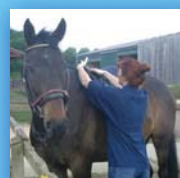
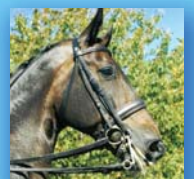
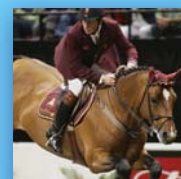
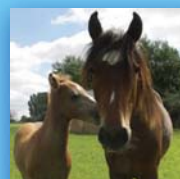
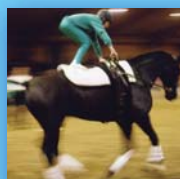
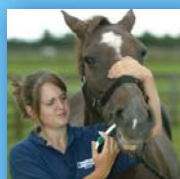


Equine Industry  
Welfare Guidelines  
Compendium for  
Horses, Ponies and  
Donkeys  
(Second Edition)





## **NATIONAL EQUINE WELFARE COUNCIL (NEWC)**

Founded in 1977, the National Equine Welfare Council was established as an important point of contact on equine welfare in the UK. Building on its beginnings as a forum for equine welfare organisations to discuss welfare issues, exchange experiences and air views, NEWC has evolved to become a united voice on equine welfare matters and has significantly increased its advisory and education scope.

From advising individuals, and supporting smaller horse welfare organisations, to making representations to Government, NEWC has an important, proactive role in raising equine welfare standards nationwide. Its membership base of over 60 welfare organisations, includes equine welfare charities large and small throughout the United Kingdom as well as a multitude of organisations from the equestrian and veterinary sectors of the horse industry.

For over a decade NEWC has produced a variety of advisory publications on key equine welfare matters, including Codes of Practice for Welfare Organisations involved in the Keeping of Horses, Ponies and Donkeys, Markets and Sales involved in the selling of Horses, Ponies & Donkeys and a Code of Practice on Tethering Horses & Ponies.

The first edition of the Equine Industry Welfare Guidelines Compendium for Horses, Ponies and Donkeys was published in 2002. NEWC made a major contribution to the preparation and was asked to take the responsibility for future updating and re-publication and in 2004 was given ownership. This second edition is produced as a result of changes in UK and EU legislation

The Compendium is now a well-respected authority on equine welfare standards in the UK. It has been widely received throughout the horse industry and has been used as a reference document for many local authorities, police forces and welfare organisations involved in horse welfare investigations.

The National Equine Welfare Council produces a wide range of advisory literature on many equine welfare matters. If you seek advice on any horse welfare issue or would like further copies of this Compendium please do not hesitate to contact NEWC.

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# FOREWORD

## Equine Industry Welfare Guidelines Compendium for Horses, Ponies and Donkeys

I must first congratulate the industry on the previous edition of this compendium, which I know included contributions from all parts of what is an extremely diverse industry in this country. It was very well received among horse owners and many copies were downloaded from the Internet as well as the 30,000 copies distributed. The compendium managed the very difficult task of drawing together for the first time, guidance and best practice on welfare standards for equine species.

As a horse owner myself, I was very pleased to be appointed as Minister for the Horse Industry and to succeed Alun Michael who I know worked very closely with the horse industry over the last few years. Significant progress continues to be made. The joint industry and Government Strategy for the Horse Industry in England and Wales will, I hope, help to ensure a thriving horse industry for years to come. A new Equine Health and Welfare Strategy should also be published shortly, which will link closely to the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy that sets out the framework for all work on animal health and welfare in Great Britain.

The Government is committed to improving the welfare of animals. That is why we published the draft Animal Welfare Bill. The draft Bill introduces a duty of care for keepers of all animals, including horses, for the first time. Secondary legislation planned under the Bill would bring legislative improvements to welfare standards for establishments such as livery yards.



Jim Knight MP  
**Minister for the Horse Industry**

January 2006

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# PREFACE

The compendium of welfare guidelines has been produced to promote sound welfare and management practices and contains recommendations to assist horse owners, keepers and others to achieve high standards of animal welfare.

The guidelines do not form a statutory code, but relevant legislation is referred to throughout. For ease of reference, this is shown in the shaded boxes.

The legislation quoted in boxes throughout the document is intended to highlight some of the legal requirements. **Readers should be aware that any of the legal requirements quoted might be subject to change - they should seek confirmation before assuming that these are accurate statements of the law currently in force.**

In the UK horses and donkeys are treated as non-food producing animals (non-agricultural) and are therefore not covered by the existing welfare codes for farm animals. However, horses, ponies and donkeys raised specifically for food production or used for farming of land, are accepted as agricultural and are therefore subject to the provisions of the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000 (S.I. 2000 No 1870). Separate but similar legislation applies in Scotland; Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2000 (S.I. 2000 No 442), Wales; Welfare of Farmed Animals (Wales) Regulations 2001 (S.I. 2001 No 2682) and Northern Ireland; Welfare of Farmed Animals (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2000 (S.I. 2000 No 270). These regulations implement the EU Council Directive 98/58/EC, the "general" directive on farmed animal welfare standards. The Directive provides specific minimum welfare standards for farmed animals that have to be applied throughout the EU.

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations, Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations, Welfare of Farmed Animals (Wales) Regulations and Welfare of Farmed Animals (Northern Ireland) Regulations which apply to all farmed animals including horses kept for food production, are considered to be relevant in providing the minimum welfare standard for all

horses irrespective of the purpose for which they are kept. Although this legislation does not apply to horses kept on non-agricultural land nor to horses kept solely for sporting, recreational or exhibition purposes, all owners would be expected to maintain welfare standards at least equivalent to or higher than the legislation.

**Section 8 (1) of the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1968 defines agricultural land**

**'as land used for agriculture (within the meaning of the Agriculture Act 1947) which is so used for the purposes of a trade or business'.**

**And defines livestock**

**'as any creature kept for the production of food, wool, skin or fur or for use in the farming of land'.**

**The Protection of Animals Acts 1911-88 contains the general law relating to cruelty to animals. Broadly it is an offence (under Section 1 of the 1911 Act) to be cruel to any domestic or captive animal by anything that is done or omitted to be done.**

**Section 12(2) of the 1911 Act empowers a police constable to place, in safe custody, animals in the charge of persons apprehended for an offence under the Act until the end of proceedings or the court orders the return of the animals. The reasonable costs involved, including any necessary veterinary treatment, are recoverable by the police from the owner upon conviction.**

**Under section 1 of the Protection of Animals (Amendment) Act 1954, as amended by the 1988 Act, the court has the power to disqualify a person convicted under these Acts from having custody of any animal. The ban can specify a particular kind of animal or all animals for such period as the court thinks fit.**

The Protection of Animals (Amendment) Act 2000 amends the 1911 Protection of Animals Act. The Act only applies to commercial animals, but not to pets - and makes it possible for those prosecuting cases under the Act to apply to a magistrates court for an order giving them care of the animals concerned.

Regulation 10 of the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000 (S.I. 2000 No. 1870) provides that:

- ▶ Any person who employs or engages a person to attend to animals shall ensure that the person attending to the animals:
  - ▶ is acquainted with the provisions of all relevant statutory welfare codes relating to the animals being attended to;
  - ▶ has access to a copy of those codes while he is attending to the animals; and
  - ▶ has received instruction and guidance on those codes.
- ▶ Any person who keeps animals, or who causes or knowingly permits animals to be kept, shall not attend to them unless he has access to all relevant statutory welfare codes relating to the animals while he is attending to them, and is acquainted with the provisions of those codes.

In Regulation 2 it states that 'statutory welfare code' means a code for the time being issued under Section 3 of the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1968.

For Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland see Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2000, Welfare of Farmed Animals (Wales) Regulations 2001 and Welfare of Farmed Animals (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2000.

To cause unnecessary pain or unnecessary distress to any livestock on agricultural land is an offence under Section 1(1) of the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1968. The breach of a code's provisions, whilst not an offence in itself, can nevertheless be used in evidence as tending to establish the guilt of anyone accused of causing the offence of unnecessary pain or distress under the Act (Section 3 (4)).

Regulation 3(1) of the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000 (S.I. 2000 No. 1870) states that owners and keepers of animals shall take all reasonable steps:

- to ensure the welfare of the animals under their care; and

- ▶ to ensure that the animals are not caused any unnecessary pain, suffering or injury.

Regulation 3(3) of the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000 (S.I. 2000 No. 1870) states that:

- ▶ In deciding whether the conditions under which animals are being bred or kept comply with the requirements set out in Schedule 1 of the Regulations, the owner and keeper of the animals shall have regard to their species, and to their degree of development, adaptation and domestication, and to their physiological and ethological needs in accordance with established experience and scientific knowledge.

Regulation 11 of the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000 (S.I. 2000 No. 1870) states that:

- ▶ Where an authorised person considers that animals are being kept in a way which is likely to cause unnecessary pain, suffering or injury, or in any other way in contravention of any provision of these Regulations, he may serve a notice on the person appearing to him to be in charge of the animals requiring that person, within the period stated in the notice, to take any action that the authorised person considers to be reasonably necessary to ensure compliance with these Regulations and the authorised person shall give his reasons for requiring that action to be taken.

Regulation 13(2) of the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000 (S.I. 2000 No. 1870) states that:

- ▶ In any proceedings against an owner or keeper of animals for a failure to comply with Regulation 3(1) or 3(2), the owner or keeper as the case may be, may rely on his compliance with any relevant recommendation contained in a statutory welfare code as tending to establish his compliance with the relevant Regulation.

For Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland see Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2000, Welfare of Farmed Animals (Wales) Regulations 2001 and Welfare of Farmed Animals (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2000.



# INTRODUCTION

- 1 No aspect of horse ownership is more important than ensuring the horses' health and welfare. Owners and keepers of horses have a moral and legal responsibility to care for them and to ensure their physical and mental well being.
- 2 This compendium provides a summary of current legislation as it affects the keeping and welfare of horses, ponies and donkeys and encourages the more rigorous monitoring and enforcement of welfare legislation.
- 3 Advice is provided on the legislation and how it affects the keeping and use of horses, ponies and donkeys and on the guidance available from Government and industry codes of recommendation, conduct, practice and advisory publications.
- 4 The term "horse" is used to include all domestic equine species; horses, ponies, asses (donkeys), hinnies and mules. Reference is generally made to horses, but should be similarly construed for other equids. Specific reference is only made to donkeys where considered necessary.
- 5 The guidance contained in this publication cannot be exhaustive and is not intended as a substitute for expert advice. If further advice is required it should be sought from the appropriate Government, industry or professional body.
- 6 Sporting and competitive activities involving horses are conducted under rules set out by their respective governing bodies. Please refer to the governing body of the particular activity for information as to rules, regulations and codes of conduct (Annex H).
- 7 The horse industry is committed to ensuring that the welfare of all horses is protected by the adoption of good husbandry practices. The sensible use of the guidelines will improve the welfare of horses irrespective of where they are kept and the purpose for which they are used by:
  - (a) providing clear guidance and sources of information on the acceptable standards of care, husbandry and welfare;

(b) by clarifying and therefore enabling the existing legislation protecting the welfare of horses to be more effectively complied with.

- 8 Whilst the guidance is intended to be as helpful as possible, it cannot give a definitive interpretation of the law. Only the Courts have the power to interpret statutory provisions.

## HORSE MANAGEMENT

**Schedule 1, paragraph 1 of the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000 (S.I. 2000 No. 1870) states that:**

**▶ Animals shall be cared for by a sufficient number of staff who possess the appropriate ability, knowledge and professional competence.**

**For Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland see Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2000, Welfare of Farmed Animals (Wales) Regulations 2001 and Welfare of Farmed Animals (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2000.**

- 9 The most significant single influence on the welfare of the horse is the care and management given by the owner or keeper of the horse.
- 10 All horse owners and keepers should be aware of the welfare needs of their horses and be capable of safeguarding them under all foreseeable conditions.
- 11 People working with horses should understand and accept responsibility for the welfare of the horses in their care. Employers have an obligation to train employees with respect to humane handling and animal care.
- 12 Every person responsible for the supervision of horses must be able to recognise early signs of distress or ill health, have a knowledge of the basic equine first aid and have access to a veterinary surgeon, to diagnose and treat any serious illness or injury.



- 13 Management practices should accommodate the natural behaviour of horses, such as their need to graze, their need for exercise and to socialise.

**Table 1: Vital Signs for an Adult Horse at Rest**

Vital Sign	Normal Range	Average
Rectal temperature	37.5-38.5°C (99.5-101.3°F)	38.0°C (100.5°F)
Pulse	28-48 beats/minute	36 beats/minute
Respiration rate	10-14 breaths/minute	12 breaths/minute

Ref: BEVA Recommendations (2005)

**Table 2: Vital Signs for an Adult Donkey at Rest**

Vital Sign	Normal Range	Average
Rectal temperature	36.2-37.8°C (97.2-100°F)	37.1°C (98.8°F)
Pulse	34-68 beats/minute	44 beats/minute
Respiration rate	12-44 breaths/minute	20 breaths/minute

Ref: The Professional Handbook of the Donkey (fourth edition) - The Donkey Sanctuary 2005

▶ Feeding and watering equipment shall be designed, constructed, placed and maintained so that contamination of food and water and the harmful effects of competition between animals are minimised.

▶ No other substance, with the exception of those given for therapeutic or prophylactic purposes or for the purpose of zootechnical treatment, shall be administered to animals unless it has been demonstrated by scientific studies of animal welfare or established experience that the effect of that substance is not detrimental to the health or welfare of the animals.

For Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland see Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2000, Welfare of Farmed Animals (Wales) Regulations 2001 and Welfare of Farmed Animals (Northern Ireland) Regulations

## FEED & WATER

Schedule 1, paragraphs 22-27 of the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000 (S.I. 2000 No. 1870) state that;

- ▶ Animals shall be fed a wholesome diet which is appropriate to their age and species and which is fed to them in sufficient quantity to maintain them in good health, to satisfy their nutritional needs and to promote a positive state of well-being.
- ▶ No animals shall be provided with food or liquid in a manner, nor shall such food or liquid contain any substance, which may cause them unnecessary suffering or injury.
- ▶ All animals shall have access to feed at intervals appropriate to their physiological needs (and, in any case, at least once a day), except where a veterinary surgeon acting in the exercise of his profession otherwise directs.
- ▶ All animals shall either have access to a suitable water supply and be provided with an adequate supply of fresh drinking water each day or be able to satisfy their fluid intake needs by other means.

- 14 Every horse must have free access to a supply of fresh, clean drinking water to meet its individual maintenance and activity requirements. The exception being when access to water may need to be withdrawn for short periods of time during exercise and transport. Where tethered animals do not have free access to a supply of water, this should be offered to them at frequent intervals.

