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## **TULARE COUNTY PROBATION JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY**

### **BACKGROUND**

Tulare County's Probation Department oversees several probation programs, one of which is the Juvenile Detention Facility located north of Visalia at Tulare County's Justice Center. The facility operates 24 hours per day, 365 days a year.

### **REASON FOR INVESTIGATION**

California Penal Code §919 (b) mandates the Grand Jury to inquire into the conditions and management of public prisons within the county.

During the course of several years, Tulare County's Grand Juries received numerous complaints from Bob Wiley Detention Facility inmates. Subsequently, those complaints resulted in numerous yearly reports which included recommended changes to the facility's conditions and operations. Those recommendations resulted in major improvements in the facility's operations and conditions. The Grand Jury visited the Bob Wiley Detention Facility and have verified the operational and conditions improvements, therefore a report will not be written.

This year, the 2012-2013 Tulare County Grand Jury turned its attention to the Tulare County's Juvenile Detention Facility for investigation and reporting.

### **PROCEDURES FOLLOWED**

1. A Grand Jury Committee toured the County Probation Juvenile Detention Facility.
2. Interviewed relevant witnesses

### **FACTS**

1. An arresting officer taking a juvenile to the detention facility must have an Application for Petition (synopsis of why the juvenile was arrested).
2. Juveniles are taken to the B.I.R. (Booking, Intake and Release) area of the facility.
3. Once the juveniles are booked, they are either held at the facility for felony arrests or are released to a responsible adult for misdemeanor arrests.
4. Juveniles held at the facility continue through the intake process, which takes approximately two hours to complete. At this time they are evaluated for health, drug usage, gang affiliation, etc.

5. An on-duty nurse examines the juveniles for communicable parasites such as scabies and/or lice and takes their vitals such as pulse, heart rate. The nurse will also ask questions that may help determine mental health issues in addition to prescription and/or illegal drug usage.
6. On average, a juvenile taken to the facility is between the ages of 15 and 17. However, a small population of juveniles between the ages of 12 and 14 does exist.
7. Those below the age of 12 are released to a responsible adult. Those arrested for a violent offense, such as murder, will be held at the facility. However, consent must be obtained from the facility administrator or an on duty supervisor before those juveniles can be held.
8. At the time the Grand Jury toured the facility, there were 94 male, 12 female juveniles in detention and 12 full time staff members.
9. Medical:
  - a. There are eight rotating nurses on duty 24/7 and three rotating Physician Assistants (PA) who visit the facility every day.
  - b. There are three medical examination rooms, a dental examination/treatment room and should it be needed, a padded room (for those having mental health issues and/or drug induced behavioral episodes).
  - c. Should a juvenile need medical care, a call slip is sent to the on duty nurse. After the juvenile has been examined, the nurse will either contact the PA for further evaluation or send the juvenile back to his/her unit with care instructions and if required, send the juvenile to the hospital.
10. The classroom instructor on duty at the time of our tour specialized in English and computer skills.
11. Computer skills may include learning how to look for and apply for employment.
12. Educational visual aids such as posters may be used in the classroom.
13. Most of the juveniles have a high energy level, because of this; they consume approximately 850 calories per meal.
14. Kitchen:
  - a. The kitchen area appeared to be clean and free of insects.
  - b. The freezer and walk-in cooler areas were well organized and clean.
  - c. There were several uncovered trays of hamburger patties and a possible dessert prepared for the next meal.

## **FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS**

1. The Juvenile Detention Facility appears to be well staffed and the needs of the juveniles are addressed adequately.
2. Foods prepared in advance of a meal are at risk of contamination from dust, vermin or other forms of

contamination when that food is not properly stored. California Health & Safety Code §114047 (d) states food shall be protected from contamination by storing the food in a clean, dry location.. Opening the cooler door may give the wayward fly an opportunity to land on the uncovered foods.

