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Design concept of horse arena in Malaysia – A case study

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Abstract. One of the most important facilities required for any equine centre is horse arena. Horse arena is a place where horse doing the exercise. Its a dedicated riding space is useful for training purposes. Equine Center may include an outdoor arena, indoor arena, or both. This paper presents the findings from a case study on the arena design concept throughout Malaysia. A total of fourtytwo (42) Equine Centre throughout the country were selected and visited in the study. The items studied include the types of arena, size of arena, material used for surface and fencing. The results indicated that about 79% of the arena used outdoor design, 31% of the arena had arena size of 20m x 60m ,56% used Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) as the main material of fencing, and almost 74% used sand as types of surface in arena. Then for the indoor arena, the design concept of the roof structure was 79% used gable type of design with 81% used zinc as the roofing material. Generally, it can be said that the design concept of the horse arena in Malaysia depends on the owner needs, activities of the equine centre whether it is use for training or game.

1. Introduction

Arena is the horse doing the exercises and the performance [1]. There are two types of arenas, namely, indoor and outdoor arena. Many horse owners need an area in which to exercise their[2]. Other horse owners need a special area designated for training. A properly designed riding arena can benefit both cases. Specially designed arena or training facilities do not have to be elaborate, but they do need to have a good surface and be developed and constructed so that they are safe for the horse and rider to use [3]. A “perfect” arena surface should be cushioned to minimize concussion on horse legs, and yet be firm enough to provide traction, not too slick, not too dusty, not overly abrasive to horse hooves, resistant to freezing during cold weather, inexpensive to obtain, and easy to maintain [4]. Based on statistic 60% the horse using the arena everyday [5].

According to [6], identified various aspects of arena surfaces that were related to risk of injury in horses and that arena maintenance is important in reducing injury risk. Thus the design arena is very important and must be known. If the design of arena increasingly used for training horses but there is limited knowledge of their effect on performance and injury [7].

2. Horse arena

A horse arena is a significant element to be considered at the earliest planning stage, and it is essential for any horse owner to get it right [6]. The arena can be located outside where exercising or training can be done in the fresh open air, but an arena in a specially designed structure can allow horse training to take place even during inclement weather [3]. A fully enclosed or indoor arena allows