- 15 A horse's daily water requirements may range from 20 to 70 litres, depending on air temperature and humidity, bodyweight, level of activity and health.
- 16 Every horse must be offered daily an appropriate ration of food, to maintain its body condition at between Body Condition Score 2 and 4 (See Annex C Horses & Annex D Donkeys).
- 17 Every horse's daily feed ration must take into account type and size of animal, maintenance and activity needs and other factors considered relevant to the individual animal and its environment.
- 18 Horses are "trickle feeders" and should have access to forage feed during most of their non-active hours. This may be fresh grass, hay, haylage or straw as appropriate or preferred.

## HEALTH

## GENERAL

Schedule 1, paragraph 5 of the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000 (S.I. No 1870) states that any animals which appear to be ill or injured:

- ▶ shall be cared for appropriately without delay; and
- ▶ where they do not respond to such care, veterinary advice shall be obtained as soon as possible.

Schedule 1, paragraph 7 of the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000 (S.I. No. 1870) states that a record shall be maintained of:

- ▶ any medicinal treatment given to animals, and
- ▶ the number of mortalities found on each inspection of animals carried out in accordance with the provisions in Schedule 1, paragraph 2.

Schedule 1, paragraph 8 states that the record referred to in Schedule 1, paragraph 7 shall be retained for a period of at least three years from the date on which the medical treatment was given, or the date of the inspection, as the case may be, and shall be made available to an authorised person when carrying out an inspection or when otherwise requested by such person.

For Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland see Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2000, Welfare of Farmed Animals (Wales) Regulations 2001 and Welfare of Farmed Animals (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2000.

## INSPECTION

Schedule 1, paragraph 2 of the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000 (S.I. No. 1870) requires that:

- ▶ All animals kept in husbandry systems in which their welfare depends on frequent human attention shall be thoroughly inspected at least once a day to check that they are in a state of well-being; and
- ▶ Animals kept in systems other than husbandry systems in which their welfare depends on frequent human attention shall be inspected at intervals sufficient to avoid any suffering.

For Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland see Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2000, Welfare of Farmed Animals (Wales) Regulations 2001 and Welfare of Farmed Animals (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2000.

- 19 Horses kept in stables and yards should be inspected for signs of injury and ill health **at least twice a day**.
- 20 Horses turned out in paddocks should be inspected for body condition, signs of injury, ill health, ill-fitting halters and rugs and the availability of food and water **at least once a day**.
- 21 Mares in late pregnancy should be checked **at least twice daily** for signs of impending foaling and far more frequently as the time of foaling approaches.
- 22 Tethered horses should be inspected for signs of injury, ill health, availability of water, food, shelter and shade **at least twice a day**, or more frequently during periods of hot dry weather, when additional water may be required.
- 23 Horses, including semi-feral horses, grazed extensively on semi-natural habitats including heathland and moorland, should be inspected for body condition, hoof condition, signs of injury, ill-health, ill-fitting halters and the availability of food and water **at least once a week** and preferably daily. Horses with halters and/or rugs should not be grazed extensively unless they can be inspected every day.

- 24** A veterinary surgeon should be consulted urgently by the owner or person in charge of the horse if there are any signs of:
- ▶ acute abdominal pain or colic
  - ▶ serious injury involving deep wounds, severe haemorrhage, suspected bone fractures or damage to the eyes
  - ▶ evidence of straining for more than 30 minutes by a mare due to foal
  - ▶ inability to rise or stand
  - ▶ inability or abnormal reluctance to move
  - ▶ severe diarrhoea
  - ▶ prolonged/abnormal sweating, high temperature, anxiety, restlessness, loss of appetite
  - ▶ any other signs of acute pain or injury
  - ▶ respiratory distress

- 25** A veterinary surgeon should be consulted within 48 hours of the owner or person in charge becoming aware of the following conditions:

- ▶ marked lameness that has not responded to normal first aid treatment
- ▶ injury that has not responded to normal first aid treatment
- ▶ signs suspicious of strangles or other infectious disease, nasal discharge, raised temperature, enlarged lymph nodes, cough
- ▶ sustained loss of appetite
- ▶ persistent weight loss
- ▶ skin conditions that have not responded to treatment, including saddle sores and girth galls
- ▶ other sub-acute illness or injury

## CONDITION SCORING

- 26** A horse's body condition should be maintained between Body Condition Score 2 and 4 on a scale of 0 Very Poor to 5 Very Fat (See: Annex C Horses) A donkey's body condition should be maintained at Body Condition Score 3 on a scale of 1 Poor to 5 Obese (See Annex D Donkeys).
- 27** For any horse not under veterinary direction, a condition score below 2 is unacceptable. The horse should not be worked and should be placed on a sufficient and appropriate feeding programme to raise its condition score to a minimum of 2.
- 28** Horses should not be permitted to reach a condition score of 5. Where identified, they should be placed on an appropriate less-than-maintenance diet.

## LAMENESS

- 29** Lameness is usually an indication of pain and if not promptly diagnosed and treated may lead to unnecessary suffering.
- 30** Advice from a veterinary surgeon should be sought and acted upon at the earliest opportunity.

## FOOT CARE

**The Farriers (Registration) Act 1975 and Farriers Registration (Amendment) Act 1977 makes it an offence for anyone who is not registered to carry out farriery. Farriery is defined as any work in connection with the preparation or treatment of the foot of a horse for the immediate reception of a shoe thereon, the fitting by nailing or otherwise of a shoe to the foot or the finishing off of such work to the foot. The definition does not include trimming the foot if there is no intention of immediately fitting a shoe.**

- 31** Hooves should be trimmed as often as is necessary to maintain the health of the foot. The frequency of hoof trimming will depend on such factors as age, time of year, nutrition, management and injury.
- 32** There are fundamental differences in the structure and treatment of donkeys' hooves and specialist advice should be sought if the attending farrier or veterinary surgeon is not experienced in donkey foot care.
- 33** As a guide hooves should be checked, trimmed and shoes renewed if present, by a registered farrier every 4-8 weeks. The Farriers Registration Council maintains a register of Farriers.

## DENTAL CARE

- 34** Horses' teeth should be examined at least annually. Uneven wear and abnormalities of teeth should not be allowed to interfere with normal eating habits. Dental care will depend on such factors as age, nutrition and management system. Dental care deemed as an act of veterinary surgery may only be performed by a Veterinary Surgeon.

**35** As the law currently stands lay people (i.e. non-veterinarians) may only undertake procedures which do not amount to the practice of veterinary surgery. These include:

- ▶ Examination of teeth
- ▶ Routine rasping (excluding power rasping)
- ▶ Removal of sharp enamel points, small dental overgrowths such as hooks less than 5mm and spurs
- ▶ Bit seat shaping
- ▶ Removal of loose deciduous caps
- ▶ Removal of supragingival calculus

**36** The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has, however, consulted interested parties on introducing measures to regulate the carrying out of other equine dental procedures by trained lay persons. These measures are not yet in force, but in the meanwhile Defra in consultation with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) has approved courses currently being run by the British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA) and the Worldwide Association of Equine Dentists (WWAED). The courses provide training and examination in certain more advanced procedures such as:

- ▶ Extraction of loose teeth and wolf teeth
- ▶ Dental hook removal (removal of large dental overgrowths over 5mm tall and involving at least 50% of the occlusal surface, including overgrowth of the whole tooth)
- ▶ Techniques requiring the use of dental shears, inertia hooks and powered dental instruments

**37** Defra is also progressing an Exemption Order to the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 to allow properly trained and competent lay people to undertake, subject to certain conditions, certain acts of equine dentistry which are currently considered acts of veterinary surgery. Certain advanced procedures will continue to be considered acts of veterinary surgery and will not be deregulated, for example,

- ▶ any procedure involving incisions, except incisions for the purpose of intra-oral extraction of teeth under veterinary supervision
- ▶ any procedure more hazardous than those listed in the category suitable for delegation. For example, extraction of teeth by repulsion and repair of mandibular fractures.

## INTERNAL PARASITES

**38** Internal parasites should be controlled by grazing management and anthelmintic treatment administered at appropriate times based upon the lifecycle of the parasite.

**39** Advice on appropriate treatment, timing and steps to avoid the development of anthelmintic-resistant worms should be sought from a veterinary surgeon or specialist adviser. Not all horse anthelmintics are licenced for use in donkeys.

## EXTERNAL PARASITES

**40** Where external parasites occur, such as lice or mites, prompt diagnosis and treatment should be undertaken in consultation with a veterinary surgeon.

## VACCINATIONS

**41** There are five diseases of horses for which vaccination is currently available: Tetanus, Equine influenza (flu), Equine herpesvirus (EHV), Equine viral arteritis (EVA) and Strangles.

**42** **Tetanus**, otherwise known as 'lockjaw', is a fatal disease of horses caused by toxins produced when spores of the bacteria, *Clostridium tetani*, multiply within deep penetration wounds. The toxins produce paralysing muscle spasm and cause death by respiratory arrest.

**43** All horses are at risk from tetanus and should be vaccinated. There are various vaccination regimes, which vary according to the make of vaccine used. They all recommend a primary course of 2 injections 4-5 weeks apart followed by boosters at intervals varying from 1 to 3 years depending on the particular brand of vaccine and the risk circumstances.

**44** In situations where there is a risk of a horse developing tetanus, and there is any doubt about the tetanus vaccination history or if there has been inadequate time for immunity to develop since vaccination, Tetanus Antitoxin (TAT) should be given to provide emergency protection against the disease.

**45** **Influenza** virus causes outbreaks of respiratory disease with clinical signs of depression, fever, nasal discharge and severe dry coughing. Additional complicating infections with bacteria may also occur. It may occasionally be fatal.

- 46** All horses are at risk from Equine Influenza and should receive a primary course of two vaccinations 4-6 weeks apart followed by a booster 6 months after the primary course and every 12 months thereafter. To provide optimum immunity in young racehorses in training an additional 6 month, rather than 12 month, booster after the third vaccination of the primary course may be required before adopting routine annual boosters.
- 47** The Jockey Club, FEI and other sporting disciplines have compulsory rules regarding influenza vaccination.
- 48** **Equine herpesvirus** affects all ages and types of horse. Equine herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1) is especially important in pregnant mares where it causes abortion. In newborn foals the virus can also cause serious, often fatal, disease. In horses of all ages it causes respiratory disease and paralysis that may result in affected horses having to be destroyed. Infection with equine herpesvirus-4 (EHV-4), a related but different virus, causes respiratory disease but rarely abortion or paralysis.
- 49** EHV vaccination is an important consideration as a disease control measure, particularly in groups of competition or breeding horses. Veterinary advice should be sought regarding the need for and benefit of vaccination. The vaccination regime (using a combined vaccine against EHV-1 and EHV-4) consists of a primary course of 2 injections, 4-5 weeks apart; thereafter 6 monthly booster vaccinations should be administered. To prevent abortion mares should be vaccinated in months 5, 7 and 9 of pregnancy. Vaccines are not currently licensed for prevention or control of EHV-1 neurological disease.
- 50** **Equine viral arteritis (EVA)** can cause fever, depression, inflammation in and around the eyes ('pink eye'), swelling of the legs, head and genitals, and abortion and disease of new-born foals. Under UK law, the disease is notifiable (see section of Notifiable Diseases) in shedding stallions and in mares that have been served 14 days before the suspected presence of the disease. Prevention and control of the disease in the UK is based on the Horserace Betting Levy Board (HBLB) Code of Practice on Equine Viral Arteritis.
- 51** The main aim of EVA vaccination is to protect stallions from infection and prevent them becoming shedders (a potential source of infection whilst showing no clinical signs). Blood tests cannot differentiate between horses that have been infected naturally and those that have been vaccinated. Therefore, it is important that horses are blood-tested to show them to be free from EVA before vaccination. Vaccination regime consists of a primary course of 2 injections, 3-4 weeks apart. With breeding stallions, they should receive the second vaccine 3 weeks prior to breeding and subsequent annual boosters 3 weeks prior to breeding.
- 52** **Strangles**, is a respiratory infection of horses caused by the bacterium *Streptococcus equi* (*S. equi*). It is a very common and highly contagious disease affecting horses of all ages and types. Signs of disease include fever, depression, loss of appetite, nasal discharge, usually little coughing, and swollen lymph nodes around the throat that form abscesses, which can cause difficulties with breathing and swallowing which may be life threatening. Abscesses may also form at other sites around the body including the abdomen, chest and brain. This form of the disease is known as 'bastard strangles' and may be fatal. Not all horses develop abscesses, infection may cause a much milder disease that can go unrecognised. These horses transmit infection and are just as dangerous as those with severe disease.
- 53** All horses are at risk from Strangles and once inside a stable yard, the infection can spread quickly through direct contact between horses or via indirect contact by tack and stable equipment, shared drinking bowls and feed, clothing and by contact with other animals, pets and humans.
- 54** Strangles is invariably difficult to treat and depends on supportive care, good stable management and hygiene as determined by the attending veterinary surgeon. "Recovered" horses can harbour and transmit *S. equi* with no outward clinical signs resulting in new or recurrent outbreaks. These are referred to as 'carriers' and are the main way in which the infection is maintained in horse populations. The management measures that should be followed are detailed in the HBLB Guidelines on Strangles.
- 55** Strangles vaccination is an important additional disease control measure for horses that are considered to be at high risk e.g. horses within an area known to have a lot of Strangles circulating or horses that travel extensively or are kept in yards with large numbers of horses moving in and out of the yard, e.g. some livery yards and studs. Veterinary advice should be sought regarding the need for and benefits of vaccination. The vaccination regime consists of a primary course of two vaccinations four weeks apart and re-vaccination every three or six months dependent upon the risk.
- See:** Codes of Practice on Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM), Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA), Equine Herpesvirus-1 (EHV) and Guidelines on Strangles (HBLB 2005) Annex E.

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

The following diseases are Notifiable as laid down by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs in The Infectious Diseases of Horses Order 1987 and The Equine Viral Arteritis Order 1995. This means that owners have a legal obligation to report the presence of the relevant symptoms in their animals:

- ▶ African Horse Sickness
- ▶ Anthrax
- ▶ Contagious Equine Metritis
- ▶ Dourine
- ▶ Epizootic Lymphangitis
- ▶ Equine Infectious Anaemia
- ▶ Equine Viral Arteritis\*
- ▶ Equine Viral Encephalomyelitis
- ▶ Glanders (including farcy)
- ▶ Rabies
- ▶ Vesicular Stomatitis

\* Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA) is a Notifiable Disease in certain circumstances under the Equine Viral Arteritis Order 1995. The notification requirements are complex but, essentially, it is a legal requirement to notify Defra when:

- ▶ it is known or suspected that a stallion has the disease or is a carrier of the virus
- ▶ it is known or suspected that a mare, which has been mated or subjected to artificial insemination in the last 14 days, has become infected with the virus.

**56** If it is suspected that any animal may be suffering from a Notifiable Disease then there is a legal requirement to notify a Divisional Veterinary Manager (DVM) of Defra.

