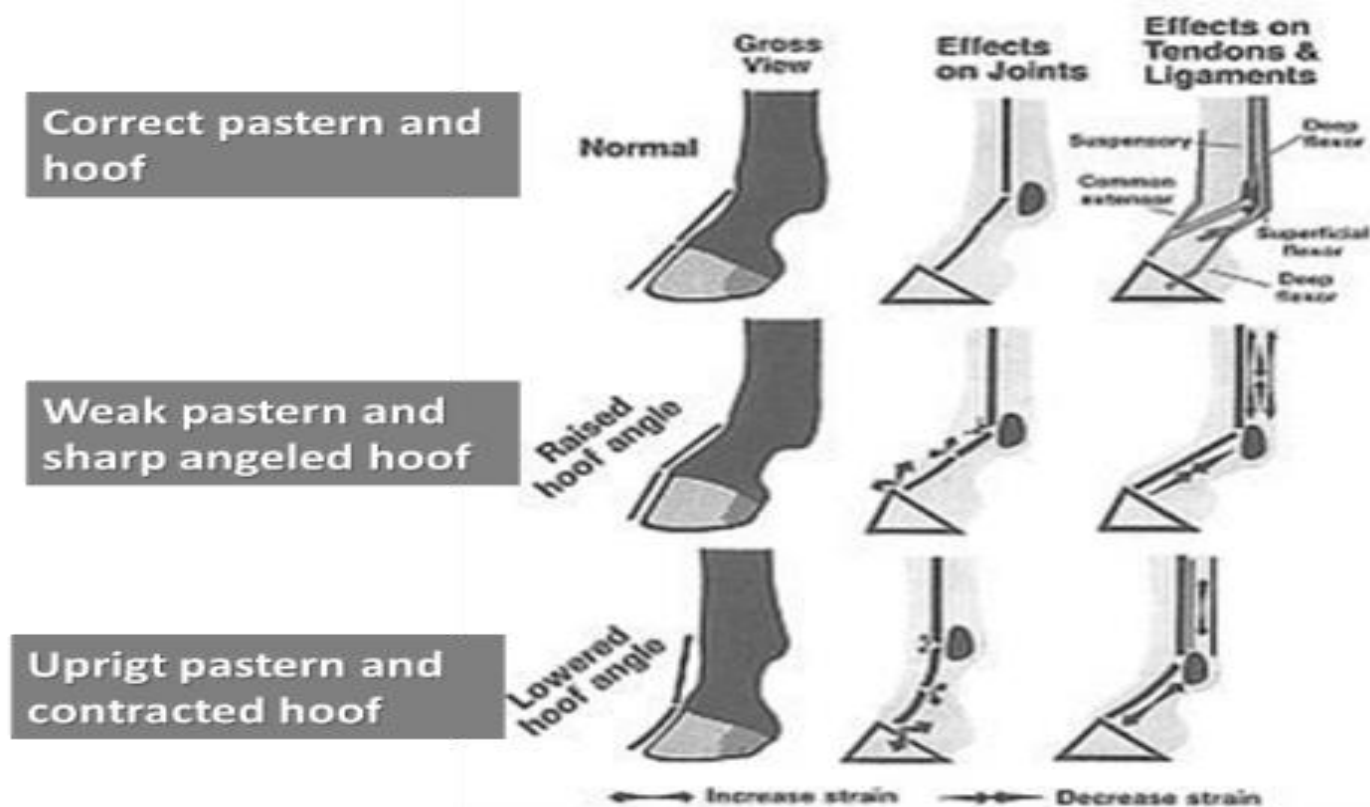


Sloping shoulder



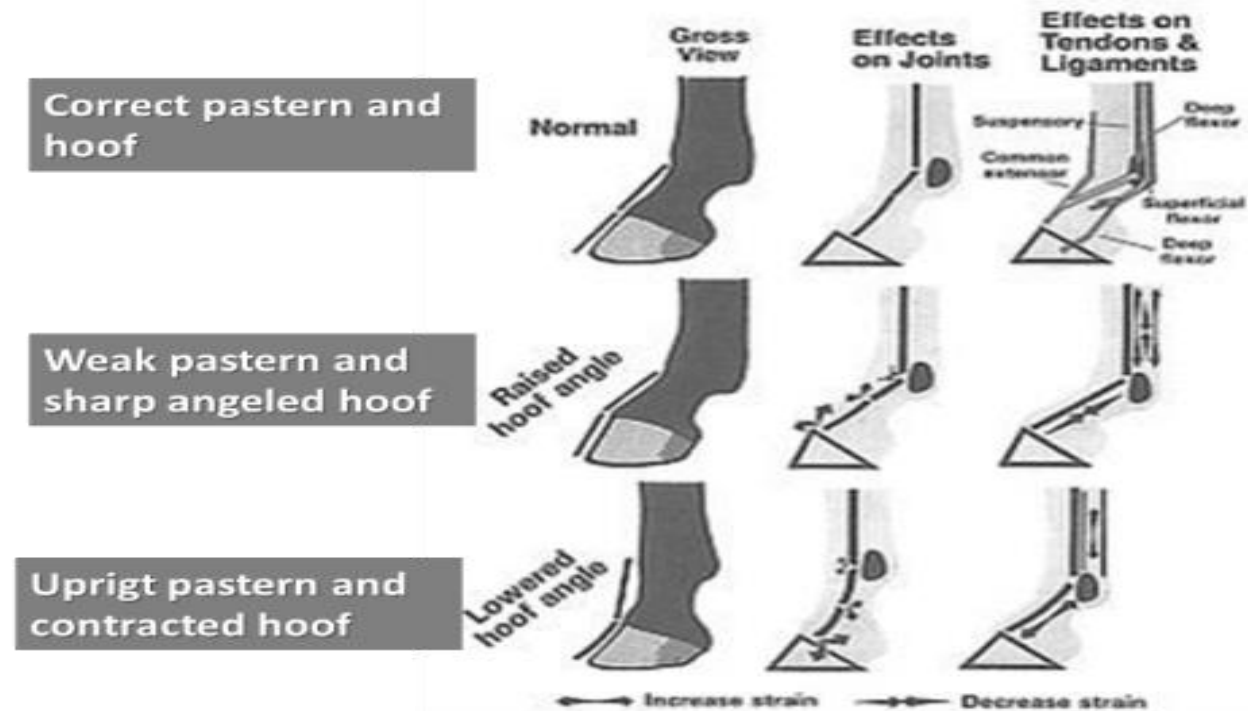
Task 1.8: Evaluation of Equine Conformation - Pasterns

| Subtask | Description | 1 | 2 | 3 | Notes |
|----------|-------------|---|--------------|-------|-------------------------------------|
| Pasterns | | Weak, sagging, soft hoof - effect on movement mechanics | correct hoof | steep | Sloping courses provide ample space |



Task 1.9: Evaluation of Equine Conformation - Hoofs

| Subtask | Description | 1 | 2 | 3 | Notes |
|---------|-------------|---------------------------|---------|----------------------|---|
| Hoofs | | Sharp-angled hoof flat | Correct | Contracted spiked | The shape and angle of the hoof influence how the limb is lifted and strikes the ground. In Figure 1, with less springiness, the impact is harder. In Figure 2, with correct alignment, the movement is softer. Figure 3 shows a flat movement, resulting in a softer impact but potentially more demanding on the horse's health. This alignment also shortens the limb's range of motion, resulting in a harder impact on the ground. |



Task 1.10: Evaluation of Equine Conformation – Body Width

| Subtask | Description | 1 | 2 | 3 | Notes |
|------------|---|--------|-----------------|------|--|