**RECOMMENDATION**

1. Prepare and store food in a manner that is compliant with state standards.

**RESPONSES REQUIRED**

- Tulare County Board of Supervisors
- Tulare County Probation Department

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## **WAR OF THE HORSES**

### **BACKGROUND**

On March 9, 2012, Tulare County Animal Control (TCAC) received a citizen's complaint concerning neglected horses that were located outside the Porterville city limits. The citizen claimed the horses were unusually thin and one horse was injured. On March 12, an Animal Control Officer responded to the location of the horses. His findings, based upon a Henneke Rating Scale (see Attachment), were that the horses were actually a little over weight and they had plenty of water. No food was stored on the property due to thefts.

This initial contact with TCAC was just the beginning of a long process. Concerned citizens called TCAC on a daily basis in addition to the Porterville Police Department (PPD) and Porterville Animal control (PAC). There were calls from as far away as Los Angeles and Sacramento. Each time a call was received, TCAC responded and checked on the welfare of these horses.

In early March 2012, the PPD and PAC dispatched an officer to check on the welfare of the horses. It was determined that the horses were in general good health. All of the responding officers witnessed citizens feeding the horses.

On May 1, 2012, the Porterville Recorder wrote an article concerning the neglect of these horses and the apparent lack of care for them.

### **REASON FOR INVESTIGATION**

The 2012-2013 Tulare County Grand Jury received a citizen's complaint concerning the horses mentioned in the background.

### **PROCEDURES FOLLOWED**

1. Interviewed relevant witnesses
2. Reviewed relevant documents

### **FACTS**

1. There were numerous citizen calls to TCAC, PPD and PAC.
2. TCAC, PPD and PAC all responded to check on the welfare of the horses.
3. It was determined that some of the horses were of normal weight and others were slightly overweight.
4. An injured horse was apparently cut on a barbed wire fence after it had been spooked. A veterinarian was called, and the horse was treated for its injuries.
5. The horses were moved to an undisclosed location within Tulare County.
6. According to TCAC, the facility now housing the horses is of exceptional quality.

7. On November 1, 2012, TCAC received a new, unrelated complaint concerning two horses and three ponies located outside the Porterville city limits that were allegedly being neglected.
8. The claim was that one of the horses was thin, the ponies had overgrown hooves, and one pony had a severely injured back leg.
9. Responding to the call, TCAC found that one horse rated a number two on the Henneke Rating Scale (see attachment), and the ponies had severely overgrown hooves. The injured pony was in need of immediate veterinary care.
10. It was determined that the horses were being fed. The feed would have been adequate had the horses been on a grazing pasture.
11. The ponies were all slightly overweight.
12. A veterinarian examined the animals and provided counseling on proper care.
13. Two ponies had their hooves trimmed. The injured pony was euthanized due to a broken leg.

## **FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS**

1. Tulare County Animal Control received calls daily regarding the first group of horses. They checked on the welfare of the horses daily. TCAC is to be commended for diligently checking on the same horses after each call.
2. Tulare County Animal Control has jurisdictional control over these animals.
3. Porterville Police and Porterville Animal Control responded to concerns that were out of their jurisdiction.
4. There is no cooperative agreement for Porterville to respond to Tulare County Animal Control issues.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Porterville Police and Porterville Animal Control refer all county issues to Tulare County Animal Control or the Sheriff's Department.
2. Without a cooperative agreement with the County of Tulare, the Porterville Police Department and Porterville Animal Control should not respond to animal control issues not in their jurisdiction.

## **REQUEST FOR RESPONSES**

- \* Porterville Animal Control
- \* Porterville City Council
- \* Porterville Police Department

SPECIAL REPORT

# BCS

## A USEFUL TOOL

Don Henneke's nine-point scale takes the guesswork out of evaluating equine body fat levels.

The body condition score (BCS) system offers an objective method of estimating a horse's body fat levels.

Developed 25 years ago by Don Henneke, PhD, as part of his doctoral research, the BCS scale ranges from 1 (poor) to 9 (obese). Horses are scored based on visual and hands-on appraisal of six body areas where fat tends to accumulate in a predictable pattern (see diagram below).

At right is an illustrated guide to the BCS system. Each score is accompanied by the notable physical attributes described in Henneke's original BCS research. The key terms used include:

- **crease**—a "gutter" over the spine created by fat buildup on either side of the bone.