**See:** Codes of Practice on Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM), *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA), Equine Herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1) and Guidelines on Strangles (HBLB 2005)

## CASUALTIES

It is a general offence under the Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995 (S.I. 1995 No. 731) as amended by the Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) (Amendment) Regulations 1990 (S.I. 1999 No. 400), to cause or permit any avoidable excitement, pain or suffering to any animal during slaughter or

killing (regulation 4 (1)). The general offence applies in all cases, but the detailed provisions in respect of the method of slaughter or killing do not apply when an animal has to be killed immediately for emergency reasons (regulation 13 (2)).

When an animal is slaughtered or killed on-farm, this must be done using a permitted method. The animal could be:

- ▶ stunned using a captive bolt pistol or concussion stunner after which it must be followed by bleeding or pithing without delay (Regulation 14 and Schedules 5 (Part II) and 6). If the animal is stunned and bled, the operation must be carried out by a slaughterman licensed for these operations (Schedule 1), unless the owner is slaughtering an animal for his own consumption; or
- ▶ killed by a free bullet (Regulation 15 and Schedule 5 part III); the animal should be killed with a single shot to the head.

**57** An unfit horse may be transported only if it is being taken for veterinary treatment/diagnosis and then only provided it is transported in a way which is not going to cause it further suffering, under veterinary supervision.

Articles 4(1) and 6(1) of the Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order 1997 (S.I. 1997 No. 1480) respectively provide that:

- ▶ No person shall transport any animal in a way which causes or is likely to cause injury or unnecessary suffering to that animal.
- ▶ No person shall transport any animal unless:
  - ▶ it is fit for the intended journey; and
  - ▶ suitable provision has been made for its care during the journey and on arrival at the place of destination.
- ▶ For these purposes an animal shall not be considered fit for its intended journey if it is ill, injured, infirm or fatigued, unless it is only slightly ill, injured, infirm or fatigued and the intended journey is not likely to cause unnecessary suffering.
- ▶ Notwithstanding the above, any horses may be transported to the nearest available place for veterinary treatment or diagnosis, or to the nearest available place of slaughter, if the animal is not likely to be subject to unnecessary suffering by reason of its unfitness. However, an animal so transported may not be



dragged or pushed by any means, or lifted by a mechanical device, unless this is done in the presence and under the supervision of a veterinary surgeon who is arranging for it to be transported with all practicable speed to a place for veterinary treatment.

## HUMANE DESTRUCTION

- 58** Humane destruction may be necessary due to old age and infirmity or because of suffering from an ailment or condition where it is no longer humane to keep the animal alive. A veterinary surgeon may be consulted and can advise when the time has come and on the most appropriate method of euthanasia.
- 59** Horses can be destroyed by lethal injection or three alternative methods that are; shooting with a free bullet, shooting with a humane killer (a specific type of free bullet weapon) or stunning with a captive bolt pistol (humane stunner) followed by pithing or bleeding. A knackerman, hunt kennelman or veterinary surgeon can use a free bullet providing they possess a suitable firearms certificate. The use of a humane killer or captive bolt 'in the cause or furtherance of a business or for reward' requires a slaughter licence under the Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995. Veterinary surgeons are exempt from the requirement of a slaughter licence. Lethal injection may only be carried out by a veterinary surgeon and with the drug injected intravenously, normally inducing a quick and painless death.
- In an emergency, where an animal might suffer if appropriate action was not taken, a competent person may use a firearm if licensed or captive bolt without a slaughter licence.
- 60** The Protection of Animals Act 1911, Section II, states that in the absence of the owner, a Police Constable, acting on the advice of a registered veterinary surgeon, may order the destruction of a horse. This is to avoid unnecessary suffering to a severely injured horse.
- See:** Farewell - Making the right Decision (HSA 1999) Humane Destruction of the Horse (RSCPA) Annex E. An Explanatory Guide to the Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995 (Defra) Annex F.

## FALLEN STOCK

- 61** All horses when they die (unless they are kept as pets) must be disposed of without delay in accordance with the Animal By-Products Regulations 2003. This means that they must be delivered to a premises approved under the regulations for proper collection and disposal (e.g. hunt kennels, knacker yard, rendering plant or incinerator operator). When a horse has been destroyed by lethal injection it should ideally be incinerated. Whichever route is used, the collector must be told that the horse has been destroyed by lethal injection, as any animals fed from the carcass could be severely affected from the drug residues.
- 62** The definition of a pet animal given within the regulations is: any animal belonging to species normally nourished and kept, but not consumed, by humans for purposes other than farming. Whilst it can be argued that humans within the UK do not consume horses, the UK does export horses for human consumption. Although, under a strict interpretation the EU regulation would, therefore, ban the burial of 'pet' horses, it is expected that local authorities, who enforce the legislation, will take a pragmatic approach and deal with such cases flexibly. You may wish to contact your local authority (Animal Health Office) before making a decision about disposal of a horse which you consider you be a pet, as in restricted circumstances burial may be possible.
- See:** Contact details of all Local Authorities can be found at <http://www.direct.gov.uk>
- 63** The National Fallen Stock Scheme (See: Annex I) is a voluntary scheme open to all farmers, horse owners, businesses and establishments and will assist horse owners in making arrangements for the disposal of their animals at the end of their lives.

## VETERINARY TREATMENT

- 64** The Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 states (Section 19) that 'no individual shall practice, or hold himself out as practising or as being prepared to practice, veterinary surgery unless he/she is registered in the Register of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) or the Supplementary Veterinary Register'.
- 65** Section 19 of the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 makes it unlawful for anyone other than a registered veterinary surgeon to practice veterinary



surgery. There are, however, a number of exceptions to this rule.

Some of the exceptions are in Schedule 3 to the Act, which lists a number of veterinary procedures, which may be carried out by non-veterinarians. They include:

- “Any minor medical treatment given to an animal by its owner, by another member of the household of which the owner is a member or by a person in the employment of the owner” (Paragraph 1).
- “Any medical treatment or any minor surgery (not involving entry into the body cavity) given, other than for reward, to an animal used in agriculture, as defined in the Agriculture Act 1947, by the owner of the animal or by a person engaged or employed in caring for animals so used” (Paragraph 2).
- “The rendering in an emergency of first aid for the purpose of saving life or relieving pain or suffering” (Paragraph 3).
- “Any medical treatment or any minor surgery (not involving entry into a body cavity) given or applied to any animal by a veterinary nurse”, under veterinary direction and subject to a number of other conditions.

**66** Schedule 3 does not allow the castration of a horse, pony, ass or mule by anyone other than a veterinary surgeon.

**67** Other exceptions are in exemption orders made by Ministers. In particular, the Veterinary Surgery (Exemptions) Order 1962 permits “any treatment by physiotherapy given to an animal by a person acting under the direction of a [veterinary surgeon] who has examined the animal and has prescribed the treatment of the animal by physiotherapy”. Chiropractors and osteopaths are generally regarded as providing “physiotherapy” so far as the exemption order is concerned.

## MANAGEMENT

### GENERAL

- 68** All fields and buildings should be kept clear of debris such as wire, rope, baler twine, plastic or other similar materials, which could be harmful to horses.
- 69** All animals should be able to rest in comfort and have protection from extremes of heat and cold and wet weather, as appropriate for the species.

**70** Not all horses have the same requirements, domestic horses are generally less hardy than semi-feral or native ponies and are less able to withstand extremes of cold, wind and wet. Donkeys can reasonably withstand cold, but are intolerant of heavy rain. Very young and very old animals will be more susceptible to climatic extremes and require extra consideration.

**71** Animals not kept in buildings should be given protection, where necessary, from adverse weather conditions.

## SHELTER

**72** Effective shelter will afford protection against cold winds, driving rain and, during the summer months, will provide shade and protection.

**73** Shelter may be provided by any of the following: shelter belts, trees, hedges, walls, purpose-built shelters (open fronted shelters and windbreaks), rugs (waterproof turnout rugs). If horses wear rugs they should be removed and replaced daily and checked regularly to ensure that they are not causing injury or discomfort from rubbing or slipping.

**74** The lack of adequate shelter and feeding can result in cold stress, discomfort, weight loss (loss of body condition) and increased susceptibility to disease.

**Schedule 1, paragraph 17 of the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000 (S.I. 2000 No. 1870) states that:**

**► Animals not kept in buildings shall, where necessary and possible, be given protection from adverse weather conditions, predators and risks to their health and shall, at all times, have access to a well-drained lying area.**

**For Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland see Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2000, Welfare of Farmed Animals (Wales) Regulations 2001 and Welfare of Farmed Animals (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2000.**

## PASSPORTS

**75** The Horse Passports (England) Regulations 2004 require all owners to obtain a passport for each horse they own. This includes ponies, donkeys and other equidae but excludes zebras and other non-domestic equidae. Horses require a passport by the 31st December in the year of birth or by 6 months of age, whichever is later. The keeper of the horse has to ensure that it is accompanied by its passport:

- ▶ when it is moved out of the UK;
- ▶ when it is used for the purposes of competition or breeding;
- ▶ when it is moved to the premises of a new keeper;
- ▶ when it is consigned to slaughter for human consumption.

If the horse is ultimately intended for human consumption, the details of veterinary medicines used will have to be recorded, by the person administering the medicine, in the passport. No horse will be able to be slaughtered for human consumption unless six months have elapsed since any drugs without a withdrawal period have been administered to the horse, or in the case of drugs with a withdrawal period, that any withdrawal period has been observed.

- 76** In addition whenever the horse is given veterinary treatment of the type listed in sections V to VII of the Schedule to the Order, the owner of the horse has to ensure that the veterinary surgeon giving the treatment completes the relevant part of the horse passport. These sections of the Schedule cover some vaccinations and laboratory health tests.
- 77** For welfare reasons a veterinary surgeon is able to treat a horse in the absence of a horse passport. Details of medication administered/prescribed must be passed to the owner for inclusion into the passport when it becomes available.
- 78** After purchasing a horse, the buyer must send its horse passport to the recognised organisation of issue within 28 days of the sale, with details of the new owner, and the recognised organisation must complete the details of ownership and re-issue it to the new owner.
- 79** A valid horse passport must accompany all horses leaving the UK. The owner or their representative must sign the Declaration in the passport. The Passport Issuing Organisation (PIO) must countersign the passport before export.
- 80** Passports may only be issued by organisations authorised as a PIO by Defra, National Assembly for Wales or Scottish Executive. A list of PIOs can be found at <http://www.defra.gov.uk>. No horse may have more than one passport, although over stamping the passport may indicate registration with additional organisations and societies.
- 81** The National Equine Database (NED) contains details of passports issued in the UK and can assist with the identification of abandoned animals and with disease surveillance and control in the event of an outbreak of a notifiable or exotic disease. (See: Annex I).

## IDENTIFICATION

- 82** The permanent identification of all horses is encouraged as it serves as legal proof of identity and is necessary to maintain adequate health and breeding records.
- 83** The most widely used identification system is a physical description using colour markings, breed and position of hair whorls and scars. The passport includes a silhouette which needs to be completed to record these details.
- 84** Other identification systems include; lip tattooing, hoof branding (for temporary identification) and microchips (transponders) implanted under the skin requiring scanning for identification.
- 85** Freeze branding produces a permanent mark on the skin, the hair re-growing in a lighter colour or leaving a bald area in the case of grey horses.
- 86** Hot branding produces a permanent mark where the hair re-grows in a different pattern than on the surrounding skin and is currently the accepted method for identifying semi-feral ponies.

**See:** Guide to the Horse Passport (England) Regulations 2004 (Defra) Annex F.

## HANDLING

- 87** Horses should be handled quietly, with care and patience, to avoid injury, pain or distress.
- 88** Handling and restraining devices must be used humanely and with regard to the horse's natural movement, temperament and physical capabilities.
- 89** All tack and handling equipment should be maintained in good functional condition.
- 90** All halters, head collars and other equipment used to restrain or handle horses should be fitted with a method of quick release in case a horse becomes entangled in the equipment.
- 91** Where animals are kept in a semi-feral state and are not halter broken (such as those used in conservation grazing), special handling facilities may be required for routine management (e.g. worming or hoof trimming) and treatment of minor ailments. These should be built for the purpose and designed to induce the least amount of stress to the animal and to avoid danger to either animals or handlers. The use of narcotics and dart guns should be avoided for routine procedures and only authorised in emergency situations.

## TACK & EQUIPMENT

- 92** All tack and equipment used to handle, drive, or ride horses should be well fitted without causing the horse pain, discomfort or fear and should be maintained in good functional condition.
- 93** All horse clothing should be fitted correctly, to minimise slipping or rubbing and causing discomfort and the risk of entanglement.
- 94** All tack and equipment should be assessed for their suitability and fit before use. All equipment must be used humanely and with regard to the horse's natural movement, temperament and physical capabilities.

## FENCING

- 95** Yards and pastures should be properly fenced to confine horses. The suitability of fencing varies according to the disposition of the horses, as well as stocking density and paddock/pasture size. Fences should form both a physical and visible barrier to minimise the potential for injuries.
- 96** Fences should be maintained in good repair. Fences and gates should be maintained to prevent horses from gaining access to roadways; perimeter gates should be kept closed and preferably locked.
- 97** Barbed wire and narrow gauge high tensile steel wire, because of their cutting, non-stretching and non-breaking properties, can cause severe injury to horses. These materials may be used for fencing in extensive, pasture grazing situations. In closely confined situations they are not recommended.
- 98** Horses should be introduced to unfamiliar fenced areas during daylight hours to reduce the risk of injury.
- 99** Electric fencing units should be installed and maintained according to the manufacturer's specification. Only electric fencing that is designed for use with horses should be used.
- 100** All power units for electric fences must be effectively grounded to prevent short circuits and/or electricity being conducted to unwanted places, i.e. gates and water troughs.
- 101** Horses should be supervised when first introduced to electric fencing.

## NOXIOUS WEEDS

The Weeds Act 1959 states that the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food,<sup>1</sup> if satisfied that injurious weeds are growing upon any land, may serve a notice<sup>2</sup> requiring the occupier to take action in order to prevent the spread of those weeds. Any unreasonable failure to comply with a notice is an offence. The weeds that this legislation applies to are:

- ▶ Spear thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*);
- ▶ Creeping or field thistle (*Cirsium arvense*);
- ▶ Curled dock (*Rumex crispus*);
- ▶ Broad-leaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*);
- ▶ Common ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*).<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The Act also includes the Secretary of State for Wales, although this responsibility now lies with the Welsh Assembly.

<sup>2</sup> The Highways Agency of the Department for Transport is responsible for weed control on motorways and trunk roads. In the case of infestations on minor roads, this will be the responsibility of the appropriate local authority for that area.

<sup>3</sup> The Secretary of State is empowered to add to this list where necessary.

**102** Common Ragwort is one of the injurious weeds covered by the provisions of The Weeds Act 1959. Ragwort is poisonous to horses, ponies donkeys and other livestock, and causes liver damage, which can have potentially fatal consequences.