| Body Width | The width is determined by the arch of the ribs between the forelegs' hooves. | Narrow | Reasonably wide | Wide | The width is too narrow for riding horses but suitable for spastic clients in physiotherapy. A wider body is suitable for clients with balance problems. |

Narrow



Reasonably wide



Wide



Task 2: Evaluation of Harmonious and Balanced Gait

- **Summary:** This task aims to assess the equine's walking rhythm, reach, straightness, bending, and overall character to determine gait suitability for therapeutic sessions.



Task 2: Evaluation of Harmonious and Balanced Gait

Guide:

1. How to Apply:

- Observe the horse walking on a straight path and in circles to evaluate movement.
- Evaluate rhythm, straightness, and reach by counting hoof beats and watching stride length.
- Note any gait irregularities during the assessment.

2. Subtasks:

- **Rhythm:** Count hoof beats in a four-step sequence.
- **Reach:** Observe hoof marks to assess stride reach.
- **Straightness:** Check if all legs follow a straight line.
- **Bending:** Observe bending in circular movement.
- **Character:** Assess the horse's emotional state during walking.

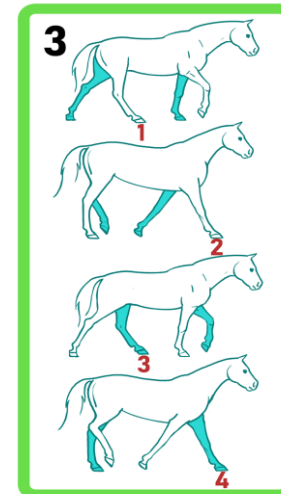
3. Evaluation Scale:

- **1 (Not Suitable):** Gait shows lameness, irregularities, or lack of responsiveness.
- **2 (Partially Suitable):** Gait is partially regular, but issues like stiffness occur.
- **3 (Well Suited):** Gait is sound and consistent.



