



STRUCTURAL AND MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR THE INFRASTRUCTURE THAT HOST THE HUMAN-ANIMAL INTERACTIONS WITH EQUIDAE.

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INTRODUCTION

The Health Department of the Sicilian Region has established the authorization procedures for structures involved in Animal Assisted Interventions (as required by the national AAI guidelines¹). The central topic is represented by protection of life quality of equidae used for AAE. All the qualitative and quantitative parameters of infrastructural dimensioning have been obtained from the

animal welfare risk assessment and from the animal-based indicators^{2,3}.

It is necessary to adopt management measures to protect animal emotional balance. Rest and areas of social interaction and kinetic activity must be connected according to the ethological needs of the equidae.



SIZING

An important aspect to consider is the sizing of individual and group paddocks (Table 1). It is expected the presence of a minimum surface always accessible and a group paddock for a minimum of 2 hours/day after the AAI session.

The resting area is to be understood as an area of emotional relief represented by strategically socialization. Individual box measurement for equidae were also reported (Tables 2 and 3).

Table 1 - AREA OF RESTING AND SOCIALIZATION PADDOCKS FOR EQUIDAE

COWLEY PADDOCKS	MINIMUM AREA FOR INDIVIDUAL PADDOCKS	MINIMUM AREA FOR GROUP PADDOCKS
	Minimum 100% accessible	Minimum 2 hours / day
1 Equidae	80 sq m (100%)	800 (200%)
2 Equidae	160	1600
3 Equidae	240	2400
4 Equidae	320	3200
5 Equidae	400	4000

Table 2 - MEASUREMENTS FOR INDIVIDUAL BOX MEASUREMENT FOR EQUIDAE UP

Weight (kg)	1000	1200	1400	1600	1800	2000
Minimum length (m)	0.8	1	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.8
Minimum width (m)	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.2

Table 3 - MEASUREMENTS FOR MINIMUM MEASUREMENT FOR EQUIDAE UP

Weight (kg)	1000	1200	1400	1600
Minimum length (m)	0.8	1	1.2	1.4
Minimum width (m)	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0

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CONCLUSION

The effect of these structural and management modification can probably influence the success of therapeutic and educational activities for the patient and, at the same time, the quality of the human-animal interaction. Further work is needed to explore this in greater depth.