**103** Under the Act the Secretary of State may serve an enforcement notice on the occupier of land on which injurious weeds are growing, requiring the occupier to take action to prevent the spread of injurious weeds.

The Ragwort Control Act 2004 enables the Secretary of State to make a Code of Practice to prevent the spread of Ragwort. The Code of Practice on How to Prevent the Spread of Ragwort was published in July 2004.

Under the Ragwort Control Act, the Code is admissible in enforcement proceedings under the Weeds Act, which will make it easier to prosecute those who disregard the need to control Ragwort. Similarly, those who have followed the guidance laid down in the Code, would be able to use this in their defence in any Court proceedings.

**104** The Code provides comprehensive guidance on how to develop a strategic and more cost-effective approach to weed control and gives advice on: identification, risk assessment and priorities for ragwort control, control methods their suitability

and efficacy, environmental considerations and health and safety issues. The Code is supplemented with a guidance note on the disposal options for ragwort.

**See:** [www.defra.gov.uk/envirom/weedsact/guidance.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/envirom/weedsact/guidance.htm)

Code of Practice on how to prevent the spread of Ragwort (Defra 2004). Guidance note on disposal options for Ragwort (Defra 2005)

## TETHERING

**The Protection Against Cruel Tethering Act 1988** protects horses, asses and mules against cruel tethering. Under the act it is an offence to tether any horse, pony, ass or mule under such conditions or in such a manner as to cause that animal unnecessary suffering. The Act applies only to England and Wales.

**105** The Act does not give any greater protection than that given under the protection of Animals Act 1911. The landowner (or their authorised agent) may take action in the case of horses tethered without the landowners permission. This involves impounding in which stray animals are contained and dealt with safely.

**106** Tethering can be defined as securing an animal by an appropriately attached chain or rope, to a secure point or anchorage, causing it to be confined to a desired area.

**107** Horses are commonly tethered or 'tied up' in a housed (confined) environment either in stables as a temporary method of restraint, in stalls as a means of containment or whilst travelling (being transported). Tethering in an open environment at grass or whilst grazing is not a suitable method of long-term management, as it restricts the animal's freedom to exercise itself, to find food and water, or to escape from either predators or the extremes of hot and cold weather. It also risks an animal becoming entangled, or injuring itself, on tethering equipment. As a short-term method of animal management horses can be tethered at grass or whilst grazing under strict guidelines and regular supervision.

**See:** Code of Practice on Tethering Horses and Ponies (NEWC 2005) Annex E.

## CLIPPING

**108** Those undertaking the clipping of horses should be experienced, competent and have received training in clipping techniques. A suitably competent person should supervise inexperienced operators. When clipping care should be taken

not to cut the skin of the horse. Where a wound does occur immediate treatment should be given.

**109** Clipping operators should clean and disinfect their equipment between horses to minimise the risk of spreading disease.

**110** Horses that are clipped need to have adequate protection from the weather by housing and the use of field and stable rugs.

## CASTRATION

Under the Protection of Animals (Anaesthetics) Act 1954, as amended, it is an offence to castrate horses without the use of an anaesthetic.

Under the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966, as amended, only a veterinary surgeon may castrate a horse.

## DOCKING & NICKING

Under the Nicking of Horses Act 1949, the "docking" (deliberate removal of any bone or any part of a bone from the tail) and "nicking" (deliberate severing of any tendon or muscle in the tail) is prohibited. The only exception being where a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons after examination of the horse, has certified in writing that the operation is in his opinion necessary for the health of the horse because of injury to the tail.

The Act also places restrictions on landing docked horses. The Act states that no docked horse coming from a place outside the United Kingdom shall be landed from a ship or aircraft unless the landing is permitted by an officer of Customs and Exercise or licensed by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. A licence shall not be granted unless the horse is to be exported as soon as practicable or it is intended that the horse is to be used for breeding purposes.

**See:** Summary of Law Relating to Farm Animal Welfare (Defra 1996) Annex A.

## BREEDING

Schedule 1, paragraph 28 of the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000 (S.I. No. 1870) states that:

▶ Subject to sub-paragraph 2, natural or artificial breeding or breeding procedures which cause, or are likely to cause, suffering or injury to any of the animals concerned shall not be practised.

▷ Sub-paragraph 1 shall not preclude the use of natural or artificial breeding procedures that are likely to cause minimal or momentary suffering or injury or that might necessitate interventions which would not cause lasting injury.

Schedule 1, paragraph 29 states that:

▷ No animal shall be kept for farming purposes unless it can reasonably be expected, on the basis of their genotype or phenotype, that they can be kept without detrimental effect on their health or welfare.

For Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland see Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2000, Welfare of Farmed Animals (Wales) Regulations 2001 and Welfare of Farmed Animals (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2000.

## PREGNANCY AND FOALING

- 111** Reproductive management should be based on several factors including size, age, health, previous performance and genetic potential. Over-production is the root cause of many welfare problems and indiscriminate breeding is to be discouraged.
- 112** Where in-hand breeding or artificial insemination is practised, proper heat checking and restraining devices should be available to facilitate easy and effective heat detection, veterinary inspection and/or insemination.
- 113** Facilities used for in-hand breeding should ensure the safety of both horses and handlers. This includes secure footing and adequate ceiling height indoors and a safe environment outdoors.
- 114** In natural breeding the body weight and size of the stallion must be appropriate to the size and physical development of the mare.
- 115** Artificial insemination should be performed only by a veterinary surgeon or by a person that has completed a Defra approved training course and gained a 'certificate of exemption' under The Veterinary Surgery (Artificial Insemination of Mares) Order 2004. It is generally recommended that a phantom mare (or 'teaser') be used as a mount for semen collection. When a live mare must be used as a mount for semen collection she must be protected from injury.
- 116** Stallions should be provided with a nutritionally balanced diet based on body size and activity.
- 117** Stallions should be exercised and given the opportunity to safely see other horses.
- 118** Mares must be provided with a nutritionally balanced diet prior to breeding, throughout gestation and during lactation.
- 119** Mares to be bred/inseminated should be handled as quietly as possible.
- 120** Pregnant mares should be allowed to exercise. The amount of exercise during pregnancy should reflect the activity level prior to pregnancy and should in no way threaten the health of the mare and/or foetus.
- 121** Mares should be managed so that they are in a suitable body condition at the time of breeding and foaling. A body condition score of 3 to 4 is recommended. (See: Annex C).
- 122** Mares should be routinely monitored for health status throughout the gestation period. A health programme should be designed in consultation with a veterinary surgeon. The health programme should include pre-foaling instructions. Any mare requiring veterinary care during pregnancy should receive such care.
- 123** Where a foaling box or paddock is used it should safely confine both mare and foal. It is recommended that the mare be given an opportunity to become familiar with the box, foaling area or paddock several days before foaling.
- 124** Mares foaling on pasture should be provided with a clean, hazard free area. Sheltered foaling areas should be provided when foaling may coincide with adverse weather conditions.
- 125** Foaling attendants should be familiar with all signs of impending parturition (foaling) and the stages of parturition. To reduce stress to the mare only one person should be responsible for observing the mare.
- 126** Mares generally foal without complications. Before administering assistance to a mare, attendants should be familiar with the signs of normal delivery. Mares having difficulty foaling should be assisted immediately, preferably by a veterinary surgeon.
- 127** After delivery the umbilical cord should be allowed to sever on its own.
- 128** The use of navel disinfectants should be on the advice of a veterinary surgeon.

**129** Newborn foals should ingest adequate amounts of colostrum as soon as possible after birth, preferably by nursing within the first six hours of life. Previously frozen colostrum should be available in the event that foals are unable to nurse of the mare's colostrum is unavailable or of poor quality.

The newborn foal should consume 500ml of good quality colostrum. This should be given in two feeds (250ml per feed) at hourly intervals soon after birth and before other milk. Ideally, where donor colostrum is used, the foals blood IgG level should be measured at 24 to 48 hours after birth.

**130** Foals should be observed regularly (at least daily) during the first month of life to ensure that they are adequately nourished and healthy. If abnormalities are observed a veterinary surgeon should be consulted.

**131** Orphaned foals need specialised care. The best option is to transfer the foal onto a foster mare if possible. If a foster mare is not available, ensure that the foal receives adequate colostrum. The foal may then be reared artificially with the use of foal milk replacer.

**132** Where possible foals should be raised outdoors. If mares and foals are kept indoors, the opportunity for regular exercise should be provided for normal development. Foals housed indoors should be kept in a warm, dry well-bedded area.

**133** By two weeks of age the foal should be provided with commercial foal rations and a high quality hay. Free choice water should be available at all times. A high quality forage and a commercial foal ration may be made available on a free-choice basis by 7-10 days of age to promote normal growth and development. After 60 days, mare's milk is not sufficient to meet the nutrient requirements of the foal.

**134** Foals may be weaned from 4-6 months of age, depending on the health status of both the mare and the foal. Weaning is stressful for mare and foal and strategies should be employed to minimise this stress.

**135** Foals should not be weaned at less than 4 months (16 weeks) of age unless there is a health reason to make early weaning vital.

**Animals (England) Regulations 2000 (S.I. No. 1870)** states that where any animals (other than poultry) are kept in a building:

▶ they shall be kept on, or have access at all times to, a lying area which either has well-maintained dry bedding or is well-drained.

**Schedule 1, paragraph 6** states:

▶ where necessary, sick or injured animals shall be isolated in suitable accommodation with, where appropriate, dry comfortable bedding.

**Schedule 1, paragraph 9 of the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000 (S.I. No. 1870)** states that:

▶ The freedom of movement of animals, having regard to their species and in accordance with established experience and scientific knowledge, shall not be restricted in such a way as to cause them unnecessary suffering or injury.

**Schedule 1, paragraph 10** states that, where animals are continuously or regularly tethered or confined:

▶ they shall be given the space appropriate to their physiological and ethological needs in accordance with established experience and scientific knowledge.

**For Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland see Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2000, Welfare of Farmed Animals (Wales) Regulations 2001 and Welfare of Farmed Animals (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2000.**

**136** Housing facilities should be designed and constructed to provide for the horse's welfare.

**137** Horses should be provided with a clean, dry area for lying down. In all types of housing systems horses should be free to stand up or lie down comfortably at all times.

**138** Housing facilities should provide for enough height to permit horses to have a full range of head and neck motion without touching the ceiling when standing with four feet on the floor.

**139** Flooring should be properly designed, constructed and maintained to provide good traction, proper drainage, comfort and prevent injury.

**140** The design of housing facilities and the materials used in their construction should permit thorough cleaning and disinfection from time to time.

## HOUSING

### GENERAL

**Schedule 1, paragraph 4 of the Welfare of Farmed**



## VENTILATION

Schedule 1, paragraph 13 of the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000 (S.I. No. 1870) states that:

- ▶ air circulation, dust levels, temperature, relative air humidity and gas concentrations shall be kept within limits which are not harmful to the animals

For Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland see Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2000, Welfare of Farmed Animals (Wales) Regulations 2001 and Welfare of Farmed Animals (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2000.

**141** Ventilation systems in horse stables/housing should be capable of maintaining an air change rate to prevent excessive heat and moisture levels and to remove major dust and gas contaminants that can be damaging to the respiratory system of horses and humans.

**142** Mechanically ventilated stables should be equipped to introduce and uniformly distribute fresh air/or to exhaust foul, moisture-laden air. Stables may be adequately ventilated through the use of air intakes and exhaust openings and/or in combination with the use of window and door openings to give reasonable air exchange without creating draughts.

**143** Air movement should not cause discomfort to horses in stables.

## BUILDINGS & EQUIPMENT

Schedule 1, paragraphs 11 and 12 of the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000 (S.I. No. 1870), state that:

- ▶ materials used for the construction of accommodation, and, in particular for the construction of pens, cages, stalls and equipment with which the animals may come into contact, shall be capable of being thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.
- ▶ accommodation and fittings for securing animals shall be constructed and maintained so that there are no sharp edges or protrusions likely to cause injury to them.

For Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland see Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2000, Welfare of Farmed Animals (Wales) Regulations 2001 and Welfare of Farmed Animals (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2000.

## LIGHTING

Schedule 1, paragraph 3 of the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000 (S.I. No. 1870) requires that:

- ▶ Where animals are kept in a building, adequate lighting (whether fixed or portable) shall be available to enable them to be thoroughly inspected at any time.

Schedule 1, paragraphs 14-16 state that:

- ▶ Animals kept in buildings shall not be kept in permanent darkness.
- ▶ Where the natural light available in a building is insufficient to meet the physiological and ethological needs of any animals being kept in it then appropriate artificial lighting shall be provided.
- ▶ Animals kept in buildings shall not be kept without an appropriate period of rest from artificial lighting.

For Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland see Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2000, Welfare of Farmed Animals (Wales) Regulations 2001 and Welfare of Farmed Animals (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2000.

**144** Horse stables/housing should be well lit to permit proper observation of all horses. Any light source within a stable should be caged or protected to ensure that a horse is prevented access to live wires.

**145** Natural light sources should be utilised as much as possible in the design of the facility.

## MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT & SERVICES

Schedule 1, paragraph 18 of the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000 (S.I. No. 1870) states that:



- ▶ All automated or mechanical equipment essential for the health and well-being of the animals shall be inspected at least once a day to check there is no defect in it.

Schedule 1, paragraph 19 states that:

- ▶ Where defects in automated or mechanical equipment of the type referred to in paragraph 18 of Schedule 1 are discovered, these shall be rectified immediately or, if this is impossible, appropriate steps shall be taken to safeguard the health and well-being of the animals pending the rectification of such defects, including the use of alternative methods of feeding and watering and methods of providing and maintaining a satisfactory environment.

On artificial ventilation systems, Schedule 1, paragraph 20 states that where the health and well-being of the animals is dependent on such a system:

- (a) provision shall be made for an appropriate back-up system to guarantee sufficient air renewal to preserve the health and well-being of the animals in the event of failure of the system; and
- (b) an alarm system (which will operate even if the principal electricity supply to it has failed) shall be provided to give warning of any failure of the system.

Schedule 1, paragraph 321 states that:

- ▶ The back-up system referred to in paragraph 20(a) of Schedule 1 shall be thoroughly inspected and the alarm system referred to in paragraph 20(b) of Schedule 1 shall be tested at least once every seven days in order to check that there is no defect in the system and, if any defect is found (whether when the system is inspected or tested in accordance with this paragraph or at any other time), it shall be rectified immediately.

For Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland see Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2000, Welfare of Farmed Animals (Wales) Regulations 2001 and Welfare of Farmed Animals (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2000.

- 146 Mechanical equipment which horses may come into contact with includes; horse walkers, treadmills and practice starting gates. Such equipment should be checked prior to use.

