

‘It’s more emotionally based’: Owner perspectives of horse weight management

Appendix A: Interview Guide Template

Researcher Positionality

I am a MSc Student at the University of Prince Edward Island, and this project aims to understand horse owners' experiences and perceptions related to the care of their horses. I am not only a student, but I also own two horses and have experienced the joys and challenges that arise when caring for them. There are no right or wrong answers to any of the questions I ask. I am excited to hear about your personal experiences, perspectives, and opinions related to the care of your horses.

Do you have any questions before we get started?

Introduction
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In a few sentences, please tell me a bit about your horse and yourself. 2. Follow-up: What made you want to be part of the horse community

Horse Housing-Related Questions
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. What do you consider important when making decisions related to how you care for your horse? 4. What does it mean for a horse to have a good life? <p><i>If they talk about any of the following aspects of welfare, then follow-up with the probing questions:</i></p>

Theoretical Domain Framework (TDF): Horse Weight Management	
TDF Domain	Question
Intention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much does managing your horses’ weight affect their ability to live a good life?
Memory, Attention, and Decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How often do you consider your horse’s weight throughout your care routine with your horse? And why?
Beliefs in Capabilities Skills Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe how difficult or easy is it to manage your horse’s weight? • Do you feel you have sufficient knowledge to effectively manage your horse’s weight? • As a horse owner, do you feel capable of managing your horse’s weight? • Describe the skills you feel you have to manage your horses’ weight?
Motivation Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much do you want to, or how important is it to you to manage your horse’s weight? • Follow-up if not important: what other horse care factors do think are more important?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you describe some of the motivating factors that encourage you to manage your horse(s) weight? • What are some of the barriers to managing your horses' weight? • What does maintaining a horse within a healthy weight help you achieve?
Social Influences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent do you consider the opinions of other non-horse-related people when making decisions around your horse's weight management? • How do the individuals within your equestrian community influence the decisions you make related to your horse's weight?
Behavioural Regulation Social and Professional Role and Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What systems do you have in place or tactics that you could use for monitoring whether you are successfully managing your horse's weight? • Follow-up: How confident are you in the management strategies you have employed to help a horse lose or gain weight? (Optimism) • Who do you think is most responsible for managing your horses' weight? • Who do you think is most responsible to help guide your decision-making related to your horses' weight? • Do you think that you are sufficiently supported by government policy and/or Equestrian Organizations to manage your horses' weight? • Follow-up: In what ways do you think you could be better supported?
Beliefs in Consequences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you think it is better for a horse to be overweight or underweight? Please describe why you picked one over the other (or neither). • Probe: what do you think are the health effects of under or overweight horses? • How do you know/judge if a horse is at a good weight or within a healthy range?
Optimism Emotions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe how confident are you that maintaining your horse's weight within a 'healthy weight' range will enhance their quality of life? • Describe how confident are you that maintaining a horse outside of a healthy weight range will decrease their quality of life? • How would you generally describe the emotions that arise when you think about managing your horse's weight?
Environment, Context, and Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent do you believe the environment in which your horse lives impact your horse's weight? • Follow-up: In what ways do you manage your horse's environment to help with their weight?

Concluding Question	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Before moving on to my final question, is there anything else you would like to add, that we have not covered?• How, if at all, has your involvement in this study (including Molly's project) changed your overall perception of horse care?
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