

**Consultation on the Draft Equine Welfare Code of Practice**

**A Consultation Document issued by the Rural Directorate of The Scottish Government**

**19 October 2007**

To Interested Parties on the attached list.

19 October 2007

Dear Sir/Madam

## **CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT EQUINE WELFARE CODE OF PRACTICE**

I have enclosed a draft of our proposed welfare code on equines and would welcome any comments or suggestions you may have. The purpose of this consultation is to ensure that the advice contained in the code is accurate, practical and realistic. The aim of the code is to provide basic information and guidance to those responsible for horses, ponies, donkeys and other domestic equines on how to care for them.

I am very grateful to those individuals and organisations who have assisted in the preparation of the code.

This consultation seeks views on the style, layout and content of the code and the information, advice and guidance it contains. It is important that you give as much information and evidence as possible to support your opinion. This will help us improve the accuracy and quality of the code. Comments are welcome on any part of the code.

Comments on the draft code must be sent to the following address by **11<sup>th</sup> January 2008**.

Scott McDowell  
Animal Welfare Policy Team  
Room 350  
Pentland House  
47 Robb's Loan  
EDINBURGH  
EH14 1TY

By email to: [animal.health@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:animal.health@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

By fax to: 0131 244 6616

We need to know how you wish your response to be handled and, in particular, whether you are happy for your response to be made public. Please complete and return the Respondee Information Form (only required if you are providing a response) as this will ensure that we treat your response appropriately. If you ask for your response not to be published, we will regard it as confidential and we will treat it accordingly. All respondents should be aware that The Scottish Government is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. We would therefore have to consider any request made under that Act for information relating to this consultation exercise.

If you have any queries about this consultation please email or fax us as above, or call 0131 244 6182. Please let us know if you think anyone else should be consulted or feel free to copy and circulate the consultation to other interested parties or individuals.

If you would like further copies of this consultation, or the document in an alternative format, such as large print, Braille, audiotape or disc, or in a community language please use the contact details above. I expect that most respondents will find it easier to send in a written response, but if you would find it easier to respond in some other way (such as by telephone, audiotape or at a meeting) please contact us to make the necessary arrangements.

This consultation and all other Scottish Government consultation exercises can be viewed at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations>. You can telephone Freephone 0800 77 1234 to find out the location of your nearest Public Internet Access Point.

The Scottish Government now has an e-mail alert system for consultations (SEconsult). This system allows stakeholder individuals and organisations to register and receive a weekly e-mail containing details of all new consultations (including web links). SEconsult complements, but in no way replaces SE distribution lists, and is designed to allow stakeholders to keep up-to-date with all SE consultation activity, and therefore be alerted at the earliest opportunity to those of most interest. I would encourage you to register.

Consultation is an essential and important aspect of The Scottish Government working methods. Given the wide-ranging areas of work of The Scottish Government, there are many varied types of consultation. In general, however, consultation exercises aim to provide opportunities for all those who wish to express their opinions on a proposed area of work, to do so in ways which will inform and enhance that work. While details of particular circumstances described in a response to a consultation exercise may usefully inform the policy process, consultation exercises cannot address individual concerns and comments, which should be directed to the relevant public body.

The views and suggestions detailed in consultation responses are analysed and used as part of the decision making process. Depending on the nature of the consultation exercise, the responses received may:

- Indicate the need for policy development or review;
- Inform the development of a particular policy;
- Help decisions to be made between alternative policy proposals; and
- Be used to finalise legislation before it is implemented.

Where respondees have given permission for their response to be made public (via the Respondee Information Form) these will be made available to the public in The Scottish Government Library 20 working days after the close of the consultation. All responses,

where agreement to publish has been given, will be checked for any potentially defamatory material before being logged in the library or placed on the website. The library is located at Saughton House, K Spur, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD and you can make arrangements to view the responses by contacting the SE library on 0131 244 4565. Responses can be copied and sent to you but a charge may be made for this service.

If you have any comments about how this consultation exercise has been conducted, please send them to the response address above.