## FIRE & OTHER EMERGENCY PRECAUTIONS

- 147 Horse owners and keepers should make advance plans for dealing with emergencies such as fire, flood or disruption of supplies and should ensure that staff are familiar with the appropriate emergency action.
- 148 Design advice is important when constructing or modifying a building. There should be provision for livestock to be released and evacuated quickly in the event of an emergency. Consideration should be given to installing fire alarm systems that can be heard and acted upon at any time of the day or night.
- 149 Horse owners/keepers and those working with horses should be able to identify the potential for fire starting in stables and other buildings. A fire risk assessment should be undertaken to identify what could start a fire, what are the combustible materials present and who, including any animals, would be at risk should fire break out. The hazards identified should be eliminated or reduced.
- 150 Expert advice on all fire precautions can be obtained from fire prevention officers of the local fire service and from the Fire Prevention Association. A pre incident planning form should be logged with the local fire service. Advice on all health and safety matters can be obtained from local Health and Safety Executive offices.

**See:** Guidelines for Fire Safety in Equine & Agricultural Premises (BHS 2005) Annex E.

## STRAYING

- 151 Under the Highways Act 1959 it is a criminal offence to allow horses to stray on to the highway. The term highway extends to bridlepaths and footpaths. If a horse is placed in a field through which a bridlepath or footpath runs, the owner will be liable for any injury it does to a user of the path if the owner or keeper has been negligent.

The Animals Act 1971 section 4 covers damage caused by straying. Where livestock belonging to any person strays on to land in the ownership or

occupation of another and: (a) damage is done by the livestock to the land or to any property on it which is in the ownership or possession of the other person; or (b) any expenses are reasonably incurred by that other person in keeping the livestock while it cannot be restored to the person to whom it belongs, or while it is detained in pursuance of section 7 of this Act or in ascertaining to whom it belongs; the person to whom the livestock belongs is liable for the damage or expenses, except as otherwise provided by this Act. For the purpose of this section any livestock belongs to the person in whose possession it is.

**152** If your horse strays onto someone else's land you are liable for any damage it causes. The owner of that land may capture and look after your horse until you can collect it and is entitled to charge you the reasonable costs of doing so before the horse is returned to you.

The Animals Act 1971 section 2(2) covers damage. Schedule 2(2) states that:

- ▶ Where damage is caused by an animal which does not belong to a dangerous species, a keeper of the animal is liable for the damage, except or otherwise provided by this Act if:
  - (a) The damage is of a kind which the animal, unless restrained, was likely to cause or which, if caused by the animal, was likely to be severe; and
  - (b) The likelihood of the damage or of its being severe was due to characteristics of the animal which are not normally found in animals of the same species or are not normally to be found except at particular times or in particular circumstances; and
  - (c) Those characteristics were known to that keeper or were at any time known to a person who at that time had charge of the animal as that keeper's servant, or, where that keeper is the head of the household, were known to another keeper of the animal who is a member of that household and under the age of 16

**153** The House of Lords confirmed in 2003 that, in accordance with the provisions of the Animals Act 1971, in certain circumstances, a keeper is strictly liable for damage or injury the horse does to other people, whether or not they are negligent.

## ABANDONMENT

The abandonment of domestic or captive animals in circumstances likely to cause unnecessary suffering is defined as cruelty under the provisions of the Abandonment of Animals Act 1960.

Any person in charge or control of an animal who abandons it without reasonable cause or excuse, whether permanently or not, in circumstances likely to cause unnecessary suffering, commits an offence which will render them guilty of cruelty under Section 1 of the Protection of Animals Act 1911.

**154** The Act covers circumstances in which owners leave animals at home whilst they go on holiday etc. If inadequate arrangements are made for feeding or care during their absence they may be found guilty of this offence. The essence of the offence lies not in the animal being cast out, but leaving it anywhere in circumstances likely to cause unnecessary suffering.

## EXPORT OF HORSES

**155** The export of horses and ponies from Great Britain is governed by the provisions of the Animal Health Act 1981 and other, secondary, legislation. A Horse or Pony Export Welfare Licence must be obtained from GB Agriculture Departments before travel. This requires the veterinary inspection or examination and resting of certain horses and ponies prior to export unless Agriculture Ministers have granted an exemption.

**156** Live ponies may be exported only for breeding, riding or exhibition and only if their value is certified as being above a specified minimum. In most cases a Minimum Value Certificate must be submitted in support of the export licence application. These certificates can be obtained either from local Defra offices or from a recognised breed society, if the pony is registered. The certificate must be completed by a valuer or breed society judge.

**157** Horses (other than a very limited class of working horses) do not need a Minimum Value Certificate. Thoroughbreds certified by the Jockey Club are exempt from licensing altogether. Ponies registered with the Federation Equestre International (FEI) or Showjumping Association of Ireland (SAI) are also exempted from the requirement to obtain a Minimum Value Certificate, provided that a declaration from one or other of those federations accompanies the export licence application to Defra.

**See:** Export of Horses and Ponies from Great Britain - Welfare Arrangements - Guidance Notes for Exporters (Defra, SEERAD, NAWAD 2000) Annex A.

## TRANSPORTATION

It is an offence under the Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order 1997 to cause any animal injury or unnecessary suffering. The Order sets out general and specific requirements for the transport of animals, including fitness to travel, conditions of transport, maximum journey times, rest and feed and water intervals, duties of transporters and documentation to accompany journeys. These requirements may differ according to the status (basic or higher) of the vehicles used to transport the animals.

Exemptions apply if the transport is not of a commercial nature, if the animal is an individual animal accompanied by a person having responsibility for the animal during transport or if the animal is a pet animal accompanied by its owner on a private journey. Registered horses are exempt from maximum journey times and provision of route plans, although one is recommended if travelling to or through Germany.

## GENERAL

- 158** Those involved in the preparation of horses for transport and in the transporting of horses should be knowledgeable about horse behaviour, adhere to the principles of animal welfare, comply with appropriate regulations and be competent in the transport of horses.
- 159** The handler should have easy access to each horse.
- 160** The driver is responsible for the continued care and welfare of the horses during transport. A driver is required to obtain the driving licence appropriate to the vehicle to be driven.
- 161** Drivers should start, drive and stop their vehicles as smoothly as possible. They should practice defensive driving to avoid sudden stops. Drivers should negotiate turns in the smoothest possible manner.
- 162** The transportation of horses from point of origin to a final destination should be completed safely and with the minimum of delay.
- 163** Each load should be checked before departure and periodically during transportation. During roadside inspection, the driver should check all animals for signs of discomfort. When the welfare of horses is likely to be compromised due to further transport, the situation must be promptly corrected.
- 164** Transportation is recognised as a potential stress to horses. Horses stressed by transport should be closely observed for several days for signs of ill health.

## VEHICLES, TRAILERS AND EQUIPMENT

- 165** Vehicles used to transport horses should provide for the safety of horses and personnel during transport. Vehicles should:

- ▶ permit easy loading and unloading;
- ▶ be properly constructed and maintained, with proper cover to protect against extreme weather conditions;
- ▶ be free from insecure fittings or the presence of bolt heads, angles or other projections;
- ▶ be properly ventilated; and
- ▶ be free from engine exhaust fumes entering the trailer or container.

- 166** Vehicles should be regularly cleaned and where necessary disinfected before use to prevent the spread of disease and allow for regular evaluation of floor integrity.

- 167** Provisions must be made for drainage or absorption of urine. Horses transported in excess of 12 hours must be bedded with straw, wood shavings or other absorbent bedding material. Bedding should be used to enhance and ensure the security of footing during transportation. Vehicle floors must provide for secure footing.

- 168** Vehicle doors and integral partitions should be wide enough to permit horses to pass through easily and without risk of injury.

- 169** Vehicles used to pull trailers or to carry horses should be appropriate for the safe movement of the load. Vehicles used to pull trailers should have sufficient power to smoothly accelerate the unit and sufficient braking ability to stop safely.

## LOADING DENSITY AND HEADROOM

- 170** It is preferable for horses to be transported in individual stalls which are designed to protect the

animals against jolts. However, horses may be transported in groups providing that they have unshod feet, animals which are hostile to one another are not transported in the same group and there is sufficient floor space to ensure that they are not crowded in a way that is likely to cause injury or discomfort.

- 171** When transporting horses in groups and the vehicle is not full, horses should be safely partitioned into smaller areas to provide stability for the horses and the vehicle. Horses may travel satisfactorily in groups of up to 4 or 5. Ponies and donkeys may be transported in slightly larger group sizes relative to available space.
- 172** Each animal must be able to assume a natural stance standing with four feet on the floor and have a full range of head and neck motion without touching the deck or roof of the vehicle or container. Horses must have at least 20cm of free head space when standing in the natural position.

## SPACE REQUIREMENTS

- 173** The EU recommended loading densities for domestic solipeds (equines) by road or rail under Directive 95/29/EC are:

Equines	Space each
Adult horses	1.75m <sup>2</sup> (0.7 x 2.5m)
Young horses (6-24 months) (for journeys of up to 48 hours)	1.2m <sup>2</sup> (0.6 x 2m)
Young horses (6-24 months) for journeys over 49 hours)	2.4m <sup>2</sup> (1.2 x 2m)
Ponies (under 144 cm)	1 m <sup>2</sup> (0.6 x 1.8m)
Foals (0-6 months)	1.4m <sup>2</sup> (1 x 1.4m)

- 174** During journeys of more than 12 hours, foals and young horses must be able to lie down. These figures may vary by a maximum of 10% for adult horses and ponies and by a maximum of 20% for young horses and foals, depending not only on the horses' weight and size, but also on their physical condition, the meteorological conditions and the likely journey time.

## SEGREGATION

- 175** Different species and animals of significantly different age or weight should be partitioned separately from each other when transported. Small or young horses should be partitioned separately from mature horses.
- 176** Suckling foals should be transported in the same compartment as their dams and should be separated from other animals.

- 177** Mature stallions, aggressive horses and animals incompatible by nature should be partitioned separately from other horses.
- 178** Where horses are transported in groups, they should be allowed to become accustomed to each other prior to transportation. Horses, unless in separate stalls, should have unshod feet. Care should be taken to ensure that animals that are hostile to one another are not transported in the same group.

## LOADING AND UNLOADING

- 179** Horses should not be rushed during loading and unloading. In a new situation or location, all normal, healthy horses are alert and inquisitive. Consequently, every change or disturbance in surroundings, such as noises, breezes, sudden movement of objects and/or flashes of light, should be avoided. Abrupt movements by handlers should also be avoided. Horses should be handled quietly, with care and patience, to avoid injury, pain or distress. Handling devices must be used humanely and with regard to the horse's natural movement, temperament and physical capabilities.

## HOLDING FACILITIES

- 180** All places where horses are temporarily assembled for sale, show, transport, feed, water and rest, slaughter, or for any other reason should have sufficient facilities for the safe loading, unloading and holding of horses.
- 181** In all places where horses are housed and handled, the walls and doors should be free of projections and the floors should have suitable surface friction. Horses should have protection from inclement weather.
- 182** Areas where horses are housed should have adequate lighting during normal operations to allow the animals to be easily inspected.

## FEED, WATER AND REST

- 183** During transport all horses should be fed and watered at least once every 8 hours and preferably every 6 hours. Young animals may require feeding more frequently. Weather conditions may warrant other feeding and watering intervals.
- 184** Unregistered horses, including foals, may not travel more than 8 hours in a basic grade vehicle, after which they must be unloaded and rested for 24 hours and given food and liquid for 24 hours before

continuing their journey. In higher grade vehicles, adult unregistered horses may travel up to 24 hours before a 24 hour rest is required, which, if on an intra-Community journey, must be at an approved EU staging point.

- 185** Unweaned foals still on a milk diet may travel up to 9 hours in a higher grade vehicle before a stop of at least 1 hour to be given liquid and if necessary fed, before travelling another 9 hours, after which a 24 hours rest at a staging point is required before continuing the journey.
- 186** Consideration should be given to when the animal was last fed and watered (prior to loading) and when it will be next fed and watered.
- 187** Weanling foals should not be without feed and water for longer than 8 hours during transport.
- 188** Any person transporting horses is obliged to plan long-distance trips taking into consideration the availability and location of facilities where horses may be unloaded, fed, watered, and cared for in a humane manner. Facilities should provide protection from extreme weather conditions.
- 189** Nursing foals with dams should be allowed an opportunity to nurse undisturbed at least every eight hours. Mares with nursing foals should be provided with appropriate feed and water every 12-18 hours during transportation.
- 190** Prior to reloading a vehicle the interior of the vehicle should be inspected, bedding added and other corrective measures taken to assure continued safe transportation.
- 191** Pregnant mares must not be transported after 300 days from the last service other than short distances.
- 192** Foals must not be transported until the navel has completely healed.

**See:** Guidance Notes on the Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order 1997 (Defra)  
AATA Manual for the Transportation of Live Animals by Road (AATA 2000)  
Annex E.

## RIDING SCHOOLS & LIVERY YARDS

The Riding Establishments Act 1964 prohibits the keeping of a riding establishment except under the authority of a licence issued by the Local Authority. The term 'riding establishment' means the carrying on of a business of keeping horses to let them out

on hire for riding, or for use in providing instruction in riding for payment, or both.

- 193** The Local Authority will only grant a licence subject to certain minimum standards being observed. Licences must be renewed annually and checks are made to ensure that required standards are being met. Part of the inspection is a Veterinary Inspection by a veterinary surgeon on a list maintained by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.
- 194** The Riding Establishments Act 1970 requires that the horses must be in good health, physically fit and suitable for the purpose for which they are used. Animals three years old or under, heavy in foal or within three months after foaling, are not suitable, and it is an offence to hire them out.
- 195** The 1970 Act specifies that the licence holder shall hold a current Public Liability Insurance policy to provide an indemnity against liability at law to pay damages for accidental bodily injury or damage to property to those hiring a horse for riding or receiving instruction in riding resulting from his own activities or those of members of his staff or of his clients in connection with his business.

**See:** The Riding Establishments Acts, 1964 and 1970 - A Guide for local authorities and their inspectors (RCVS & BVA 2004) Annex E.

## GUIDANCE FOR LIVERY YARDS

- 196** Further guidance for livery yards is available to outline the minimum standards of management required at a livery yard in order to protect the welfare of the horses being cared for.
- 197** Emphasis is made on the importance of livery yards being in the charge of people with experience and competence in handling and caring for horses. It is recommended that people in charge of horses in livery yards be acquainted with the Equine Industry Welfare Guidelines Compendium 2006. This will provide general guidance on the care of horses and also bring existing legislation into awareness, as it is applicable to the protection of the horses' welfare.
- 198** There are specified minimum standards, produced by the Horse Industry to address livery yard welfare issues including, stable construction, manure storage, feeding and watering of horses, maintenance of grazing land, fencing, monitoring horses' health and the administration of routine preventative care.
- 199** Definitions are available (Code of Practice for Livery Yards) to explain the meaning of the terms; full livery, part livery, working livery, do-it-yourself livery (DIY) and grass livery.



