

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR LIVERY YARDS

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this code is to ensure that there are minimum standards with regard to the facilities provided for horses kept at livery, in order to provide basic welfare standards.

DEFINITIONS

In this instance the term horse means any domestic equine species; horse, pony, donkey, ass, hinney and mule, and the term livery means the provision of facilities supervision and/or care of horses that are not the property of the proprietor, in return for remuneration or reward.

Many horses are not kept on the owner's premises but are put into livery. Apart from the facilities provided, a significant influence on the welfare of the horse is the care and management given by the owner or keeper of the horse. It is imperative in any livery situation that it is clear who has the ultimate responsibility for the horse at any given time in the absence of the owner.

The term livery can be qualified to indicate different situations:-

- Full -** The care of the horse is the responsibility of the provider of the livery or yard manager.
- Part -** The responsibility is shared between the owner and livery provider.
- Working -** Indicates that part of the remuneration is to allow the use of the horse by the livery provider. If this use entails the hiring out of the horse, then a licence will be required under the Riding Establishments Acts of 1964 and 1970 in England, Scotland and Wales, and the Riding Establishments (Inspectors) Act 1968 Isle of Man
- DIY -** The owner of the horse is responsible for the care and management of the horse.
- Grass -** There is not a provision for individual housing of the horse.

The basic standards are also expected to apply to studs, showing and breaking yards, point to point and hunter yards. Racing yards are covered by Jockey Club guidelines and inspected.

It is advised that all livery providers are acquainted with the Equine Industry Welfare Guidelines Compendium for Horses, Ponies and Donkeys - December 2005 NEWC.

INFORMATION

The horse owner' and the responsible person's (the licence holder's) address, telephone numbers and the Veterinary Practice number must be displayed in a prominent position.

The licence holder will be the person responsible for the welfare of the horse/pony in the absence of its owner and must be a person of appropriate ability, knowledge and professional competence.

The licence holder must comply with Local Authority Regulations on:-

- Health and safety
- Fire regulations
- Manure storage and disposal

The licence holder must carry third party insurance.

There must be a written agreement between the licence holder and the owner of the horse covering the following items: Veterinary attendance, worm control programme, routine vaccination policy, farriery, type of livery, payment and use of facilities.

STABLING

1. The construction and size of the **stables** must be appropriate for the type of horses to be accommodated. The normal size ranges from 10'x10' to 14' x 16'. In each case:-
 - The animal must be able to stand, with its head in the normal position with adequate clearance, at least 2ft from the roof
 - The animal must be able to lie down and get up without difficulty
 - The animal must be able to stand, with its head in the normal position.
 - The animal must be able to turn round in comfort
 - Special attention must be given to very small and very large breeds
2. In the case of **stalls**:-
 - The sides must be wide enough to enable the animal to turn round and be led out without the necessity of backing.
 - The length of the stall floor must allow the horse to stand on the same level with front and hind feet.
 - The animal must be able to lie down and get up without difficulty
 - Special attention must be given to very small and very large breeds
3. Walls should present a reasonably smooth uninterrupted surface free from edges or projections on which an animal could injure itself. Partitions if used, must be down to floor level -tin sheeting must not be used.
4. Access to all stables / boxes / stalls should be possible for individual horses without risk from other horses or equipment.
5. Windows if fitted must be at a high enough level to prevent injury to horse or alternatively must be barred. There must be adequate ventilation.
6. Adequate suitable bedding to protect stabled horses from injury and disease should be provided. The stable should drain adequately, or deep litter should be provided in order to maintain a dry bed.
7. Each box should have provision for feeding and fresh water.
8. Adequate safe lighting whether fixed or portable shall be available to enable the horses to be thoroughly inspected at any time. If power points are provided they must be protected and the switches placed outside the boxes and not within reach of the horse.
9. Suitable storage for feed, forage and bedding must be provided.
10. The yard must be capable of being gated.
11. Vehicle access to the yard must be provided

MANURE STORAGE

1. There must be provision for adequate storage away from the stable area.

FEEDING AND WATERING

1. The horses, if required, will be given supplementary feeding according to their age, size and amount of work being carried out in order to maintain them in good health, satisfy their natural needs and promote a positive state of well being.
2. All horse must have access to or be provided with an adequate supply of fresh drinking water each day.
3. Feeding and watering equipment of non stabled horses shall be placed and maintained so that contamination of food and water are minimised and competition between horses avoided.

GRAZING LAND

1. Grazing land must be maintained in a suitable condition for equines, restricted areas must be provided if required.
2. Pasture and hedges must be regularly inspected for poisonous plants and they must be removed if present.
3. Where grass is used as sustenance, there must be sufficient to keep each animal in that field.
4. Horses that are not stabled shall, when necessary, be given protection from adverse weather conditions, and at all times have access to a well drained lying area.

FENCING

1. Secure and safe horse proof fencing must be provided.
2. Barbed wire is unsuitable, but if present must be separated by a secure guard fence or electric tape.

HEALTH

1. The horses under the care of this livery yard shall be inspected at intervals sufficient to avoid any suffering.
2. Any horses 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 immediately.
3. Where necessary, sick or injured horses shall be isolated in suitable accommodation with, where appropriate, dry comfortable bedding.
4. Records should be kept of all medicinal treatment given to horses. This is the owner's responsibility.
5. A yard parasite control programme and vaccination programme must be carried out under veterinary control/advice
6. All animals must be registered with a veterinary practice and with a registered farrier.

STATUTORY WELFARE CODES

If the livery yard owner employs or engages a person to attend to the horses he shall ensure that the person;

- a) It is advised that all livery providers are acquainted with the Equine Industry Welfare Guidelines Compendium for Horses, Ponies and Donkeys - December 2005 NEWC

POWERS OF AN AUTHORISED PERSON

Where an authorised person considers that horses 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.

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