Yours faithfully



**Ian W Strachan**  
Head of Animal Welfare Team

# SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT HORSE CONSULTATION LIST

A & R Chalmers  
A Jamieson & Sons  
A M Crow Racing  
Aberdeen & Northern Marts  
Aberdeen City Council, Chief Executive  
Aberdeen City Council, Environmental Health  
Aberdeenshire Council, Chief Executive  
Aberdeenshire Council, Environmental Health  
& Waste Management  
Achalone Activities  
Action of Churches Together in Scotland  
(ACTS)  
Adfern Riding Centre  
Advocates for Animals  
Alisdair Kettles  
Allan, J (Mr)  
Altries Stables  
Amazing Animals  
An Tairbeart Trekking  
Angus Council, Chief Executive  
Angus Council, Environmental & Consumer  
Protection  
Angus Council, Environmental & Consumer  
Protection  
Animal Aid  
Animal Concern  
Animal Consultants & Training Association  
Animal Health - Ayr  
Animal Health - Galashiels  
Animal Health - Inverness  
Animal Health - Inverurie  
Animal Health - Perth  
Animal Protection Agency  
Animal Welfare Trust  
Annandale Equestrian Centre  
Appin Equestrian Centre  
Ardene House Veterinary Practice  
Ardene House Veterinary Practice  
Ardgowan Riding Centre  
Ardmiddle Livery Stables  
Argyll & Bute Council, Chief Executive  
Argyll & Bute Council, Environmental Health  
Argyll Riding Ltd  
Arthurshiel Rescue Centre  
Association of British Riding Schools  
Association of Chief Police Officers in  
Scotland  
Association of Chief Police Officers in  
Scotland  
Association of Circus Proprietors of Great  
Britain  
Auchlishie Eventing Ltd  
Bailey Mill Trekking Centre  
Balcorm Stud Farm  
Balhall Riding Stables & Boarding Kennels  
Balmenach Pony Trekking  
Balmoral Castle Pony Trekking  
Barbarafield Riding School  
Barclay's Transport Portsoy  
Barend Riding Centre  
Bargower Riding School  
BASC Scotland  
Beamish Riding Centre  
Blair Castle Trekking Centre  
Blair Drummond Safari Park  
Blairfield Stud Farm  
Blebo Stables  
Blue Cross  
Borlum Farm  
Bowhouse Livery  
Boydstone Stables  
Braeheads Stables  
Braeside Equestrian Centre  
Brechin Castle Equestrian  
Bridge of Don Equestrian Centre  
Brighthouse Bay Trekking Centre  
British Equine Veterinary Association  
British Horse Society  
British Horse Society Scotland  
British Society of Animal Protection  
British Veterinary Association  
British Veterinary Association (Scottish  
Branch)  
Broomhill Livery  
Broomhill Riding Centre  
Broothorn Ponies  
Buchan Veterinary Clinics (Peterhead)  
Burnock Mill Equestrian  
Burnside Farm  
Busby Equitation Centre Ltd  
Cairnhouse Riding Centre  
Calder Glen Country Park  
Caledonian Equestrian Centre  
Campbell Farriers Ltd  
Campblebridge Riding School  
Camperdown Wildlife Centre  
Captive Animals' Protection Society (CAPS)  
Carr-Bridge Trekking Centre  
Castle Riding Centre and Argyll Trail Riding  
Catholic Parliamentary Office  
Cauldhame  
Central Scotland Police  
Central Scotland Police  
Chapelton Farm Equestrian Centre  
Chariots of Fire Driving Centre  
Church of Scotland  
Church Society  
City of Edinburgh Council, Chief Executive