**200** It is recommended that a written agreement exist between the yard owner (or named person in charge) and the horse owner, outlining the terms of livery and stating clearly who is ultimately responsible for the welfare of the horse.

**See:** Code of Practice for Livery Yards (BEVA/BHS/RSPCA/ILPH on behalf of the Horse Industry 2001) Annex E.

## CIRCUSES & ENTERTAINMENT

**201** Horses are used in circuses and entertainment including television, film and public exhibition or performance. The health and welfare of horses used in circuses and entertainment is totally dependent upon both the physical and social environment in which they are kept in and the standard of care they receive.

**202** In endeavouring to provide entertainment to the public, circuses and other entertainment/performances should aim to highlight the natural capabilities of the horse. No performance, or training method, should cause unacceptable levels of physical or mental distress, pain or injury in either the short or long term. Performance should only incorporate activity that is within the enhanced normal physical capability of the horse.

**See:** Standards for the Care and Welfare of Circus Animals on Tour (Association of British Circus Proprietors 2001) Annex E.

## EU LEGISLATION

**203** The European Community (EC) issues European legislation in the form of Council Directives, Council Regulations, Commission Decisions and Commission Regulations. A list of EU legislation affecting horses is listed at Annex G.

**204** The Directives that refer to the maintenance of a studbook, the recognition of societies and the keeping, management and movement of animals are referred to as Zootechnical legislation. The Directives that apply to equines (horses, ponies and donkeys) are primarily concerned with the encouragement and harmonisation of intra-Community trade (free trade between Members States) and focus on the rules for the entry of animals into studbooks and identification documents (horse passports).

## MARKETS, SALES & FAIRS

**205** The principal legislation covering horse welfare at markets is the Welfare of Horses at Markets (and other Places of Sale) Order 1990 (WHMO). WHMO defines a 'market' as "a market place, sale-yard,

fairground, highway, or any other premises or place to which horses are brought from other places and exposed for sale". The definition also includes any lairage adjoining a market and the parking areas used in connection with the market, sale or fair.

The key legal requirements are summarised as follows:

- ▶ It is an offence to cause or permit any injury or unnecessary suffering to a horse;
- ▶ All pens shall be clear of debris, clean and in condition suitable to house horses;
- ▶ The auctioneer must provide a supply of drinking water. However, it is the responsibility of the person in charge of a horse to supply clean water. Where the owner of a horse cannot be found and horses are clearly in need of water the auctioneer must provide it;
- ▶ It is the responsibility of the horse owner that any horses kept overnight must have an adequate quantity of and easy access to suitable food and water;
- ▶ The market must be well ventilated and a procedure in place to prevent horses escaping;
- ▶ A suitable pen should be available for horses found to be unfit to ensure they are separated from other animals;
- ▶ Tied horses should not be penned with loose horses, except in the case of a mare with her foal at foot, or with a stable companion of any species;
- ▶ Horses of significantly different ages or sizes should not be penned together unless previously kept together;
- ▶ Horses with shod hind feet must not be penned with unshod horses unless previously kept together, or unless they are effectively secured by the head and separated;
- ▶ Stallions and colts should be penned individually;
- ▶ Pens must not be overcrowded. The pen must be of adequate size for the breed of horse;
- ▶ Mares with foals at foot should be kept together in the same undivided pen;
- ▶ Donkeys and horses should not be penned together unless stable companions;
- ▶ Horses must never be tied to pens in alleyways; if they must be tied it should be in allocated pens;
- ▶ Clipped horses must be protected from the weather by suitable means, either protective clothing or shelter;
- ▶ Horses must not be hit or prodded with any stick, whip, crop or other instrument. Electric goads must not be used to control horses;
- ▶ Horses should not be handled by lifting or dragging along the ground by the head, neck, ears, legs or tail;
- ▶ The fence around the sale-ring should pose minimum risk to horses or people.

**206** The WHMO is supplemented by a Code of Practice - The Welfare of Horses, Ponies & Donkeys at Markets, Sales and Fairs Order 1990 published by Defra. The Code provides practical guidance on transport, control and handling, penning, feeding and watering, sale rings, facilities, wild ponies and general conduct. Whilst the Code has no legal standing, failure to follow the requirements of the Code can be cited in legal proceedings.

**See:** Code of Practice - The Welfare of Horses, Ponies & Donkeys at Markets, Sales & Fairs Order 1990 (Defra PB0408) Code of Practice for Markets and Sales Involved with the Selling of Horses, Ponies & Donkeys (NEWC 2003) Annex E.

**Annex A****GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS****• Summary of the Law Relating to Farm Animal Welfare (Defra 1996)**

This guide provides a summary of the legislation relating to the welfare of animals on the farm, with reference to horses, ponies, asses and mules. It also shows in summary form for each species including horses, what operations are permitted, at what age, by whom and whether an anaesthetic is needed.

**• Export of Horses and Ponies from Great Britain - Welfare Arrangements - Guidance Notes for Exporters (Defra, SEERAD, NAWAD 2000)**

The notes provide guidance to exporters on the requirements of the law in relation to the export of horses from Great Britain including: export licenses, animal health requirements, minimum values and Customs and Excise requirements.

**• Guidance Notes on the Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order 1997 (Defra)**

The guidance is issued to aid consistency of understanding and enforcement of the Order. It is a useful reference document for anyone engaged in the transport of animals, including horses, to ensure that they are familiar with the regulatory provisions and comply with the law.

**• Horse Passports (England) Regulations 2004: Guide to the Horse Passport (England) Regulations 2004**

Guidance on the application of the regulations in England.

**• Code of Practice - The Welfare of Horses, Ponies & Donkeys at Markets, Sales and Fairs Order 1990**

The Code of Practice supplements the, Welfare of Horses at Markets (and other Places of sale) Order 1990, with practical guidance on transport, control and handling, penning, feeding and watering, sale rings, facilities, wild ponies and general conduct.

**• Code of Practice on how to prevent the spread of Ragwort (Defra 2004)**

The Code aims to define the situations in which there is a likelihood of ragwort spreading to neighbouring land where it will then present an identifiable risk of ingestion by vulnerable animals, and to provide guidance on the most appropriate means of control, taking into account both animal welfare and environmental considerations.

Copies of the above publications can be obtained, free of charge, from: Defra Publications, Admail 6000, London SW1A 2XX Telephone orders 0845 955 6000. Email: [defra@sr-comms.co.uk](mailto:defra@sr-comms.co.uk) Website: <http://www.defra.gov.uk>

**Annex B****CODES OF PRACTICE**

For the purpose of this Compendium Codes of Practice are defined as 'guidelines to best practice produced by a group of experts in consultation with industry and validated through the consultation process by that industry'

**Conservation Grazing**

- A Guide to Animal Welfare in Nature Conservation Grazing (GAP 2001)

**Disease Control**

- Codes of Practice on Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM), Klebsiella pneumoniae, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA), Equid Herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1) and Guidelines on Strangles (HRBLB 2005)
- Rules of Racing (The Jockey Club 2005 - revised annually)
- Code of Practice for Respiratory Diseases (National Trainers Federation 2005)

**Donkeys**

- Donkey Derbies a Code of Practice (The Donkey Sanctuary 2004)
- Beach Donkeys a Code of Practice (The Donkey Sanctuary 2005)

**Farriery**

- A Farrier's Guide to Professional Conduct (Farriers Registration Council)

**General Welfare**

- Horses in the Countryside A Code of Practice for Owners and Riders (Countryside Commission Revised 1997, now Countryside Agency)
- The FEI Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse (FEI 2005)

**Grazing**

- Horse Pasture Management (Countryside Agency 2001)

**Markets, Sales and Fairs**

- The Welfare of Horses, Ponies & Donkeys at Markets, Sales & Fairs (Defra 1990)
- Code of Practice for Markets and Sales Involved with the selling of Horses, Ponies & Donkeys (NEWC 2003)

**Riding Schools, Livery Yards & Trekking Centres**

- Code of Practice for Livery Yards (BEVA/BHS/RSPCA/ILPH on behalf of the Horse Industry 2001)

**Tethering**

- Code of Practice to Tethering Horses and Ponies (NEWC 2005)

**Welfare Charities**

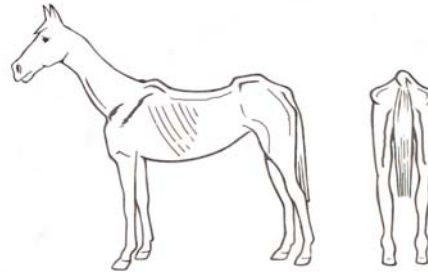
- Code of Practice for Welfare Organisations involved in the keeping of Horses, Ponies and Donkeys (NEWC 2000)



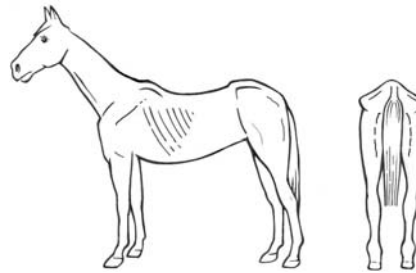


**Annex C**  
**BODY CONDITION SCORING OF HORSES**

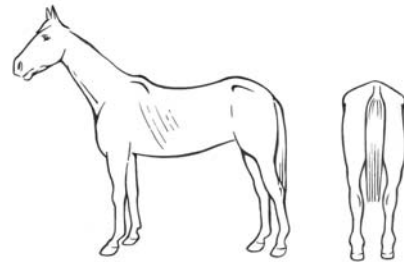
**0 Very Poor**



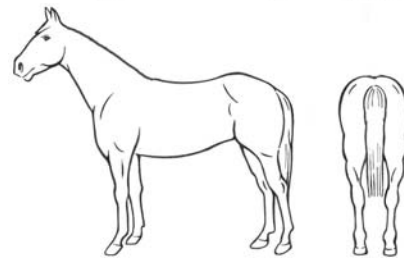
**1 Poor**



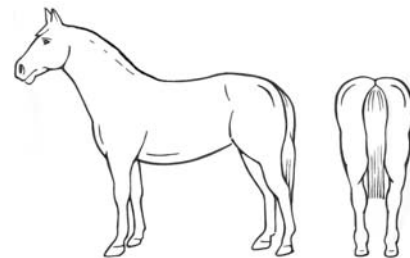
**2 Moderate**



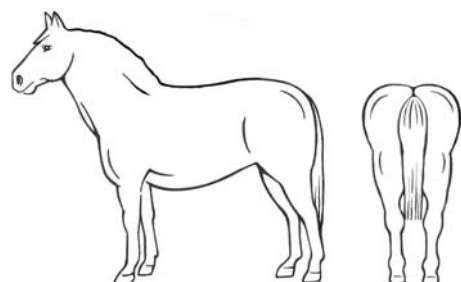
**3 Good**



**4 Fat**



**5 Very Fat**



## Annex C

## BODY CONDITION SCORING OF HORSES

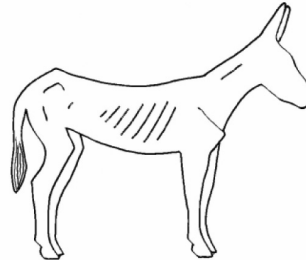
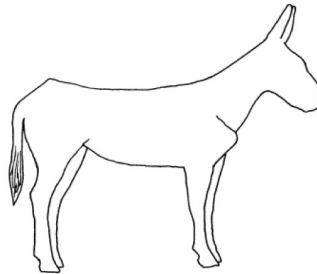
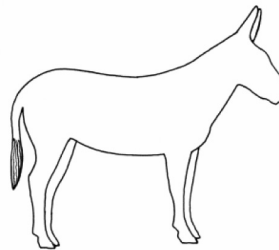
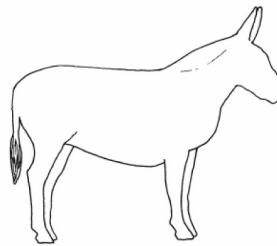
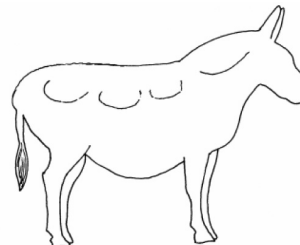
C/S	Pelvis	Back and Ribs	Neck
<b>0 Very Poor</b>	Angular, skin tight. Very sunken rump. Deep cavity under tail.	Skin tight over ribs. Very prominent and sharp backbone.	Marked ewe neck. Narrow and slack at base.
<b>1 Poor</b>	Prominent pelvis and croup. Sunken rump but skin supple. Deep cavity under tail.	Ribs easily visible. Prominent backbone with sunken skin on either side.	Ewe neck, narrow and slack base.
<b>2 Moderate</b>	Rump flat either side of back bone. Croup well defined, some fat. Slight cavity under tail.	Ribs just visible. Backbone covered but spines can be felt.	Narrow but firm.
<b>3 Good</b>	Covered by fat and rounded. No gutter. Pelvis easily felt.	Ribs just covered and easily felt. No gutter along the back Backbone well covered but spines can be felt.	No crest (except for stallions) firm neck.
<b>4 Fat</b>	Gutter to root of tail. Pelvis covered by fat. Need firm pressure to feel.	Ribs well covered - need pressure to feel. Slight crest	Wide and firm.
<b>5 Very Fat</b>	Deep gutter to root of tail. Skin distended. Pelvis buried, cannot be felt.	Ribs buried, cannot be felt. Deep gutter along back. Back broad and flat.	Marked crest very wide and firm. Fold of fat.

(Based on the Carroll and Huntington Method)

To obtain a body score, score the pelvis first, then adjust by half a point if it differs by one point or more to the back or neck.

**Annex D****BODY CONDITION SCORING OF DONKEYS**

Reproduced with the permission of the Donkey Sanctuary

**1 Poor****2 Moderate****3 Ideal****4 Fat****5 Obese**

Fat deposits may be unevenly distributed especially over the neck and hindquarters. Some resistant fat deposits may be retained in the event of weight loss and/or may calcify (harden). Careful assessment of all areas should be made and combined to give an overall score.