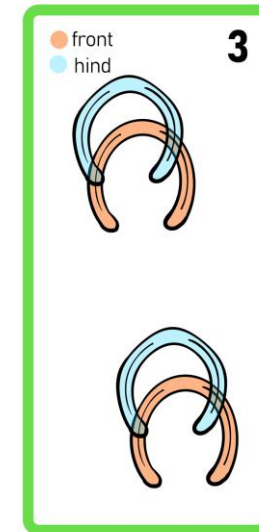
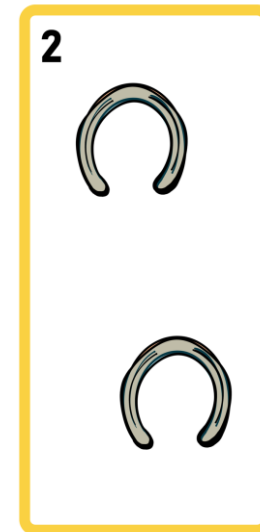
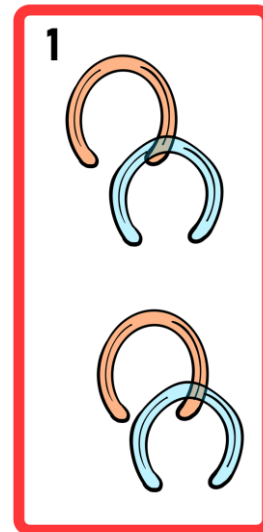
Task 2.1: Evaluation of Harmonious and Balanced Gait - Rhythm

| Subtask | Description | 1- not suitable | 2- partially suitable | 3 – well suited | Notes |
|--|---|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|---|
| Rhythm Equine is walking on straight line (free walking) and observer is looking from side (The method is to observe and count the rhythm of the hoofbeats from 1-4. Left hind leg=1, left front leg=2, right hind leg=3, right front leg=4.) | <p>1 > Lameness. Irregular rhythm all the time. Nodding with head on walk. Dragging of leg. Avoid putting weight on a leg.</p> <p>2 > Occasional irregularities in the rhythm of the walk. Pacing. Stopping in the movement. Stiff in movement.</p> <p>3 > Sound. Horse walks relaxed, actively forward with a four beat rhythm.</p> | Irregular | Some Irregularities | Regular | <p>1 > Lameness. Irregular rhythm all the time. Nodding with head on walk. Dragging of leg. Avoid putting weight on a leg. 2 > Occasional irregularities in the rhythm of the walk. Pacing. Stopping in the movement. Stiff in movement. 3 > Sound. Horse walks relaxed, actively forward with a four beat rhythm.</p> |



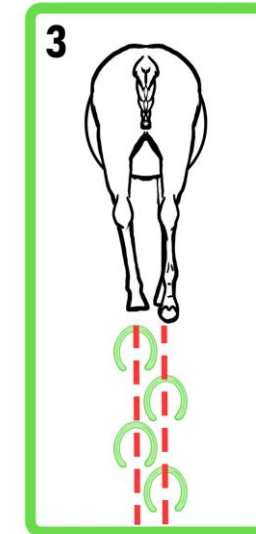
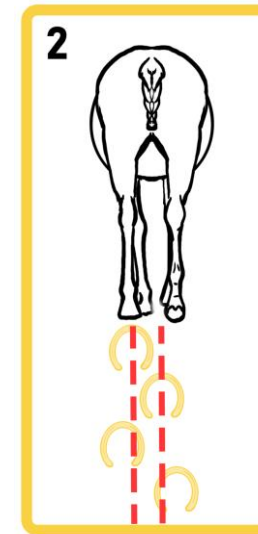
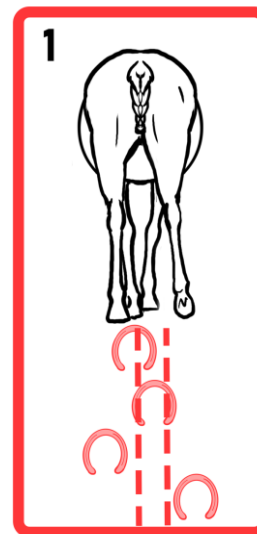
Task 2.2: Evaluation of Harmonious and Balanced Gait - Reach

| Subtask | Description | 1- not suitable | 2- partially suitable | 3 – well suited | Notes |
|--|--|---|---|---|-------|
| Reach of the walk The method is to observe how far forward the hind legs (hooves) are reaching under the belly in comparison to the front legs. The task is carried out by observing the hoof marks left by the walking horse on | <p>1> The hind legs don't reach the mark of the front leg. Stiff movement in pelvis and shoulder.</p> <p>2 > The hind legs reach the mark of the front leg. Stiff movement of pelvis or shoulder</p> | The mark of the hindleg is behind the front leg | The mark of the hindleg is behind the front leg | The mark of the hind leg overtracks approximately one hoofprint | |



