

### **Duties of the Veterinary Surgeon**

*(Regulations and Orders for the North-West Mounted Police, 1889)*

1. The veterinary Surgeon is responsible for the care of sick horses.
2. The pharmacy and forge are under his management, and he is responsible that the hospital stables are not occupied by other than sick horses.
3. He will have free access to the stables, visiting them frequently, and giving orders respecting ventilation and the exercising of the sick horses. He will communicate to the Commanding Officer anything he may observe as detrimental or can suggest as beneficial to health.
4. All orders given by him respecting the treatment of sick horses, as well as regards the shoeing of the horses in general, are to be strictly complied with, and he must visit the forge frequently. He is responsible that every horse is daily inspected by the veterinary non-commissioned officer of the division, who will report to him any appearance of disease or injury.
5. If a farrier, from carelessness or want of ability, lames a horse or deviates from the prescribed mode of shoeing, or if there is a reason to suspect that any man, either through remissness or evil disposition, has hurt or ill-treated his horse, the Veterinary Surgeon, after examining the wound, will make a report to the Commanding Officer.
6. He is responsible that the veterinary non-commissioned officers and farriers are thoroughly instructed in their duties and that all orders relative to shoeing and care of horses are carried out in their minutest detail.
7. He will deliver lectures on simple veterinary practice weekly during the winter months, and at other times when inspecting posts at which no Veterinary Surgeon is stationed.
8. He will take care that there is always one man per division who can act as assistant to the farrier and two or three duly instructed to act on an emergency.
9. On a march he will daily inspect the shoeing and the backs of the horses.
10. He will inspect the horses of all detachments on leaving and returning to headquarters.
11. He will send a report daily to the orderly room, and will attend there when his services are required by the Commanding Officer.

## **Duties of Veterinary Non-Commissioned Officers**

*(Regulations and Orders for the North-West Mounted Police, 1889)*

1. The veterinary non-commissioned officer is to make a daily inspection of all the horses at the post at which he is stationed. He is to render to the veterinary surgeon, or, in his absence, to the commanding officer, a daily report of the sick and lame, and in any serious case he is to report the symptoms and treatment adopted, for the immediate transmission to the veterinary surgeon.
2. All medicines are to be compounded and administered by him, or under his immediate supervision.
3. He is to report at once to the commanding officer any appearance of glanders, farcy or other contagious disorder, in order that precautionary measures may be taken.
4. The shoeing of horses is under the superintendence of the veterinary non-commissioned officer, who will be responsible that the horses are properly shod, and that the number of each is correctly branded on the near fore hoof.
5. He will frequently examine the quality of the forage, and will superintend the issue thereof to the horses.
6. He is to examine all horses taken on the strength of the division, and will furnish a correct description thereof for entry in the division horse roll.
7. The ventilation of the stables, according to the state of the weather, is a matter of importance, which is under his immediate supervision.

## **Duties of Farriers**

*(Standing Orders, Royal Artillery, 1864)*

-He is, by his steady and soldier-like conduct, to set an example to the shoeing-smiths under his under his charge, over whom he has a perfect authority as far as regards their general conduct, sobriety, attention to their hours of work, manner of performing it. Any disobedience of his orders or attention to their work he will at once take notice of by confining the man to blame, and reporting that he has done so to the Sergeant Major and Quartermaster Sergeant.

-He is to order all medicines, unless under a Veterinary Surgeon, subject to the approval of the officer on duty or Commanding Officer, without whose knowledge no medicines are to be administered, except in cases of necessity.

-He is on no account to shoe a private horse without permission to do so from the Commanding Officer.

-He will attend foot and riding drills once a week.

-On a march he will go round the stables at the first stable hour after arrival, and examine the horses backs, shoulders, shoes, &c.

-He will attend stables at all stable hours.

## **Duties of Shoeing Smiths**

*(Standing Orders, Royal Artillery, 1864)*

-They are to observe implicitly the instructions given them by the Veterinary Surgeon and Farrier.

-They are to go round their sub-divisions every morning at stable hour, and examine their horses' feet, and report to the farrier that they have done so, at the same time reporting any sickness or casualty they may remark among the horses to the Farriers.

-They must be careful that the letters and numbers on the horses hoofs are legible and properly marked, and if not, make the farrier acquainted.

-They must be particularly careful that they never loose their temper so as to strike any horse they may be shoeing or examining.

## References

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