## Annex D

## BODY CONDITION SCORING OF DONKEYS

C/S	NECK AND SHOULDERS	WITHERS	RIBS AND BELLY	BACK AND LOINS	HIND QUARTERS
<b>1 Poor</b>	Neck thin, all bones easily felt. Neck meets shoulder abruptly, shoulder bones easily felt, angular.	Dorsal spine of withers prominent and easily felt.	Ribs can be seen from a distance and felt with ease. Belly tucked up.	Backbone prominent, can feel dorsal and transverse processes easily.	Hip bones visible and felt easily (hock and pin bones). Little muscle cover. May be cavity under tail.
<b>2 Moderate</b>	Some muscle development overlying bones. Slight step where neck meets shoulders.	Some cover over dorsal withers. Spinous processes felt but not prominent.	Ribs not visible but can be felt with ease.	Dorsal and transverse processes felt with light pressure. Poor muscle development either side midline.	Poor muscle cover on hindquarters, hip bones felt with ease.
<b>3 Ideal</b>	Good muscle development, bones felt under light cover of muscle/fat. Neck flows smoothly into shoulder, which is rounded.	Good cover of muscle/fat over dorsal spinous processes, withers flow smoothly into back.	Ribs just covered by light layer of fat/muscle, ribs can be felt with light pressure. Belly firm with good muscle tone and flattish outline.	Cannot feel individual spinous or transverse processes. Muscle development either side of midline is good.	Good muscle cover in hindquarters, hip bones rounded in appearance, can be felt with light pressure.
<b>4 Fat</b>	Neck thick, crest hard, shoulder covered in even fat layer.	Withers broad, bones felt with firm pressure.	Ribs dorsally only felt with firm pressure, ventral ribs may be felt more easily. Overdeveloped belly	Can only feel dorsal and transverse processes with firm pressure. Slight crease along midline.	Hindquarters rounded, bones felt only with firm pressure. Fat deposits evenly placed.
<b>5 Obese</b>	Neck thick, crest bulging with fat and may fall to one side. Shoulder rounded and bulging with fat.	Withers broad, unable to feel bones.	Large, often uneven fat deposits covering dorsal and possibly ventral aspect of ribs. Ribs not palpable. Belly pendulous in depth and width.	Back broad, unable to feel spinous or transverse processes. Deep crease along midline bulging fat either side.	Cannot feel hip bones, fat may overhang either side of tail head, fat often uneven and bulging.

Half scores can be assigned where donkeys fall between scores. Aged donkeys can be hard to condition score due to lack of muscle bulk and tone giving thin appearance dorsally with dropped belly ventrally, while overall condition may be reasonable.



**Annex E**

## CODES OF RECOMMENDATION AND ADVISORY PUBLICATIONS

For the purpose of this Compendium Codes of Recommendation are defined as 'guidelines to best practice produced by individuals or organisations but not validated by the consultation process'

The National Equine Welfare Council (NEWC) maintains information on current advisory publications on horse, pony and donkey welfare, management and related topics.

This can be accessed at [www.newc.co.uk](http://www.newc.co.uk) or by contacting NEWC on 01295 810 060.



**Annex F**

## ORDERS AND STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

### **AGRICULTURE** (relates to Agricultural Livestock only)

- Weeds Act 1959
- The Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1968
- The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000 (SI2000/1870)
- The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Wales) Regulations 2001 (SI2001/2682)
- The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2000 (SI2000/442)
- The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2000 (SI2000/270)

### **CRUELTY**

- The Animals Act 1907
- The Protection of Animals Acts 1911 to 1988
- The Protection of Animals (Scotland) Acts 1912 to 1988
- The Protection of Animals (Scotland) Act 1993
- The Abandonment of Animals Act 1960
- The Animals Act 1971
- The Protection of Animals (Penalties) Act 1987
- The Protection of Animals (Amendment) Act 1988
- The Protection of Animals (Amendment) Act 2000

### **DISQUALIFICATION**

- Protection of Animals (Amendment) Act 1954 (as amended by the Protection of Animals (Amendment) Act 1988)

### **EXHIBITION OF EQUINES**

- Performing of Animals (Regulations) Act 1925
- Protection of Animals Act 1934



  
**Annex F****ORDERS AND STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS****FALLEN STOCK**

- Animal By-Products Regulation 2003

**FARRIERY**

- Farriers (Registration) Act 1975 as Amended by the Farriers (Registration) (Amendment) Act 1977 as Amended by Statutory Instrument No 1597 (effective from 16th July 2002)

**HEALTH DISEASE CONTROL**

- The Infectious Diseases of Horses Order 1975 (SI 1975/888)
- The Animal Health Act 1981
- The Infectious Diseases of Horses Order 1987 (SI 1987/790)
- Equine Viral Arteritis Order 1995 (SI 1995/1755)

**HORSE PASSPORTS**

- Horse Passports (England) Regulations 2004
- Horse Passports (Scotland) Regulations 2005
- Horse Passports (Wales) Regulations 2005



**HORSE WASTE MANAGEMENT**

- The Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994
- The Waste Management Licensing (England and Wales) (Amendment & Related Provisions Regulations 2005)

**IMPORT AND EXPORT OF EQUINES**

- The Export of Horses (Veterinary Examination) Order 1966 (SI 1966/507)
- The Export of Horses (Excepted Cases) Order 1969 (SI 1969/1742)
- The Export of Horses (Protection) Order 1969 (SI 1969/1784)
- The Equine Animals (Importation) (Amendment) Order 1972 (SI 1972/761)
- The Equine Animals (Importation) Order 1973 (SI 1973/470)
- Importation of Animals Order 1977 (SI 1979/1701)
- Importation of Equine Animals Order, 1979 (SI 1979/1701)
- Export of Animals (Protection) Order 1981
- The Animal Health Act 1981 (Sections 40-48)

**MARKETS, SALES AND FAIRS**

- Markets, Sales and Fairs Order 1995
  - Welfare of Horses at Markets (and other Places of sale) Order 1990 (SI 1990/2627)
  - Welfare of Animals at Markets Order 1990 (as amended by the Welfare of Animals at Markets (Amendment) Order 1993)
- 
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- 

**Annex F****ORDERS AND STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS****OPERATIONS ON EQUINES**

- Docking and Nicking of Horses Act 1949
- The Protection of Animals (Anaesthetics) Act 1954, and as amended
- The Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966
- Farriers (Registration) Act 1975
- The Veterinary Surgery (Artificial Insemination of Mares) Order 2004
- Farriers Registration (Amendment) Act 1977
- The Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986

**RAGWORT**

- The Ragwort Control Act 2003

**RIDING ESTABLISHMENTS**

- Riding Establishments Act 1964
- Riding Establishments Act 1970

**SLAUGHTER OF EQUINES**

- Slaughterhouses Act 1974
- Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) regulations 1977
- Slaughter of Animals (Humane Conditions) Regulations 1990
- The Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995, as amended 1999

**TETHERING**

- The Protection Against Cruel Tethering Act 1988

**TRANSPORT OF EQUINES**

- The Transport of Animals (Road and Rail) Order 1975 (as amended) (SI 1975/1024)
- The Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order 1997 (SI 1997/1480)
- The Welfare of Animals (Staging Points) Order 1998 (SI 1998/2537)
- The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (Amendment) Order 1999 (SI 1999/1622)
- The Transport of Animals (Cleansing and Disinfection) (England) (No 2) Order 2000 (SI 2000/1618)

**VETERINARY SURGEONS**

- The Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966

**YOUNG RIDERS**

- The Horses (Protective Headgear for Young Riders) Act 1990
- The Horses (Protective Headgear for Young Riders) Act 1990 (Commencement) Order 1992 (SI 1992/1200)
- The Horses (Protective Headgear for Young Riders) Regulations 1992 (SI 1992/1201)



  
**Annex F****ORDERS AND STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS****ZOOTECHNICS**

- Horses (Zootechnical Standards) Regulations 1992 (SI 1992/3045)
- Horses (Free Access to Competitions) Regulations 1992 (SI 1992/3044)

Copies of the above statutory instruments are available from The Stationery Office, TSO Publications Centre, PO Box 276, London SW8 5DT. Telephone orders: 0870 600 5522 Email: [book.enquiries@theso.co.uk](mailto:book.enquiries@theso.co.uk)  
Website: <http://www.the-stationery-office.co.uk>.

  
**Annex G****EU LEGISLATION**

The Animals and Animal Products (Import and Export) Regulations implement EU Legislation relating to intra Community trade in live animals and animal products (semen, ova and embryos) and imports from third countries of live animals. Similar legislation applies in Wales and Scotland.

**Animal Health Conditions**

92/60/EEC	"on animal health conditions and veterinary certification for temporary admission of registered horses"
93/195/EEC	"on animal health conditions and veterinary certification for re-entry of registered horses for racing, competition and cultural events after temporary export"
93/196/EEC	"on animal health conditions and veterinary certification for imports of equidae for slaughter"
93/197/EEC	"on animal health conditions and veterinary certification on imports of registered equidae and registered equidae for breeding and production"

**Competitions**

90/428/EEC	"establishing the conditions for participation in equine competitions"
92/216/EEC	"on the collection of data concerning competitions for equidae as referred to in Article 4 (2) of Council Directive 90/428/EEC"

**Identification**

93/623/EEC	"establishing the identification document (passport) accompanying registered equidae"
2000/68/EEC	"amending Commission Decision 93/623/EEC and establishing the identification of equidae for breeding purposes"


**Imports from third countries**

2004/211/EEC	"establishing the list of third countries and parts of territory thereof from which Member States authorise imports of live equidae and semen, ova and embryos of the equine species, and amending Decisions 93/195/EEC and 94/63/EEC"
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This Decision contains reference to the following Decisions which set out the import requirements for each category of equine animal and for equine semen, ova and embryos.

**Imports from South Africa**

97/10/EEC	"amending Council Directive 79/542/EEC and Council Decision 92/160/EEC, 92/260/EEC and 93/197/EEC in relation to the temporary admission and imports into the Community of registered horses coming from South Africa"
2001/622/EEC	"amending Decision 97/10/EEC with regard to the rationalisation of South Africa and on protection measures with regard to registered horses coming from South Africa"





2004/241/EEC "amending Decisions 92/260/EEC and 93/197/EEC as regards the temporary admission and imports into the European Union of registered horses from South Africa"

#### **Intra Community Trade and Imports from Third Countries**

90/426/EEC "on animal health conditions governing the movement and import from third countries of equidae"  
 90/427/EEC "on the zootechnical and genealogical conditions governing intra-Community trade in equidae"  
 90/428/EEC "on trade in equidae intended for competitions and laying down the conditions for participation therein"  
 92/36/EEC "amending, with regard to African horse sickness, Directive 90/426/EEC"  
 92/65/EEC "laying down animal health requirements governing trade into the Community of animals, semen, ova and embryos not subject to animal health requirements laid down in specific Community rules referred to in Annex A (1) to Directive 90/425/EEC. In particular this Directive sets out conditions for intra Community trade in equine semen"  
 94/28/EEC "laying down the zootechnical conditions and principles applicable to imports from third countries of breeding animals, their semen, ova and embryos"  
 96/79/EEC "laying down the zootechnical certificates of semen, ova and embryos from registered equidae"

#### **Semen, Ova and Embryos**

96/510/EEC "laying down the pedigree and zootechnical certificates for the importation of breeding animals, their semen, ova and embryos"  
 96/539/EEC "on animal health requirements and veterinary certification for imports into the Community of semen of the equine species"  
 96/540/EEC "on animal health requirements and veterinary certification for imports into the Community of ova and embryos of the equine species"  
 2004/186/EEC "amending certain Annexes to Decision 96/510/EEC as regards the zootechnical requirements for the importation of semen, ova and embryos of the equine species"  
 2000/284/EEC "establishing the list of approved semen collection centres for import of equine semen from third countries and amending Decision 96/539/EEC and 96/540/EEC"

#### **Slaughter**

93/119/EEC "on the protection of animals at the time of slaughter or killing"

#### **Stud-books**

91/74/EEC "laying down zootechnical and pedigree requirements for the marketing of pure-bred animals amending Directives 77/504/EEC and 90/425/EEC"  
 92/353/EEC "laying down the criteria for the approval or recognition of organisations and associations which maintain or establish stud-books for registered equidae"  
 92/354/EEC "laying down the criteria for the co-ordination between breeding organisations"  
 96/78/EEC "laying down the criteria for entry and registration of equidae in stud-books for breeding purposes"

#### **Transportation**

91/628/EEC "on the protection of animals during transport as amended by 95/29/EEC and Council Regulations 1255/97/EEC concerning criteria for staging points and amending the route plan and 411/98/EEC on additional standards applicable to road vehicles used for the carriage of livestock on journeys exceeding eight hours"

#### **Veterinary Checks Legislation**

90/425/EEC "concerning veterinary and zootechnical checks applicable in intra-Community trade in certain live animals and products with a view to the completion of the internal market"  
 91/496/EEC "laying down the principles governing the organisation of veterinary checks on animals entering the Community from third countries and amending Directives 89/662/EEC, 90/425/EEC and 90/675/EEC"

EU Council Directives are published in the Official Journal of the European Communities and are available from:  
 European Commission London Office, 8 Storey's Gate, London SW1P 3AT  
 Tel: 020 7973 1992 Fax: 020 7973 1900 Website: <http://www.cec.org.uk>



## Annex H GOVERNING BODIES

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Governing Body</b>
• Arabian Racing	Arabian Racing Organisation
• British Riding Clubs	The British Horse Society
• Circuses	Association of Circus Proprietors of Great Britain
• Disabled Riding	Riding for the Disabled Association
• Dressage	British Dressage*
	Paralympic Dressage
• Driving	British Driving Society
• Endurance Riding	Endurance GB*
	Scottish Endurance Riding Club
• Eventing	British Eventing*
• Harness Racing	British Harness Racing Club
• Horseball	British Horseball Association
• Horse Driving Trials	British Horse Driving Trials Association*
• Horseracing	British Horseracing Board
	The Jockey Club
• Hunting	Masters of Foxhounds Association
• Hunting (Drag)	Masters of Draghounds & Bloodhounds Association
• Jousting	International Jousting Association
• Mounted Games	Mounted Games Association of Great Britain
• Polo	Hurlingham Polo Association
• Polocrosse	UK Polocrosse Association
• Pony Racing	The Pony Club*
• Reining	British Reining*
• Show Jumping	British Show Jumping Association*
• Side Saddle	Side Saddle Association
• TREC Cross-Country	The British Horse Society*
• Vaulting	British Equestrian Vaulting*

\* British Equestrian Federation Member Bodies

All contact addresses for the Governing Bodies are listed at Annex I Useful Contacts.