City of Edinburgh Council, Environmental Health Services for Communities  
 Clackmannanshire Council, Chief Executive  
 Clackmannanshire Council, Development & Environmental Services  
 Clickimin Open Riding Club  
 Clydesdale Horse Society  
 Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Chief Executive  
 Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Health & Consumer Services  
 Companion Animals Welfare Council  
 Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA)  
 Countryside Alliance  
 Cousland Park Equestrian Centre Ltd  
 Covesea Riding School  
 Cowton Riding Centre  
 Craigengillan Stables  
 Craigharr Livery Yard  
 Crieff Hydro Ltd  
 Crofters Commission  
 Cross, M J, Dip WCF (Mr)  
 Cruan Riding School & Livery Stables  
 Dabbs Show and Activity Centre  
 Daleside Equestrian Centre  
 Dalhousie Estates  
 Dalmakerran Equestrian Centre  
 Dean Castle Riding Centre  
 Denholm, L (Mr)  
 Dingwall & Highland Marts Ltd  
 Donkey Breed Sanctuary  
 Donkey Sanctuary  
 Drumbrae Riding Centre  
 Drumcarrow Craig Livery Yard  
 Drummohr Livery Yard  
 Dryden Riding Centre  
 Dumbreck Riding School  
 Dumfries & Galloway Council, Chief Executive  
 Dumfries & Galloway Council, Environmental Health & Trading Standards  
 Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary  
 Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary  
 Duncryne Equitation & Trekking Centre  
 Dundee City Council, Chief Executive  
 Dundee City Council, Environmental & Trading & Trading Standards  
 Dunnydeer Veterinary Group  
 Dunrossness Riding Club  
 Duns Livery  
 East Ayrshire Council  
 East Ayrshire Council, Chief Executive  
 East Dunbartonshire Council, Chief Executive  
 East Dunbartonshire Council, Consumer Services  
 East Dunbartonshire Council, Environmental Health & Safety Group  
 East Kingsford Livery Yard  
 East Lodge  
 East Lothian Council, Chief Executive  
 East Lothian Council, Environmental Health & Trading Standards  
 East Lothian Livery  
 East Middlebank Livery  
 East Renfrewshire Council, Chief Executive  
 East Renfrewshire Council, Environment & Protective Services  
 Easter Bush Riding Centre  
 Easterhill Saddlery & Trekking Centre  
 Easterton Stables  
 Edinburgh Airport Ltd  
 Edinburgh Equestrian Centre  
 Equestrian Association of Shetland  
 Equestrian Theatre Ltd  
 Equiworld  
 Eriskay Pony (Mother Society)  
 Eriskay Pony Society, Dalkeith  
 Eriskay Pony Society, Edinburgh  
 Falkirk Council, Chief Executive  
 Falkirk Council, Environmental Health Development Services  
 Faraway Riding and Recreation Centre  
 Farriers Registration Council  
 Federation of Small Businesses  
 Ferniehurst Mill Lodge  
 Fife Constabulary  
 Fife Council, Chief Executive  
 Fife Council, Trading Standards  
 Filsket Riding Club  
 Firgrove Park  
 Fjord Horse Studbook Society  
 Flint, J (Mrs)  
 Foreside Farm  
 Fraser, C (Miss)  
 Gairloch Riding Centre  
 Galloway Wildlife Conservation Park  
 Gamrie Tack Shop/Livery Yard  
 Gannochy Saddle Club  
 Garroch Estate  
 George West Farrier  
 Glasgow City Council, Chief Executive  
 Glasgow City Council, Environmental Protection Services  
 Glasgow Prestwick Airport  
 Gleddoch Riding School  
 Glen Tanar Equestrian Centre  
 Gleneagles Equestrian Centre  
 Glenfarg Riding School  
 Glenmarkie Farm Riding Centre  
 Glenrothes Riding Centre  
 Gore, M (Dr)  
 Grampian Police  
 Grampian Police  
 Grange Riding Centre (Banffshire)  
 Grange Riding Centre (West Calder)  
 H & S Transport  
 Hackney Horse Society

