

Incidents Involving Animals – Initial – Species Prompts

Equine Quick Reference Animal Fact Sheets (Horse-Donkey-Mule)

There are many types of equids with varying sizes, roles and breed characteristics. Intermediate and advanced trained responders will be able to distinguish between breed characteristics and understand the varying degrees of risk associated with a situation. However, there are some simple rules which if applied will aide everyone in assessing the skills required for each situation.

Key message

First responders should assess the type of equine (and accompanying people), environment, potential cause of fear or aggression, sources of help and urgency of the task that requires interaction with the equine. Equines are powerful and unpredictable with the ability to respond dangerously to perceived threat. If in any doubt of your capabilities, request specialist advice or assistance from more equipped and trained personnel from your own or another agency.

Key risk information

- All horses are powerful prey animals, built for speed and hard wired to react to things that scare them
- Acute senses - sight, smell, hearing
- Almost 360 vision that is better than humans in both lighter and darker conditions
- Cannot gauge distances accurately unless looking directly at you but will spot and respond to trouble from a distance
- Herd animal, happiest in groups

Warning Signs / React badly to:

- Being crowded or pressurised without an escape route
- Sudden movement or noise, being chased, or surrounded by stimulation such as lights and sirens
- People who don't understand horses who will inadvertently cause negative responses and risk

Respond To:

- Food
- Companion animals
- Reduced stimulation
- Calm scene
- Trained and confident handlers

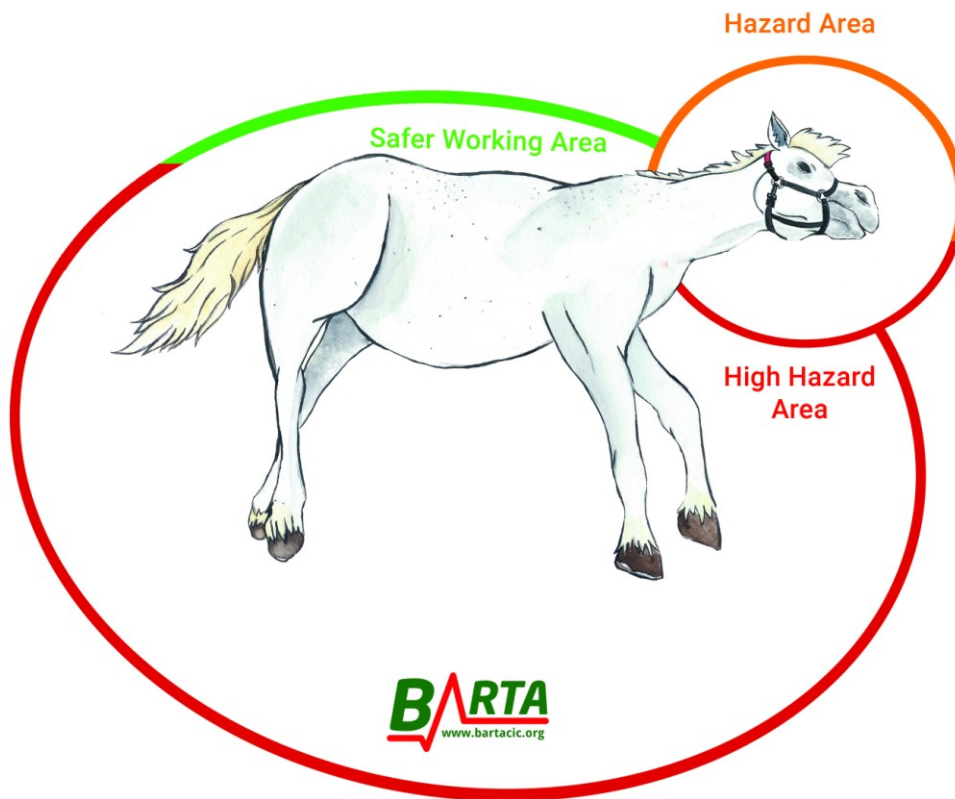
When dealing with equines you need to consider:

- Equine type, breed and number, situation and nature of the equine problem or involvement
- Situational awareness of current and potential risks to equine, public and responder
- Mobilising specialist resources from within your agency or from another with appropriate capabilities
- Potential requirement of veterinary support for any tactical plan

Associated risks when dealing with Equines;

- Fear and aggression responses
- Kicking
- Striking
- Biting (mainly stallions)
- Crushing

Safer Working Area



Responder Level Team Deployment