## Annex I

# USEFUL CONTACTS

### ADAS UK Ltd

Woodthorne, Wergs Road,  
Wolverhampton WV6 8TQ  
Customer Services Tel: 01902 693 148  
Fax: 01902 693 491  
Website: <http://www.adas.co.uk>

### Animal Health Trust

Lanwades Park, Kentford,  
Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 7UU  
Tel: 08700 502 424 Fax: 08700 502 425  
Website: <http://www.aht.org.uk>

### Animal Transportation Association

PO Box 251, Redhill, Surrey RH1 5FU  
Tel: 01737 822249 Fax: 01737 822954  
Website: <http://www.aata-animaltransport.org>

### Animal Welfare Division & Animal Disease Control Division

1a Page Street, London SW1P 4PQ  
Tel: 020 7904 6000

### Arabian Racing Organisation

The Racecourse, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 7NZ  
Tel: 01635 524 445 Fax: 01635 230 200  
Website: <http://www.arabianracing.org.uk>

### Association of British Circus Proprietors

PO Box 131, Burnley, Lancashire BB1 9DT  
Website: <http://www.zipposcircus.co.uk>

### Association of British Riding Schools

Queens Chambers, 38-40 Queen Street,  
Penzance, Cornwall TR18 4BH  
Tel: 01736 369 440 Fax: 01736 351 390  
Website: <http://www.abrs.org>

### Blue Cross

Shilton Road, Burford, Oxfordshire OX18 4PF  
Tel: 01993 825 500 Fax: 01993 823 083  
Website: <http://www.bluecross.org.uk>

### British Association of Equine Dental Technicians

The Bungalow, Bonehill Road, Mile Oak,  
Tamworth, Staffs, B78 3PS  
Tel: 01827 284718  
Website: <http://www.equinedentistry.org.uk>

### British Dressage

National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh Park,  
Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2RJ  
Tel: 02476 698 830 Fax: 02476 690 390  
Website: <http://www.britishdressage.co.uk>

### British Driving Society

27 Dugard Place, Barford, Warwick CV35 2DX  
Tel: 01926 624 420 Fax: 01926 624 633  
Website: <http://www.britishdrivingsociety.co.uk>

### British Equestrian Federation

National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh Park,  
Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2RH  
Tel: 02476 698 871 Fax: 02476 696 484  
Website: <http://www.bef.co.uk>

### British Equestrian Trade Association

Stockheld Park, Wetherby,  
West Yorkshire LS22 4AW  
Tel: 01937 587 062 Fax: 01937 582 728  
Website: <http://www.beta-uk.org>

### British Equestrian Vaulting

47 Manderley Close, Eastern Green,  
Coventry, Warwickshire CV5 7NR  
Tel: 02476 463 027

### British Equine Veterinary Association

Wakefield House, 46 High Street,  
Sawston, Cambridgeshire CB2 4BG  
Tel: 01223 836 970 Fax: 01223 835 287  
Website: <http://www.beva.org.uk>

### British Eventing

National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh Park,  
Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2RN  
Tel: 02476 698 856 Fax: 02476 697 235  
Website: <http://www.britisheventing.co.uk>



## Annex I

# USEFUL CONTACTS

### British Harness Racing Club

Burlington Crescent, Goole,  
East Yorkshire DN14 5EG  
Tel: 01405 766 877 Fax: 01405 766 878  
Website: <http://www.bhrc.org.uk>

### British Horseball Association

67 Clifford Road, New Barnett,  
Hertfordshire EN5 5NZ  
Tel: 0208 441 1799 Fax: 0208 441 1799  
Website: <http://www.horseball.org.uk>

### British Horse Driving Trials Association

Dyklands Farm, Whnby, York YO61 4SP  
Tel: 01347 878 789 Fax: 01347 878 776  
Website: <http://www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk>

### British Horseracing Board

PO Box 4013, London W1A 6NG  
Tel: 0207 152 0000 Fax: 0207 152 0001  
Website: <http://www.britishhorseracing.com>

### British Horse Industry Confederation

c/o BHB

### The British Horse Society

Stoneleigh Deer Park, Kenilworth,  
Warwickshire CV8 2XZ  
Tel: 01926 707 700 Fax: 01926 707 800  
Website: <http://www.bhs.org.uk>

### British Reining Horse Association

Nashes Farm, South Godstone, Surrey RH9 8LY  
Tel: 01342 892 203 Fax: 01342 893 441  
Website: <http://www.britishreining.co.uk>

### British Show Jumping

British Show Jumping Association,  
National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh Park,  
Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2LR  
Tel: 02476 698 800 Fax: 02476 696 685  
Website: <http://www.bsja.co.uk>

### British Veterinary Association

7 Mansfield Street, London W1G 9NQ  
Tel: 0171 636 6541 Fax: 0171 436 2970  
Website: <http://www.bva.co.uk>

### British Veterinary Dental Association

Rahlea, 525 Woodham Lane, Woking, Surrey,  
GU21, 5SR  
Tel: 07831 286961  
Website: <http://www.bvda.co.uk>

### Countryside Agency

John Dower House, Crescent Place, Cheltenham,  
Gloucestershire GL50 3RA  
Tel: 01242 521 381 Fax: 01242 584 270  
Website: <http://www.countryside.gov.uk>

### Countryside Council for Wales

Maes y Ffynnon, Penrhosgarnedd, Bangor, Gwynedd  
LL57 2DW  
Tel: 01248 385 500 Fax: 01248 355 782  
Website: <http://www.ccw.gov.uk>

### Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR  
Defra Helpline (Public Enquiries) 08459 335577  
Website: <http://www.defra.gov.uk>

### Donkey Sanctuary

Sidmouth, Devon EX10 0NU  
Tel: 01395 578 222 Fax: 01395 579 266  
Website: <http://www.thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk>

### Endurance GB

National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh Park,  
Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2RP  
Tel: 02476 698 863 Fax: 02476 418 429  
Website: <http://www.endurancegb.co.uk>

### Environment Agency

Rio House, Waterside Drive, Aztec West,  
Almondsbury, Bristol BS32 4UD  
Tel: 01454 624 400 or 08459 333 111  
Fax: 01454 624 409  
Website: <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk>

### Farriers Registration Council

Sefton House, Adam Court, Newark Road,  
Peterborough PE1 5PP  
Tel: 01733 319 911 Fax: 01733 319 910  
Website: <http://www.farrier-reg.gov.uk>



## Annex I

# USEFUL CONTACTS

### **Grazing Animals Project**

7A Friars Quay, Norwich, Norfolk NR3 1ES  
Tel: 01603 756 070 Fax: 01603 756 065

### **The Home of Rest for Horses**

Westcroft Stables, Speen Farm, Lacey Green, Princes  
Risborough, Bucks HP27 OPP  
Tel: 01494 488 464 Fax: 01494 488 767  
Website: <http://www.homeofrestforhorses.co.uk>

### **Horserace Betting Levy Board**

52 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W OAU  
Tel: 0207 333 0043 Fax: 0207 333 0041  
Website: <http://www.hblb.org.uk>

### **Humane Slaughter Association**

The Old School House, Brewhouse Hill,  
Wheathampstead, Herts AL4 84N  
Tel: 01582 831 919 Fax: 01582 831 414  
Website: <http://www.hsa.org.uk>

### **Hurlingham Polo Association**

Manor Farm, Little Coxwell,  
Faringdon, Oxon SN7 7LW  
Tel: 01367 242 828 Fax: 01367 242 829  
Website: <http://www.hpa-polo.co.uk>

### **International Jousting Association**

Post Office Cottage, Cowesby Village, Thirsk, North  
Yorkshire, YO7 2JJ  
Tel: 01845 537 431  
Web site: <http://www.theija.com>

### **International League for the Protection of Horses**

Anne Colvin House, Snetterton, Norwich NR12 2LR  
Tel: 0870 870 1927 Fax: 0870 904 1927  
Website: <http://www.ilph.org>

### **The Jockey Club**

The Jockey Club, 151 Shaftesbury Avenue,  
London WC2H 8AL  
Tel: 0207 189 3800 Fax: 0207 189 3801  
Website: <http://www.thejockeyclub.co.uk>

### **LANTRA - The National Training Organisation for the Land-Based Industries.**

Lantra Trust, Lantra House, National Agricultural

Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth,  
Warwickshire CV8 2LG  
Tel: 0247 669 6996 Fax: 0247 669 6732  
Website: <http://www.lantra.co.uk>

### **Master of Draghounds & Bloodhounds Association**

Sandhurst Blacklands Farm, Millford Road,  
Elstead, Surrey GU8 6CA  
Tel: 01252 703 304  
Website: <http://www.draghunting.org.uk>

### **Master of Foxhounds Association**

Parsloes Cottage, Bagendon, Cirencester,  
Gloucestershire GL7 7DU  
Tel: 01285 831 470 Fax: 01285 831 737  
Website: <http://www.mfha.co.uk>

### **Mounted Games Association of Great Britain**

Europa Trading Estate, Parsonage Road, Stratton St  
Margaret, Swindon, Wiltshire SN3 4RJ  
Tel: 01793 820 709 Fax: 01793 820 716  
Website: <http://www.mgagb.co.uk>

### **National Assembly for Wales**

Agriculture and Rural Development,  
Cardiff Bay, Cardiff CF99 1NA  
Tel: 0292 082 5111  
Website: <http://www.wales.gov.uk>

### **National Equine Database**

Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2TF  
Tel: 024 769 818 Fax: 024 769 817  
Website: <http://www.ned.uk.com>

### **National Equine Welfare Council**

Stanton, 10 Wales Street, Kings Sutton,  
Banbury, Oxfordshire OX17 3RR  
Tel/Fax: 01295 810 060  
Website: <http://www.newc.co.uk>

### **National Fallen Stock Scheme**

National Fallen Stock Company, Curwen Road,  
Cumbria CA14 2DD  
Tel: 0845 054 8888 Fax: 01900 707 398  
Website: <http://www.nationalfallenstock.co.uk>



## Annex I USEFUL CONTACTS

**National Foaling Bank**

Meretown Stud, Newport, Shropshire TF10 8BX  
Tel: 01952 811 234 Fax: 01952 811 202

**National Office of Animal Health**

3 Crossfield Chambers, Gladbeck Way,  
Enfield, Middlesex EN2 7HF  
Tel: 020 8367 3131 Fax: 020 8363 1155  
Website: <http://www.noah.co.uk>

**National Pony Society**

Willingdon House, 102 High Street,  
Alton, Hants, GU34 1EN  
Tel: 01420 88333  
Fax: 01420 80599  
Website: <http://www.nationalponysociety.org.uk>

**National Trainers Federation**

9 High Street, Lambourn,  
Hungerford, Berkshire RG17 8XN  
Tel: 01488 71719 Fax: 01488 73005  
Website: <http://www.martex.co.uk/racehorse-trainers>

**Northern Ireland Assembly**

Agriculture and Rural Development, Dundonald  
House, Upper Newtownards Road,  
Belfast BT4 3SB  
Tel: 0289 052 0100  
Website: <http://www.nics.gov.uk>

**The Pony Club**

National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh Park,  
Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2RW  
Tel: 02476 698 300 Fax: 02476 696 836  
Website: <http://www.pcup.org>

**Redwings Horse Sanctuary**

Hapton Hall, Hapton, Norwich  
Norfolk, NR15 1SP  
Tel: 01508 481000  
Fax: 0870 458 1947  
Website: <http://www.redwings.co.uk>

**Retraining of Racehorses**

151 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2H 8AL  
Tel: 020 7152 0000 Fax: 020 7152 0001  
Website: <http://www.ror.org.uk>

**Riding for the Disabled Association**

Lavinia Norfolk House, Avenue R, National  
Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh Park,  
Warwickshire CV8 2LY  
Tel: 08456 581 082 Fax: 08456 581 083  
Website: <http://www.riding-for-disabled.org.uk>

**Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons**

Belgravia House, 62-64 Horseferry Road,  
London SW1P 2AF  
Tel: 0207 222 2001 Fax: 0207 222 2004  
Website: <http://www.rcvs.org.uk>

**Royal Society for the Prevention  
of Cruelty to Animals**

RSPCA HQ, Wilberforce Way, Southwater,  
Horsham, West Sussex, RH13 9RS  
Tel: 0870 3335 999 Fax: 0870 7530 284  
Website: <http://www.rspca.org.uk>

**Scottish Endurance Riding Club**

9 Elliot Road, Jedburgh, Borders TD8 6HN  
Tel: 01835 863 823 Fax: 01835 864 504  
Website: <http://www.scottishendurance.com>

**Scottish Equestrian Association**


Grange Cottage, Station Road,  
Langbank, Renfrewshire PA14 6YB  
Tel: 01475 540 687 Fax: 01475 540 687  
Website:  
<http://www.equinesport.org.uk/sea/web/>

**Scottish Executive**

Environment and Rural Affairs Department  
Pentland House, 47 Robbs Loan,  
Edinburgh EH14 1TY  
Tel: 0131 556 8400 Fax: 0131 244 8240  
Website: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk>

**Scottish Natural Heritage**

2 Anderson Place, Edinburgh EH6 5NP  
Tel: 0131 447 4784 Fax: 0131 446 2405  
Website: <http://www.snh.org.uk>





**Annex I**

## USEFUL CONTACTS

**Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals**

Braehead Mains, 603 Queensferry Road,  
Edinburgh EH4 6EA  
Tel: 0131 339 0222 Fax: 0131 339 4777  
Website: <http://www.scottishspca.org>

**Side-Saddle Association**

Nightingale Cottage, Coedyr-Eos, Valentine Road,  
Abersychan, Pontypool NP4 8QP  
Tel/Fax: 01495 772 212  
Website: <http://www.equiworld.com/ssa>

**Society of Master Saddlers (UK) Ltd**

Greenlane Farm, Stonham  
Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 5DS  
Tel/Fax: 01449 711 642  
Website: <http://www.mastersaddlers.co.uk>

**The Worshipful Company of Loriners**

8 Portland Square, London, E1W 2QR  
Tel: 020 7709 0222 Fax: 020 7709 0222  
Website: <http://www.loriner.co.uk>

**Thoroughbred Breeders' Association**

Stanstead House, The Avenue,  
Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 9AA  
Tel: 01638 661 321 Fax: 01638 665 621  
Website: <http://www.thoroughbredbreedersassociation.co.uk>

**Trekking and Riding Society of Scotland**

Brualch-Na-H'abhainne, Maragowan,  
Killin, Perthshire FK21 8TN  
Tel: 01567 820 909

**UK Polocrosse Association**

Grove House Farm, Main Road,  
Wharnccliffe Side, Sheffield S35 0OQ  
Tel: 01226 765 126 Fax: 01226 370 105  
Website:  
<http://www.bhs.org.uk/Sports/polocrosse.htm>

**Further copies of this publication are available free of charge from the National Equine Welfare Council (NEWC).**

**National Equine Welfare Council**

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Oxfordshire OX17 3RR  
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Website: <http://www.newc.co.uk>

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The British Horse Society  
British Show Jumping  
Devon Horse and Pony Society  
Donkey Sanctuary  
Home of Rest for Horses  
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International League for the Protection of Horses  
Mountains Animal Sanctuary  
Redwings Horse Sanctuary  
Riding for the Disabled Association  
Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals  
Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals  
Society for the Welfare of Horses and Ponies  
South Essex Insurance Brokers  
Veteran Horse Welfare



**DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS (Defra)**

The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has responsibility for many equine related policy areas, from horse welfare and disease control, to the promotion of the sustainable benefits which horses bring to economies and communities through the development of a Strategy for the Horse Industry in England and Wales. Defra works for the good of horses, the people who ride, own, or work with horses; and aims to promote the industry's sustainable contribution to economies and communities, especially in rural areas.

The Defra horse gateway provides up-to-date and comprehensive pages that will provide easy access to information on Government equine policy and the Horse Industry. It provides links to other departments and organisations with equine interests, and relevant contact details for further information.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/horses>





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