Haflinger Trekking Centre  
 Harelaw Equestrian Centre  
 Harrison & Hetherington Limited  
 Hazeldean Riding Centre  
 Hazelden School of Equitation  
 Heads of Ayr Farm Park  
 Highland Council, Chief Executive  
 Highland Council, TEC Services  
 Highland Horseback  
 Highland Pony Society  
 Highland Riding Centre  
 Highland Trekking & Trail Riding  
 Hill, N (Mr)  
 Hillcross Stables  
 Hogholm Farm Stables  
 Holmes Riding Stables  
 Houston Farm Riding School  
 Huntly Auction Mart  
 Institute of Auctioneers & Appraisers in  
 Scotland  
 International League for the Protection of  
 Horses  
 Inverclyde Council, Chief Executive  
 Inverclyde Council, Environmental &  
 Consumer Services  
 J & A Ferrie  
 Jim Witham Registered Farrier  
 John D Adamson Farrier Services  
 Jumps Equestrian Centre  
 Keith H Hedley Farrier Ltd  
 Kelburn Riding Centre  
 Kenmure Riding School  
 Kilconquhar Castle Estate Equestrian Centre  
 Kilmannan Stud  
 Kinshaldy Riding Stables  
 LACORS/COSLA  
 Ladymire Equestrian Centre  
 Langfaulds Stables  
 Law Society of Scotland  
 Lawrie & Symington Ltd  
 League Against Cruel Sports Ltd (Fife)  
 League Against Cruel Sports Ltd (London)  
 Leslie, A (Mr)  
 Lethame House Equestrian Centre  
 Lettershuna Riding Centre  
 Linn Park Equestrian Centre  
 Little Ochiltree Stables  
 Loanhead Equestrian Centre  
 Loch Ness Riding  
 Loch Tay Highland Lodges & Equestrian  
 Centre  
 Logie Farm Riding Centre  
 Lomondside Stud and Equestrian Centre  
 Longsheds Equestrian Centre  
 Lothian and Borders Police  
 Lothian and Borders Police  
 Lunderon Equestrian Centre  
 MacDonald, Margo MSP  
 MacNaughton Farrier R S S  
 Maver, E, Dip WCF (Ms)  
 McKenzie & Son  
 McNicol, D (Mrs)  
 Meadow Park Equestrian Centre  
 Meadowbank School Of Equitation  
 Mid Gavin Equestrian Centre  
 Midlothian Council, Chief Executive  
 Midlothian Council, Environmental Health  
 Millstonford Farm Livery Stables  
 Moray Council, Chief Executive  
 Moray Council, Environmental Health  
 Moredun Research Institute  
 Morgan, J R (Mr)  
 Mossburn Community Farm  
 Muirdyke Stables  
 Muirhead Farm Stables  
 Mull of Kintyre Equestrian Centre  
 National Equine Welfare Council  
 Nenthorn Riding & Livery Stables  
 NFU Scotland  
 NHS Grampian  
 North Ayrshire Council, Chief Executive  
 North Ayrshire Council, Trading Standards  
 North Highland College (Halkirk)  
 North Highland College (Thurso)  
 North Lanarkshire Council, Chief Executive  
 North Lanarkshire Council, Planning &  
 Environment Department  
 North Sannox Pony Trekking  
 North Uist Riding Centre  
 Northern Constabulary  
 Northern Constabulary  
 Northern Constabulary, Orkney Area  
 Command  
 Oatridge Agricultural College  
 Old Stable Yard Livery  
 Olivers Transport Limited  
 Orkney Auction Mart Ltd  
 Orkney Carriage Driving Group  
 Orkney Islands Council, Chief Executive  
 Orkney Islands Council, Environmental Health  
 Orkney Riding Centre  
 Orkney Riding Club  
 Oxenfoord Equestrian Centre  
 Palacerigg Country Park (N.L.C.)  
 Pape, R R (Mr)  
 Paterson, A (Mr)  
 Paterson, M (Mr)  
 Pathhead Equestrian Centre  
 Peebles Hydro Stables  
 Peelham Cross Country Course  
 Pentland Hills Icelandic  
 Pentland House Livery Stables  
 People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA)  
 Performing Animals Welfare Standards  
 International (PAWSI)  
 Perth & Kinross Council, Chief Executive

Perth & Kinross Council, Environment Service  
 Perth & Kinross Council, Trading Standards  
 Perth Agricultural Centre  
 Pet Advisory Committee  
 Pet Care Trust  
 Pet Health Council  
 Pet Training Courses  
 Political Fund for Animal Welfare  
 Pony Breeders Association (Shetland)  
 Pony Club  
 Pony Club (Orkney)  
 Portree Riding Stables  
 Puddledub Stud  
 R H Aitchison & Co  
 Raemoir Farm Stables  
 RDA Glasgow Group  
 RDVAC Pony Trekking Section  
 Redwing Riding School  
 Renfrewshire Council, Chief Executive  
 Renfrewshire Council, Public & Environmental Health  
 Road Haulage Association  
 Robert Thorne Estate Supplies  
 Rockside Farm Trekking Centre  
 Rossie Livery Centre  
 Roundknowe Farm  
 Rowallan Activity Centre  
 Rowanlee Riding School Ltd  
 Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, Division of Veterinary Studies  
 Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, Director of Veterinary Service  
 Royal (Dick) Veterinary School, Head of School  
 Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons  
 Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland  
 Royal Highland & Agricultural Society of Scotland  
 Royal Highland Education Trust  
 S B & Co.  
 Sam G. Thomson, Farrier Services  
 Sanday Saddle Club  
 Scottish Agricultural College  
 Scottish Agricultural College Veterinary Services  
 Scottish Borders Council, Chief Executive  
 Scottish Borders Council, Trading Standards  
 Scottish Churches Parliament Office  
 Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party  
 Scottish Consumer Council  
 Scottish Countryside Alliance  
 Scottish Endurance Riding Club  
 Scottish Equestrian Association  
 Scottish Equi Complex  
 Scottish Equine Association  
 Scottish Equine Breeders Association (SEBA)  
 Scottish Government - Ayr  
 Scottish Government - Benbecula  
 Scottish Government - Dumfries  
 Scottish Government - Elgin  
 Scottish Government - Galashiels  
 Scottish Government - Hamilton  
 Scottish Government - Highland  
 Scottish Government - Inverness  
 Scottish Government - Inverurie  
 Scottish Government - Kirkwall  
 Scottish Government - Lairg  
 Scottish Government - Lerwick  
 Scottish Government - Oban  
 Scottish Government - Perth  
 Scottish Government - Portree  
 Scottish Government - Stornoway  
 Scottish Government - Thurso  
 Scottish Government Library (2 copies)  
 Scottish Government Veterinary Division  
 Scottish Green Party  
 Scottish Homing Union  
 Scottish Icelandic Horse Association  
 Scottish Inter Faith Council  
 Scottish Labour Party  
 Scottish Liberal Democrats  
 Scottish National Party  
 Scottish Parliament Rural Affairs and Environment Committee  
 Scottish Parliament European and External Affairs Committee  
 Scottish Racing  
 Scottish Rural Property Business Association  
 Scottish Socialist Party  
 Scottish SPCA  
 Scottish SPCA - Glasgow  
 Scottish Sports Horse  
 Seaforth Riding Centre  
 Shetland Horse and Pony Event Committee  
 Shetland Islands Council, Chief Executive  
 Shetland Islands Council, Environmental Health  
 Shetland Pony Riding & Driving Group  
 Shetland Pony Stud-Book Society  
 Shieldbank Riding & Vaulting Club  
 Society for Companion Animal Studies  
 Society of Border Leicester Sheep Breeders  
 Society of Chief Officers of Trading Standards in Scotland  
 South Ayrshire Council, Chief Executive  
 South Ayrshire Council, Environmental Health  
 South Ayrshire Council, Trading Standards  
 South Lanarkshire Council, Chief Executive  
 South Lanarkshire Council, Consumer & South Whiteness Riding Club  
 SPICe (5 Copies)  
 Sports International Scotland Ltd  
 Stables (Lauder)  
 Stanmore Stables  
 Stirling Council, Chief Executive