- **hooks**—the pelvic (hip) bones that jut out to the side of a horse's rump.

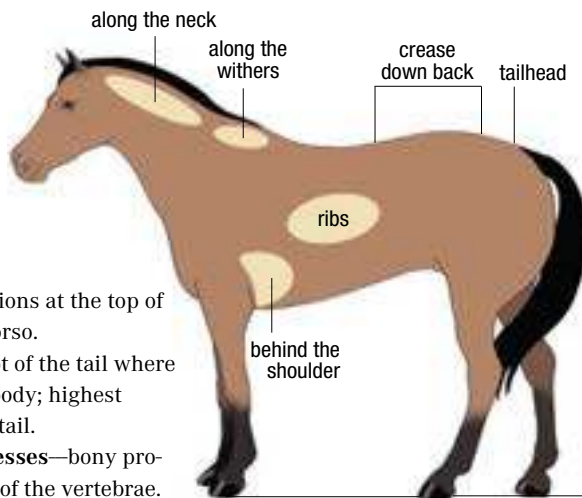
- **pins**—pelvic bones near the tail that poke out the back of a horse's rump.

- **spinous processes**—bony protrusions at the top of the vertebrae of the torso.

- **tailhead**—the root of the tail where it blends in with the body; highest movable point on the tail.

- **transverse processes**—bony protrusions on each side of the vertebrae.

PHOTOS COURTESY, DON HENNEKE, PH.D.; ILLUSTRATION BY CELIA STRAIN



### Score: 1 (Poor)

- Extreme emaciation.
- Spinous processes, ribs, tailhead, and hooks and pins are prominent.
- Bone structure of withers, shoulder and neck is easily noticeable.
- No fatty tissue can be felt.



### Score: 2 (Very thin)

- Emaciated.
- Thin layer of fat over base of spinous processes.
- Transverse processes of lumbar vertebrae feel rounded.
- Spinous processes, ribs, tailhead, and hooks and pins are prominent.
- Withers, shoulders and neck structures are faintly discernable.

**GETTING FAT:** Horses develop body fat in a predictable pattern, starting behind the shoulder, moving back over the ribs, up over the rump and finally along the back forward to the neck and head. A horse's BCS is based on an appraisal of fat accumulation in these areas.



### Score: 6 (Moderate to fleshy)

- May have slight crease down back.
- Fat over ribs feels soft and spongy.
- Fat around tailhead feels soft.
- Fat beginning to be deposited along sides of the withers, behind the shoulders and along the sides of the neck.



**Score: 3 (Thin)**

- Fat about halfway up spinous processes; transverse processes cannot be felt.
- Thin fat layer over ribs.
- Spinous processes and ribs are easily discernable.
- Tailhead prominent, but individual vertebrae cannot be visually identified.
- Hook bones appear rounded but not easily discernable.
- Pin bones not distinguishable.
- Withers, shoulders and neck are accentuated.



**Score: 4 (Moderately thin)**

- Ridge along back.
- Faint outline of ribs discernable.
- Tailhead prominence depends on conformation; fat can be felt around it.
- Hook bones not discernable.
- Withers, shoulders and neck are not obviously thin.



**Score: 5 (Moderate)**

- Back is level.
- Ribs cannot be visually distinguished but can be easily felt.
- Fat around tailhead beginning to feel spongy.
- Withers appear rounded over spinous processes.
- Shoulders and neck blend smoothly into body.



**Score: 7 (Fleshy)**

- May have crease down back.
- Individual ribs can be felt, with noticeable filling between ribs with fat.
- Fat around tailhead is soft.
- Fat deposited along withers, behind shoulders and along neck.



**Score: 8 (Fat)**

- Crease down back.
- Difficult to feel ribs.
- Fat around tailhead very soft.
- Area along withers filled with fat.
- Area behind shoulder filled in flush.
- Noticeable thickening of neck.
- Fat deposited along inner buttocks.



**Score: 9 (Extremely fat)**

- Obvious crease down back.
- Patchy fat appearing over ribs.
- Bulging fat around tailhead, along withers, behind shoulders and along neck.
- Fat along inner buttocks may rub together.
- Flank filled in flush.