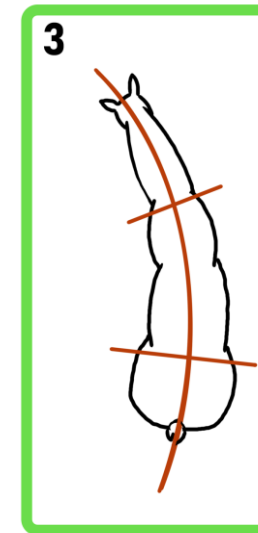
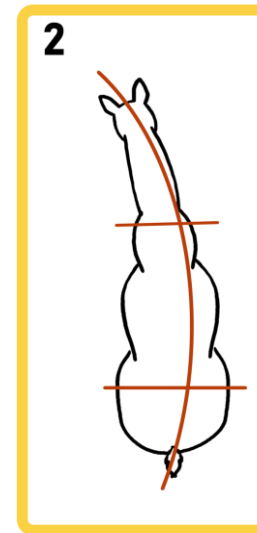
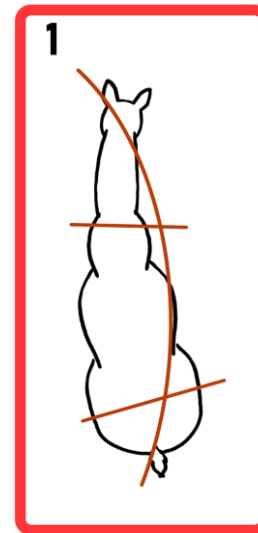
Task 2.3: Evaluation of Harmonious and Balanced Gait - Straightness

| Subtask | Description | 1- not suitable | 2- partially suitable | 3 – well suited | Notes |
|--|--|---------------------------|--|---|-------|
| Straightness of the walk and symmetry. Looking at the movement from behind the horse. See if the two legs on the same side of the body are following each other or is any of them out of the line of the movement (not following each other) | <p>1 > Walk on four tracks (Moving forward on a straight line)</p> <p>2 > Walk on three tracks (The horse is avoiding moving straight.)</p> <p>3 > Walk on two tracks (Moving forward on a straight line)</p> | All legs follow own track | One of the leg is not aligned behind another | Each leg moves in a straight line hind leg following the line of front leg. | |



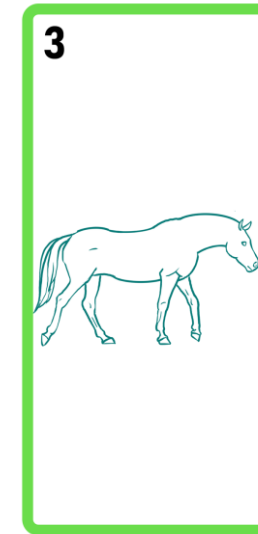
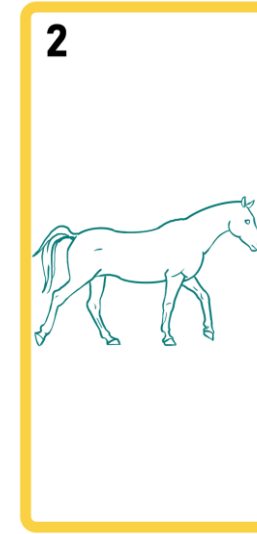
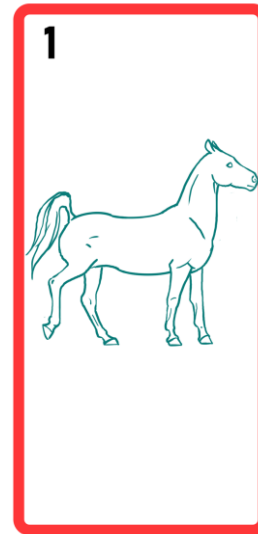
Task 2.4: Evaluation of Harmonious and Balanced Gait - Bending

| Subtask | Description | 1- not suitable | 2- partially suitable | 3 – well suited | Notes |
|---|--|------------------------------------|--|---|-------|
| Bending in walk on the circle. (Observing the horse in an approximately 10 -15 m diameter circle how the horse is bending from head to tail.) | <p>1 > No bending in the curve. (The horse bends to the opposite direction as the circle line.)</p> <p>2 > Bending, compensating the movement in the curve. (Moves shoulder first in the circle, leaning in or out.)</p> | The horse is stiff and cannot bend | The horse is not bending throughout and is compensating the bending from some part | The horse is bending as a whole from head to tail | |



Task 2.5: Evaluation of Harmonious and Balanced Gait - Character

| Subtask | Description | 1- not suitable | 2- partially suitable | 3 – well suited | Notes |
|---|---|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-------|
| Bending in walk on the circle. (Observing the horse in an approximately 10 -15 m diameter circle how the horse is bending from head to tail.) | <p>1>Visible discomfort, aggression, apathy, negative emotion. Either very high or low arousal.</p> <p>2>Changing between negative and positive emotion, heightened arousal.</p> <p>3>Positive emotion, low or medium arousal.</p> | Tense. | Changing between relaxed and tense. | Relaxed. | |



Task 3: Evaluation of Positive Association and Bonding to the Human

Summary: This task assesses the equine's willingness to approach and engage with humans voluntarily. It also evaluates the equine's level of trust, attentiveness, and cooperation during EAS (Equine-Assisted Services) activities. The evaluation is based on how well the equine responds to handling and interaction with humans.



