

# PROTOCOL FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF ABANDONED EQUINES OR KEPT IN INADEQUATE WELFARE CONDITIONS

José Romero Photography©

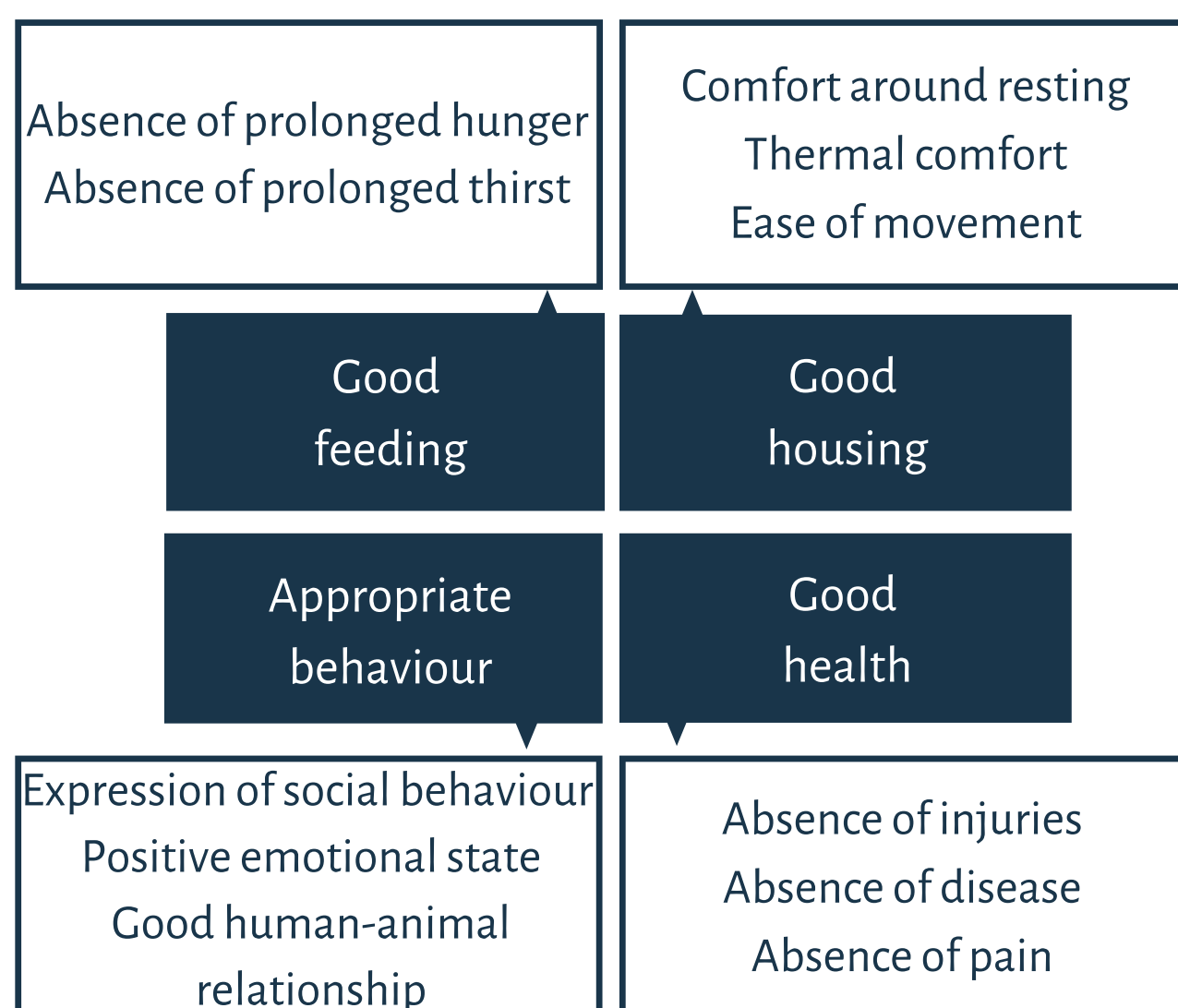
## OBJECTIVES

- Revision of the protocol
- Revision and assessment of the cases to determine the effectiveness and the proper functionality of the protocol
- Propose modifications in order to improve it

## The protocol purpose:

### Guarantee the welfare of equines in Catalonia

- Welfare assessment based on the following criteria:



According to Welfare Quality® project

Adapted from: AWIN 2015 (doi: 10.13130/AWIN\_HORSES\_2015)

## REVISION OF THE CASES

### From January 2018 to January 2020

- Complaints filed at DARP\* regional offices related to non-compliance of animal welfare in horses resulted in:



\*Departament d'Agricultura, Ramaderia, Pesca i Alimentació de la Generalitat de Catalunya.

## ASSESSMENT OF THE CASES: key points

- **Human factor:** Knowledge and experience have a crucial role on the assessment
- **Avoid assessing from distance:** It can lead to mistaken about the state of the animal
- **Indicators welfare table:** For those animals who require it
- **Legislation:** Inefficient protection of equines

## MODIFICATIONS OF THE PROTOCOL

- 1 Clarification of the concept: "risk for the life of the animal"
- 2 Introduction of an indicator to assess the feces
- 3 Introduction of the criteria to perform an euthanasia

## CONCLUSIONS

- The fact that equines are animals with different functions in our society, results in a complex classification of them and an inadequate legal protection relative to that of other domestic animals, in terms of animal welfare. Therefore, there would be a need to develop a specific legislation for this species.
- The protocol has been used as a support tool to assess the welfare state of the animals and based on the detailed revision of all the cases, it has worked satisfactorily.
- Nevertheless, certain cases manifest a need of clearer assessments and more consistent agreement about the state of the animals in order to avoid delaying actions and fatal consequences for them.
- Might need to strengthen the knowledge of the agents who mostly perform the assessment of the animals.