Stirling Council, Environmental Health  
Stonelea Stables  
Strathclyde Police  
Strathclyde Police  
Strathdearn Pony Trekking  
Strathorn Farm Stables  
Strathspey Veterinary Centre  
Sunnyside Stables & Driving Centre  
Tahuna Livery  
Tait, T A (Mr)  
Tannoch Stables  
Taylor Veterinary Practice  
Tayside Police  
Teen Ranch Scotland  
Tenant Farmers Association of Scotland  
Thordale Equestrian & Trekking Centre  
Tomintoul Riding Centre  
Tower Farm Riding Stables  
Tranent Riding Centre  
Tullochville Livery Yard  
University of Aberdeen, School of Law  
University of Edinburgh  
University of Glasgow Veterinary School

Wallets Marts Castle Douglas Limited  
Waxing Stud  
Wells Field Farm Livery Centre  
West Arnloss  
West Dunbartonshire Council, Chief Executive  
West Dunbartonshire Council, Environmental  
Service  
West Highland Heavy Horses  
West Lothian Council, Chief Executive  
West Lothian Council, Environmental Health &  
Trading Standards  
West Loudoun Equestrian Centre  
West Pitcorthie Stables  
Wester Bandrum  
Wester Deanhead Equestrian Centre  
Westertoun Riding Centre  
Westmuir Equine Services  
Westwood, P (Miss)  
Whalsay Riding Club  
Wheater, R J (Prof)  
Whiteloch Farm Riding Stables  
Wilson, D (Mr)  
Women's Food and Farming Union

# RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM: DRAFT EQUINE WELFARE CODE OF PRACTICE

Please complete the details below and return it with your response. This will help ensure we handle your response appropriately. Thank you for your help.

Name:

Postal Address:

1. Are you responding: (please tick one line)
- (a) as an individual go to Q2a/b and then Q4
- (b) **on behalf of** a group/organisation go to Q3 and then Q4

## INDIVIDUALS

2a. Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in The Scottish Government library and/or on The Scottish Government website)?

- Yes Go to Question 2b
- No we will treat your response as confidential. Go to Question 4.

2b. **Where confidentiality is not requested**, we will make your response available to the public on the following basis ( please tick one of the following boxes)

- Yes, make my response, name and address all available
- Yes, make my response available, but not my name or address
- Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address

## ON BEHALF OF GROUPS OR ORGANISATIONS:

3. The name and address of your organisation **will be made available to the public** (in The Scottish Government library and/or on The Scottish Government website). Are you also content for your **response** to be made available?

- Yes
- No We will treat your response as confidential

## SHARING RESPONSES/FUTURE ENGAGEMENT

4 We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for The Scottish Government to contact you in the future in relation to this consultation response?