Task 3: Evaluation of Positive Association and Bonding to the Human

Guide:

1. How to Apply:

- Start the evaluation by approaching the equine in its usual living space (e.g., paddock, field, or stable).
- Repeat the evaluation over multiple days and with different humans to improve reliability.
- Use this tool as a follow-up assessment to observe the impact of changes in activities and handlers.

2. Subtasks:

- **Initial & Approaching Reaction:** Observe the equine's initial reaction when seeing and approaching a human.
- **Handling & Halter:** Evaluate the equine's behavior when being haltered and while standing beside a human.
- **Touch & Walking:** Assess how the equine responds to touch and being asked to walk.
- **After-Session Reactions:** Monitor the equine's behavior after the session, such as when released in an arena or paddock.

3. Evaluation Scale:

- **Score 12 - 24:** Negative association
- **Score 24 - 30:** Mild positive association
- **Score 30 - 36:** Clear positive association

Each subtask is graded on a scale of 1 to 3:

- **1 (Not Suitable):** Negative or adverse behavior, e.g., walking away, hostile attitude.
- **2 (Partially Suitable):** Neutral behavior or no significant reaction, e.g., standing still.
- **3 (Well Suited):** Positive behavior, e.g., approaching, initiating interaction, and following the human.



Task 3.1: Evaluation of Positive Association and Bonding to the Human – instant reaction when seeing the human (on the outside)

| Subtask | Description | 1- not suitable | 2- partially suitable | 3 – well suited | Notes |
|---|--|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------|
| Instant reaction when seeing the human (on the outside) | This observation reflects equines association to prior experiences | Looking away | No reaction | Looking at the human | |



Task 3.2: Evaluation of Positive Association and Bonding to the Human – reaction one minute when approaching the human

| Subtask | Description | 1- not suitable | 2- partially suitable | 3 – well suited | Notes |
|--|--|----------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|
| The reaction one minute when approaching the human | This observation reflects equines association to prior experiences | The equine goes away | The equine doesn't do anything | The equine approaches the human and close to the human and/or touches subtly | The reaction one minute when approaching the human |



Task 3.3: Evaluation of Positive Association and Bonding to the Human – reaction when the human approaches

| Subtask | Description | 1- not suitable | 2- partially suitable | 3 – well suited | Notes |
|--|---|---|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-------|
| The reaction when the human approaches | This observation helps us understand what level of negative or positive association the equine has to the presence of the human | The equine goes or has a hostile attitude | The equine stands still | The equine initiates interaction | |



Task 3.4: Evaluation of Positive Association and Bonding to the Human – reaction to the halter

| Subtask | Description | 1- not suitable | 2- partially suitable | 3 – well suited | Notes |
|----------------------------|--|-----------------|-----------------------|--|-------|
| The reaction to the halter | This observation can both reflect an association to touch as to the activities which usually proceed being haltered. | Turns away | Stands still | Stands still with a relaxed attitude and initiates interaction | |



Task 3.5: Evaluation of Positive Association and Bonding to the Human – how does the equine stand beside the human

| Subtask | Description | 1- not suitable | 2- partially suitable | 3 – well suited | Notes |
|--|---|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|
| How does the equine stand beside the human | This observation will give us an idea of the level of trust the equine has in the human | Anxious | Relaxed | Friendly interaction (Collaboration) | |



Task 3.6: Evaluation of Positive Association and Bonding to the Human – how does the equine interacts with the human

| Subtask | Description | 1- not suitable | 2- partially suitable | 3 – well suited | Notes |
|--|---|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|
| How does the equine interacts with the human | This observation will give us an idea of the level of trust the equine has in the human | Anxious | Relaxed | Friendly interaction (Collaboration) | |



Task 3.7: Evaluation of Positive Association and Bonding to the Human – reaction to being asked to to initiates walking

| Subtask | Description | 1- not suitable | 2- partially suitable | 3 – well suited | Notes |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-------|
| How does the equine reacts to being asked to to initiates walking (moving forward) | This observation will show the level of motivation associated to the activities proceeding. Which could be leaving his living space or forming part of the activities. | Calming signals (Please off preasure) | Blocked (No reaction) | Follows at ease (Relaxed) | |



Task 3.8: Evaluation of Positive Association and Bonding to the Human – What does the horse do immediately after leaving the paddock/stables/field

| Subtask | Description | 1- not suitable | 2- partially suitable | 3 – well suited | Notes |
|--|--|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------|
| What does the horse do immediately after leaving the paddock/stables/field | This observation will show us the motivation associated with the activity. | Goes in another direction | Stands still (blocking) or eats grass | Shows pleasure and relaxation | |



