

A photograph of two horses standing in a field of tall, dry grass. The horse on the left is dark brown with a white blaze on its face. The horse on the right is a lighter brown color. The background is a blurred landscape under a clear sky.

WELFARE: STANDARDS AND PRACTICES

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Observations at PVC

- Ambient temperature 89°F, clear sky, constant breeze
- No heat-related responses (e.g. no sweat or elevated respiration rates)
- All horses alert and eating; many lying down, a few rolling
- Ample hay and water available
- Undulating topography

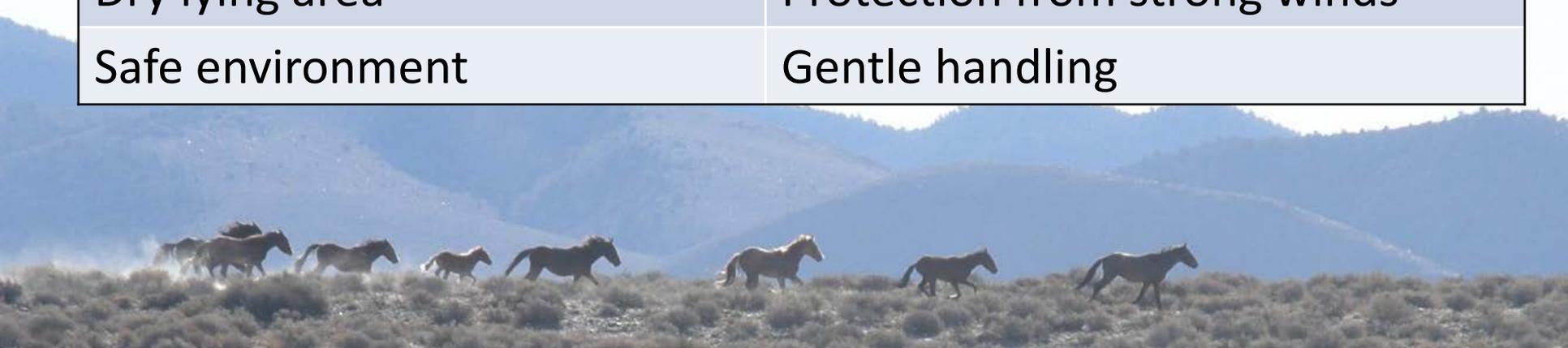
Local weather during previous 45 days

- Maximum ambient temperature was 103°F
- Night-time cooling to 70°F and below during heat wave
- Daytime humidity less than 30%



Resource/Care Priorities

Minimum Standards	Best Care Practices
Feed	Shade
Water	Quiet environment
Companionship	Compatible companions
Space (stocking density)	Good footing (min. mud/stones)
Health care	Minimize insects
Hoof care	Air quality (min. dust/pollution)
Dry lying area	Protection from strong winds
Safe environment	Gentle handling



Conclusions

Given our observations, weather conditions, and water availability:

- Healthy, mature horses with adequate feed and water and a BCS greater than 3 do not require shade at this facility



Recommendation

Treatment pens should be designed to include overhead structures that provide shade to 50% of the pen, preferably including the feeding area

- This will assist horses with compromised health conditions to minimize energy expenditure for thermoregulation in hot weather as well as in cold or wet weather





<http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/vetext/animalwelfare/>

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