- Yes No

**Consultation on the Draft Equine Welfare Code of Practice**

**A Consultation Document issued by the Rural Directorate of The Scottish Government**

**19 October 2007**

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. Under the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 (the “Act”) anyone who owns or is in charge of an animal has a legal duty to take reasonable steps to ensure its welfare. The legislation quoted in boxes throughout this document is not part of the Code but is intended to highlight the relevant legal requirements. The law, as quoted in these boxes, is that in force on the date of publication or reprinting of the Code.

2. Breach of a provision of this Code, whilst not an offence in itself, can be used in evidence where somebody has been accused of an offence under the Act. Equally the Code can be quoted by anyone who has acted in accordance with its provisions, as a defence against any prosecution under the Act.

3. This Code applies in Scotland only and has been issued by the Scottish Ministers, following its approval in draft by the Scottish Parliament. It covers all equines for which a person is responsible. In this Code “Equines” is intended to cover all domestic horses, ponies, donkeys, and hybrids including mules. Where the word “horse” is used in this Code, that reference applies to all equines.

4. This Code provides a practical guide to those owners and keepers responsible for equines in Scotland and details a set of underpinning principles of horse care which are designed to cover the differing management techniques required for the many circumstances in which horses are kept in Scotland.

5. A horse which is being treated by a veterinary surgeon may have additional or special needs specified by the vet which will supersede the requirements of this code.

## **HORSE PASSPORTS**

6. The Horse Passports (Scotland) Regulations 2005 require all equines, regardless of age or status, to be accompanied by a passport. All horse owners must obtain individual passports for each horse owned. Passports can be held by the horse owner or keeper but must be held with the horse at all times. Horses without passports cannot:

- be moved for the purpose of being entered in a competition;
- be moved for the purpose of being used for breeding;
- be moved out of Scotland;
- be moved to the premises of a new keeper;
- be sold or have ownership transferred; nor
- be sent to slaughter for human consumption.

## THE DUTY OF CARE

7. Before buying a horse potential owners need to consider a number of important issues:

- the cost of keeping a horse, since the purchase cost may be minimal compared to the ongoing costs. The ongoing costs will vary depending on the needs of the individual horse, where it is kept and what it is used for. A potential owner should draw up a budget based on their own circumstances. This is necessary in order to decide whether the ongoing costs are affordable. In drawing up a budget, the owner should remember that along with the day to day costs for keep there is likely to be additional expenditure for items such as supplementary feeding, worming, insurance, veterinary fees (including regular vaccinations), farriery and equipment, etc. A full five stage vetting by an independent veterinary surgeon is recommended and should be considered.
- how much time will need to be spent in looking after the horse and will the owner have the time to exercise the horse;
- the skills and knowledge of horse care which they possess;
- what is the right horse for each situation; and
- how and where the horse will be kept.

8. A potential owner also needs to consider what contingency plans they should put in place; for example: the provision for stabling and transport for grass-kept horses should emergency veterinary treatment be required; having isolation facilities available; and alternative arrangements for the care of the horse should the keeper become incapacitated for any reason. These contingency arrangements should be reviewed when there is any change in the owner, keeper or horse's circumstances.

9. Under Section 24 of the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 animal owners and keepers have a legal duty of care for the animals for which they are responsible. This duty can therefore apply to livery yard owners, transporters and anyone who has agreed temporarily to take care of a horse:

Section 18 of the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 states:

(1) In this part, references to being responsible for an animal mean being responsible for it on a permanent or temporary basis.

(2) In this Part, references to being responsible for an animal include being in charge of it.

(3) For the purpose of this Part, a person who owns an animal is always to be regarded as being a person who is responsible for it.

(4) For the purpose of this Part, a person ("person A") is to be regarded as responsible for any animal for which a person who is under 16 years of age, of whom person A has actual care and control, is responsible.

(5) For the purposes of this Part, a person does not relinquish responsibility for an animal by reason only of abandoning it.

10. People are therefore responsible for an animal if they own or manage it. An owner has ongoing responsibility for their animal even if another person is in charge of it. A parent or guardian of a child under 16 years old is responsible for any animal that is owned or cared for by the child. This ensures that an adult can normally be identified as a person responsible for an animal. If an owner leaves an animal in the care of another person, it is the owner's duty to ensure the keeper is competent and has the necessary authority to act in an emergency.