Task 3.9: Evaluation of Positive Association and Bonding to the Human – reaction to being touched when tied up

| Subtask | Description | 1- not suitable | 2- partially suitable | 3 – well suited | Notes |
|---|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-------|
| How does the equine react to being touched when tied up | This observation reveal the association the equine has to being touched. | Moves away or tenses up | Stand still | Shows pleasure and relaxation | |



Task 3.10: Evaluation of Positive Association and Bonding to the Human – how does the human react to being touche

| Subtask | Description | 1- not suitable | 2- partially suitable | 3 – well suited | Notes |
|---|---|---|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|
| How does the human react to being touched | -This observation demonstrates the level of trust the human has in the equine | Uncomfortable, moves away or chase away | Stand still | Comfortable, friendfull and relaxed | |



Task 3.1 1: Evaluation of Positive Association and Bonding to the Human – reaction when getting scared

| Subtask | Description | 1- not suitable | 2- partially suitable | 3 – well suited | Notes |
|---|--|--|--|---|-------|
| How does the equine react when getting scared | This observation shows us the level of trust the equine has in the handler | Ignores the human and tries to run away or invades the human | First gets scared, but comes back to the human and relaxes immediately | Observes attently , but stays calm as the human seems confident | |



Task 3.12: Evaluation of Positive Association and Bonding to the Human – reaction to being let loose in the arena after the session

| Subtask | Description | 1- not suitable | 2- partially suitable | 3 – well suited | Notes |
|---|---|---------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|
| How does the equine react to being let loose in the arena after the session | -This observation expresses how the activity has affected the equine. | Runs away or stand apatic | Relaxes and/or roll | Relaxes and follow calmly the human | |



Task 3.13: Evaluation of Positive Association and Bonding to the Human – reaction when put back in the field/paddock/box

| Subtask | Description | 1- not suitable | 2- partially suitable | 3 – well suited | Notes |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------|
| How does the equine react when put back in the field/paddock/box | -This observation will express how the equine value being in his living space or outside it. | Run away/ leave rapidly or turns away from you | Stand still deciding what to do next | Turns around and want to go out again | |



Task 4: Evaluation of Habituation to Various (Environmental) Elements and Equines

- **Summary:** This task analyzes the equine's responses to environmental stimuli, other horses, and changing environments to assess adaptability and the ability to maintain focus.



Task 4: Evaluation of Habituation to Various (Environmental) Elements and Equines

Guide:

1. How to Apply:

- Practitioner works with the equine in an environment familiar to the equine.
- Lead the equine past potential stimuli with a halter and a free-hanging rein.
- If the equine's reaction in the first 5 seconds is scored as "1," subsequent reactions to continuous stimuli are not scored.
- Observe the equine's immediate and continuous reactions to environmental changes.
- Evaluate body language and movement for signs of stress.

2. Subtasks:

- **Initial Reaction:** Assess the horse's immediate reaction within 5 seconds of encountering a stimulus.
- **Continuous Stimuli Reaction:** Monitor stress levels over prolonged exposure to stimuli.

3. Evaluation Scale:

- **1 (Not Suitable):** Severe stress or unwillingness to engage.
- **2 (Partially Suitable):** Moderate stress that does not escalate.
- **3 (Well Suited):** Relaxed demeanour and willingness to cooperate.



Task 4.1: Evaluation of Habituation to Various (Environmental) Elements and Equines – The initial reaction to the stimuli occurrence

| Subtask | Description | 1- not suitable | 2- partially suitable | 3 – well suited | Notes |
|---|---|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|
| The initial reaction to the stimuli occurrence (first 5 s.) | Assessment is based on the body language indicating stress. | Severe stress | Stress | No stress or weak stress | <p>High Stress: Equine exhibits increasing distance signals, sharp movements, attempts to flee or back away.</p> <p>Moderate Stress: Equine displays displacement or stress signals such as stopping, uneven pace, and changes in direction straightness.</p> <p>Low Stress: Equine shows mild stress signals, demonstrating calming behaviors by maintaining pace and direction with minimal effort from the handler.</p> <p>No Stress: Equine is relaxed, willingly cooperates with the handler, acknowledges triggers but does not react to them.</p> |



Task 4.2: Evaluation of Habituation to Various (Environmental) Elements and Equines – The reaction to the continuous stimuli disposition

| Subtask | Description | 1- not suitable | 2- partially suitable | 3 – well suited | Notes |
|---|--|-----------------|--|--|---|
| The reaction to the continuous stimuli disposition (after 5 s.) | Assessed by body language indicating stress. | Stress increase | Stress increase, but equine manage to cope | No stress. Stress is decreasing. Stress does not increase. | <p>High Stress: Communication signals surpass calming signals, accompanied by sharp movements, and lack of response to handler signals.</p> <p>Moderate Stress: Communication signals fail to escalate to displacement behavior signals. The horse loses rhythm, struggles to maintain a straight line, and exhibits faster movements. However, it still responds to handler instructions.</p> <p>No Stress: The equine is relaxed, willingly cooperates with the handler, acknowledges triggers, but does not react to them.</p> <p>Stress Stable/Constant: Calming signals are displayed, yet the equine maintains forward movement, a straight line, and responds to handler instructions.</p> <p>Stress Decreasing: Calming signals weaken or disappear entirely. The equine becomes fully manageable.</p> |



Task 5: Evaluation of the Equine's Reaction to Different Sound Stimuli in Adaptive Riding and EAL

- **Summary:** This task involves assessing the equine's response to various auditory stimuli, including music, spoken words, and sudden noises, to determine its emotional regulation and ability to maintain focus during therapy sessions.



