

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1. Why has DAHD issued these guidelines?

To provide a uniform and enforceable framework ensuring humane treatment of working equines, safety of pilgrims, and prevention of disease risks during large-scale religious pilgrimages.

Q2. Which pilgrimages are covered?

The guidelines primarily apply to **Amarnath Yatra, Char Dham Yatra, Vaishnodevi Yatra, and Manimahesh Yatra**, but States may extend them to other religious/tourism-related journeys involving equines.

Q3. Who contributed to the development of these guidelines?

The guidelines were prepared through a **consultative process with experts, stakeholders, State Governments, AWBI, and ICAR–NRCE, Hisar.**

Q4. What are the health requirements for equines?

All equines must be **registered, tagged, vaccinated, and certified fit** by State Animal Husbandry Departments. Mandatory testing for **glanders and equine influenza** is required before deployment.

Q5. What welfare measures are mandated?

- Rest and water points at every 5 kms.
- Infirmaries and treatment facilities.
- Defined load limits (80–90 kg for horses/mules, 50 kg for ponies, 25 kg for donkeys).
- Ban on spiked/harsh equipment and night movement.

Q6. How will implementation be ensured?

Implementation will be the responsibility of State Governments, Shrine Boards, District Magistrates and SPCAs, with technical guidance and oversight provided by DAHD, AWBI, and ICAR–NRCE.

Q7. Why is equine insurance made mandatory?

Insurance provides financial security for animal owners while ensuring accountability and preventing neglect or overuse of animals.

Q8. How do these guidelines benefit pilgrims?

By ensuring that only healthy, acclimatized, and well-managed equines are used, risks of animal collapse, accidents, and zoonotic disease transmission are minimized, thereby enhancing pilgrim safety.

Q9. When will the guidelines be implemented?

The guidelines come into **immediate effect**, and States are being supported to adopt them before the start of the upcoming yatra seasons.