11. The duty of care placed on a horse owner or keeper is based on the 'Five Freedoms'-

- **Freedom from Hunger and Thirst** - by providing ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.
- **Freedom from Discomfort** - by providing an appropriate environment, including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
- **Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease** - by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
- **Freedom to Express Normal Behaviour** - by providing sufficient space for habitation and exercise, proper facilities and company, as appropriate.
- **Freedom from Fear and Distress** - by ensuring conditions and treatment, which avoid mental suffering.

12. Responsibility for an animal therefore includes having an understanding of the specific health and welfare needs of the animal and having the appropriate knowledge and skills to care for the animal. Those responsible for animals will also have to comply with the legislation and should be aware of the appropriate Codes of

Practice, and to know when to seek qualified advice and help and who to approach, e.g. a farrier or a veterinary surgeon.

13. More information about the welfare provisions of the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act, and more details of the responsibilities of a horse owner or keeper, can be found by referring to the documents detailed in the “Sources of Information” at the end of this Code of Practice.

Section 24 of the Act states:

- (1) A person commits an offence if the person does not take such steps as are reasonable in the circumstances to ensure that the needs of an animal for which the person is responsible are met to the extent required by good practice.
- (2) The circumstances to which, for the purposes of subsection (1), regard is to be had include-
  - (a) any lawful purpose for which the animal is kept,
  - (b) and lawful activity undertaken in relation to the animal.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (1), an animal’s needs include –
  - (a) its need for a suitable environment,
  - (b) its need for a suitable diet,
  - (c) its need to exhibit normal behaviour patterns,
  - (d) any need it has to be housed with, or apart from, other animals
  - (e) its need to be protected from suffering, injury and disease.
- (4) This section does not apply to the destruction of an animal in an appropriate and humane manner.

14. These needs are explained in more detail in this Code; however, an individual horse may have other needs that need to be met to ensure its wellbeing. **If an owner or keeper is unsure what these might be it is important that they seek advice from a veterinary surgeon or an organisation such as the British Horse Society, the International League for the Protection of Horses, or the Scottish SPCA.** Contact details for these organisations can be found in the “Sources of Information” at the end of the Code of Practice. Specific welfare advice in relation to competition horses can be sought from the relevant sporting disciplines or governing body.

## THE NEED FOR A SUITABLE ENVIRONMENT

15. A horse owner or keeper must provide their horse with a suitable environment in which to live.

### Shelter

16. Not all horses will need a stable. Some hardy breeds with thick coats are capable of living outdoors throughout the year, provided they can obtain shelter from the prevailing winds, summer sun and flies. Shelter can be natural (for example trees or hedges) or man-made (such as a field shelter) depending on the field environment and type of horse. However, where horses are of less hardy breeding, clipped, very young or elderly they do require stable accommodation or other shelter to protect them from the cold and damp; or very hot weather.

### Stable Accommodation

17. Welfare aspects should be considered when constructing or altering buildings to provide housing for horses. The main considerations are the safety and comfort of the horses, ease of access and adequate drainage and ventilation. If poorly designed or managed, stabling can contribute to the rapid spread of disease, cause injury and pose significant fire risks. The following comments apply equally to all forms of housing including individual stables, stalls and communal barns.

- Construction: the building should be constructed soundly, with no exposed surfaces or projections likely to cause injury. All surfaces should be capable of being cleaned and disinfected. If surfaces are treated, non-toxic paints or wood preservatives should be used.
- Fixtures and fittings such as tie rings, hay racks and water bowls should be free of sharp edges and positioned so as to avoid injury, particularly to the eyes. If used, hay nets should be fixed at the horse's head height, allowing the horse to eat comfortably yet avoiding the risk of the horse getting its feet or head collar caught in the net when empty.
- Floors should be reasonably even, non-slip and designed to give good drainage, taking stable waste away from the horse.
- Doors should be a minimum of 4 ft wide and open outwards. They should be capable of being securely fastened with top and bottom bolts.
- Roofs should be high enough to provide adequate ventilation including good air circulation. There should be a minimum clear space to the eaves of 60-90 cm (2-3 ft) above the ears of the horse in its normal standing position.
- Light: sufficient light is essential within all stabling both for the horse to see adequately and also to enable inspection and safe handling of horses at all times. This can include portable lighting. Light bulbs should be enclosed in safety fittings with cabling secured well out of reach.

- Windows and ventilation slats should provide adequate air circulation without creating draughts. Perspex or safety glass (with grilles fitted between the horse and the glass) is advisable. One window or top door should normally be open at all times.