Task 5: Evaluation of the Equine's Reaction to Different Sound Stimuli in Adaptive Riding and EAL

Guide:

1. How to Apply:

- Play different recorded or live sound stimuli while observing the equine's facial expressions, body language, and movement.
- Simulate real-world scenarios involving applause, crowd noises, or unexpected sounds.
- Observe the equine's sensitivity to sound cues given by riders and handlers.

2. Subtasks:

- **Facial Expressions:** Observe ears, eyes, and nostrils for signs of emotional responses.
- **Body Language:** Assess posture, muscle tension, and head position.
- **Movement:** Monitor the equine's gait and willingness to approach or investigate the sound.

3. Evaluation Scale:

- **Score 12 - 24:** Indicates an adverse reaction to sound stimuli, where the equine displays significant stress signals like bolting or sudden displacement.
- **Score 24 - 30:** Suggests a moderate reaction, where the equine shows curiosity or slight tension but maintains control.
- **Score 30 - 36:** Shows a relaxed and positive reaction, where the equine remains calm and is willing to approach or investigate the sound source.

Each subtask is graded on a scale of 1 to 3:

- **1 (Not Suitable):** Displays adverse behaviors like bolting or jumping.
- **2 (Partially Suitable):** Exhibits curiosity or moderate tension but maintains control.
- **3 (Well Suited):** Maintains a relaxed and calm demeanor.



Task 5.1: Evaluation of the Equine's Reaction to Different Sound Stimuli in Adaptive Riding and EAL – Facial Expressions

| Subtask | Description | 1- not suitable | 2 - partially suitable | 3 – well suited | Notes |
|--------------------|---|---|--|---|---|
| Facial Expressions | Evaluating a horse's response to a sound stimulus involves observing their facial expressions, including their eyes, ears, nostrils, mouth, and overall demeanor. This assessment helps gauge their emotional response, stress levels, and overall well-being in relation to the auditory cues. | <p>Eyes: Wide or bulging</p> <p>Ears: Flattened back or pinned against the head</p> <p>Nostrils: Flared</p> <p>Mouth: Tight and closed</p> <p>Lips: Back and tight.</p> | <p>Eyes: Wide and attentive</p> <p>Ears: Pointing forward or twitching</p> <p>Nostrils: Flaring to catch more scent</p> <p>Mouth and Lips: Slight tension in facial muscles.</p> | <p>Eyes: Relaxed, with a soft and calm gaze</p> <p>Ears: Pointed forward or relaxed to the sides</p> <p>Nostrils: May be slightly flared, but not excessively</p> <p>Mouth: Relaxed and slightly open</p> <p>Lips: May be slightly parted and loose</p> | A related score is assigned when three out of the five elements are observed. |



Task 5.2: Evaluation of the Equine's Reaction to Different Sound Stimuli in Adaptive Riding and EAL – Body Language

| Subtask | Description | 1- not suitable | 2 - partially suitable | 3 – well suited | Notes |
|---------------|--|---|--|--|---|
| Body Language | The evaluation of a horse's body language in response to a sound stimulus entails observing their overall posture, movements, tension, and relaxation. This assessment helps determine their level of comfort, confidence, and potential sensitivity to the auditory cues. | Head: Positioned high. Muscles: Tense. Posture: Stiff, possibly indicating an attempt to bolt or rear. Tail: Swishing tightly. | Head: Lifted and turned towards the direction of the sound. Muscles: Showing slight tension. Posture: Body not stiff or rigid, shifting weight from one leg to another. Tail: Relaxed or gently swishing. | Head: Relaxed and level, may turn towards the sound out of curiosity. Muscles: Relaxed and supple, showing no visible tension or stiffness. Posture: Balanced and upright, with weight evenly distributed on all four legs. Tail: Hanging loosely and naturally, occasionally swishing in a relaxed manner. | A related score is assigned when three out of the four elements are observed. |



Task 5.3: Evaluation of the Equine's Reaction to Different Sound Stimuli in Adaptive Riding and EAL – Movement

| Subtask | Description | 1- not suitable | 2 - partially suitable | 3 – well suited | Notes |
|----------|--|--|---|---|-------|
| Movement | The assessment of a horse's response to a sound stimulus entails evaluating their approach, body movements, responsiveness to cues, and emotional regulation. This process helps determine their level of confidence and comfort in the presence of the sound. | Rapid and erratic movements, jumping, bolting, avoidance behavior, turning away, backing up. | Turning head and ears towards the source of the sound, moving towards the sound to investigate, picking up pace or quickening steps, raising head and neck to better scan the area, stopping and standing still to assess the situation, swishing tail slightly while still moving forward. | A fluid, steady, relaxed gait; smooth and free movement, without any sudden movements. The horse may show a willingness to move towards the sound source in a relaxed manner. | |



Task 6: Evaluation of the Equine can be touched + pressure Applied in Many Places

- **Summary:** This task assesses the equine's response to touch and pressure on various body parts like the head, neck, and abdomen.



