

Guide to Use of VHC Resource Lists

ACO Approach to a Skinny Horse(s) – BCS less than 4

Questions to ask

How old is the horse?

An old horse that is skinny should be under veterinary care.

Does the owner have a veterinarian? When was the last time they were out?

What and how much do they feed the horse? Look at the hay and feed bags.

Is the horse turned out with other horses?

What do the other horses look like?

Why is the horse skinny?

Owner claims the horse was recently purchased

Use weight tape to measure horse

Do [Henneke Body Condition Score](#)

Take pictures to document condition of horse

Ask for documentation of purchase

(bill of sale, cancelled check, health certificate, name and address of former owner)

Write an [Action Plan](#)

Schedule return visit

Not enough food or water due to financial or lack of knowledge

Use weight tape to measure horse

Do [Henneke Body Condition Score](#)

Take pictures to document condition of horse and lack of food

[Educate Owner Resources](#)

[Hay Bank Resources](#)

Write an [Action Plan](#)

Schedule return visit

Not enough food or water due to willful neglect or incompetence

Use weight tape to measure horse

Do [Henneke Body Condition Score](#)

Take pictures to document condition of horse and lack of food

Proceed with surrender/seizure - See below

Not able to get to feed due to social hierarchy

Use weight tape to measure horse

Do [Henneke Body Condition Score](#)

Take pictures to document condition of horse and lack of food

[Educate Owner Resources](#)

Write an [Action Plan](#)

Schedule return visit

Enough food and water but still skinny

Use weight tape to measure horse

Do [Henneke Body Condition Score](#)

Take pictures to document condition of horse and lack of food

Write an [Action Plan](#) requiring veterinary exam

If under veterinary care request copy of records and to speak to the veterinarian

When was the veterinarian last out to see the horse?

What did the veterinarian recommend or do?

Is there evidence that the owner followed through on recommendations?

See resources for [Veterinarians available to do free of charge exam](#)

Schedule return visit

ACO Preparation for Surrender or Seizure of a Horse

If need advice contact an [ACO with Equine experience](#)

Contact Commonwealth Attorney

Secure a place to keep the horse(s) – [Equine Rescue List](#)

Each rescue on the list may not have enough space but they can assist in finding additional space

Ask the rescue about transportation and volunteer availability

Halters and lead shanks for each horse

Secure trailers to transport – [Equine Transportation List](#)

Find a [veterinarian](#) to be onsite as investigator – [VVEWR List](#)

Supplies and Forms – [Steps for Evidence Collection and Triage in an Equine Cruelty Case](#)