Task 6: Evaluation of the Equine can be touched + pressure Applied in Many Places

Guide:

1. How to Apply:

- Use hands or objects to apply gentle pressure on different zones like the head, neck, and abdomen.
- Monitor the equine's reaction to touch in these zones, observing its body language and gait.
- Note any defensive or stressed behaviors.

2. Subtasks:

- **Zone 1:** Eyes, ears, lips, and sheath.
- **Zone 2:** Chest, abdomen, and buttock.
- **Zone 3:** Croup, withers, and neck.

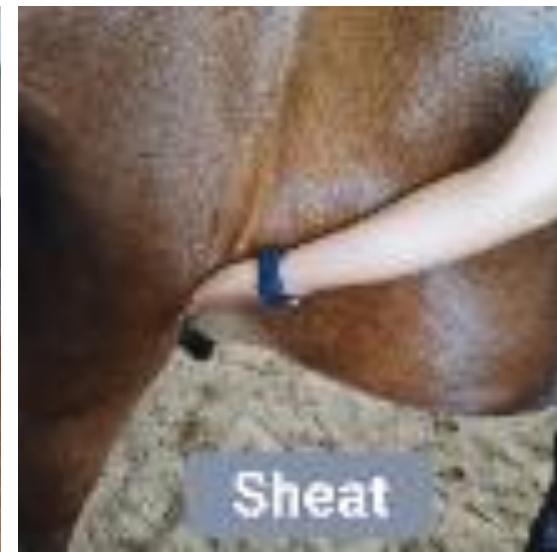
3. Evaluation Scale:

- **1 (Not Suitable):** Abrupt reactions or defensive behaviors.
- **2 (Partially Suitable):** Moderate reaction with curiosity but calm movement.
- **3 (Well Suited):** Calm and relaxed responses.



Task 6.1: Evaluation of the Equine can be touched + pressure Applied in Many Places – Zone 1 (eyes, nostril/ lips, ears, sheat);

| Subtask | Description | 1- not suitable | 2 - partially suitable | 3 – well suited | Notes |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|---|------------------------|---|
| Zone 1 (eyes, nostril/ lips, ears, sheat) | Frequency (slow \leq 2 times in 3") | Alarmed, Reacts Abruptly (Jump, sudden displacement). Agonistic/ defensive Behaviours (ears back, bites, rearing, escape responses). While walking, irregularity of gaits. | Reacts moderately (can be curious; can move, but calmly; while walking maintains regularity of gaits) | Remains calm, Relaxed. | Tactile stimuli may include the use of hands or objects such as hard or smooth surfaces, as well as rough or abrasive textures. |



Task 6.2: Evaluation of the Equine can be touched + pressure Applied in Many Places – Zone 2 (chest, abdomen, buttock)

| Subtask | Description | 1- not suitable | 2 - partially suitable | 3 – well suited | Notes |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------------|---|
| Zone 2 (chest, abdomen, buttock) | Frequency (slow \leq 2 times in 3") | <p>Alarmed, reacts abruptly (jumps, sudden displacement).</p> <p>Agonistic or defensive behaviors (ears back, biting, rearing, escape responses).</p> <p>Irregularity in gait while walking.</p> | <p>Reacts moderately (may display curiosity; moves calmly; maintains regularity of gaits while walking).</p> | <p>Remains calm and relaxed.</p> | <p>Tactile stimuli involve the application of pressure or touch using hands or objects, such as smooth or rough textures.</p> |



Task 6.2: Evaluation of the Equine can be touched + pressure Applied in Many Places – Zone 3 (croup, wither, neck)

| Subtask | Description | 1- not suitable | 2 - partially suitable | 3 – well suited | Notes |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------------|---|
| Zone 3 (croup, wither, neck) | Frequency (slow \leq 2 times in 3") | <p>Alarmed, reacts abruptly (jumps, sudden displacement).</p> <p>Agonistic or defensive behaviors (ears back, biting, rearing, escape responses).</p> <p>Irregularity in gait while walking.</p> | <p>Reacts moderately (may display curiosity; moves calmly; maintains regularity of gaits while walking).</p> | <p>Remains calm and relaxed.</p> | <p>Tactile stimuli involve the application of pressure or touch using hands or objects, such as smooth or rough textures.</p> |