18. As horses and ponies vary so greatly in size it is difficult to set an ideal size for loose boxes, barns or stables. However, as a minimum, each horse should have sufficient room to lie down, readily rise and turn around in comfort. Boxes for foaling and for mares with a foal at foot will require additional space. All passageways should be sufficiently wide to enable horses to be led safely past other horses and provide sufficient room to enable a horse to be turned round comfortably.

19. Groups of horses can be kept together in communal barns but care should be taken to ensure that all horses get adequate access to hay, feed and water. Sufficient space should be provided to allow free movement and to allow all the horses to lie down at the same time.

20. Adequate and suitable bedding material is necessary in all equine accommodation to provide warmth, protection against injury and to enable the horse to lie down in comfort. Bedding material should be non-toxic and allow effective drainage, or be absorbent enough to maintain a dry bed and assist in keeping the air fresh. Whatever bedding is used, it should be well-managed and changed or cleaned regularly.

21. Fire is always a risk in stable areas. Advice should be sought from the local Fire Prevention Officer in relation to statutory requirements. All equipment and services (lighting units, fire extinguishers and alarm systems) should be kept clean, inspected annually by an appropriately qualified person and kept in good working order. All electrical installations at mains voltage should be installed by a qualified electrician, be inaccessible to horses, well insulated, safeguarded from rodents and properly earthed. All metal pipework and structural steelwork should be properly earthed. Highly inflammable liquid material or combustible material should not be stored in or close to stables where horses are housed. Roof beams and other ledges should be cleaned regularly. Smoking in stable areas should be prohibited.

22. Stabled horses should be capable of being released quickly in the event of fire or other emergencies in accordance with a pre-agreed emergency turnout plan.

## **Pastures**

23. As a general rule, each horse requires a minimum of one acre (or 0.4047 hectares) of good grazing if no supplementary feeding is being provided. However this will depend on the ground conditions, the time of year, type of horse and degree of pasture management employed.

24. It is not always practical or possible to remove horses from fields or pastures which become muddy, however, it is essential that the horse does have a comfortable, well drained area on which to stand and lie down, and on which to be fed and watered.

25. Fences should be strong enough and of sufficient height to prevent horses from escaping (for example higher fences may be required for stallions) and designed, constructed and maintained to avoid the risk of injury with no sharp projections. Gateways should be designed to allow for the easy and safe passage of horses, and gates should be fastened securely to prevent injury and escape. In some situations gates may need to be padlocked. Barbed wire should not be used in fields used by horses and where plain wire is used measures should be taken to ensure it is sufficiently visible to the horse.

26. Electric fences should be designed, installed and maintained so that contact with them does not cause more than momentary discomfort to the horse; all power units should be correctly earthed. Horses contained by electric fencing need extra supervision until they become accustomed to it. Temporary internal subdivisions created out of electrified tape and plastic posts or the use of tape provides an effective internal barrier, but these should not be used as the sole boundary fence.

27. A good pasture management programme is advisable to avoid over-grazing, maintain good drainage and control weeds. This may include, for example, picking up droppings, rotating grazing areas and where possible removing horses when the ground is very wet to prevent poaching (where the pasture breaks into wet muddy patches) and health problems.

28. Fields should be kept clear of dangerous objects and poisonous plants. Ragwort is one of the plants covered under the Weeds Act and should be removed and disposed of carefully wherever found. Cut ragwort should not be left where horses could have access to it as it remains toxic after being cut.

Under the Weeds Act 1959 Scottish Ministers can, if satisfied that specified weeds are growing upon any land, serve a notice requiring the occupier to take action to prevent the spread of those weeds. An unreasonable failure to comply with a notice is an offence.

29. Other plants such as yew and laburnum are also extremely toxic to horses therefore horses should not have access to these (or their clippings) at any time. Where fields back on to housing care should be taken to ensure that horses do not gain access to garden waste including lawn cuttings.

## **Tethering**

30. Tethering can be defined as securing an animal by an appropriately attached chain, to a centre point or anchorage, causing it to be confined to a desired area. Tethering is not a suitable method of long-term management of an animal, as it restricts that animal's freedom to exercise itself, to find food and water, or to escape from attacks by dogs or the extremes of hot and cold weather. It also risks an animal becoming entangled, or injuring itself, on tethering equipment. Tethering may be a useful as an exceptional short-term method of animal management during brief stops during a journey, to prevent danger to the animal, or to humans, whilst proper long-term arrangements are made, or in medical cases where short-term restriction of

food intake is required under veterinary advice. The need for regular supervision is paramount. More details on the conditions which should be met when horses are tethered are set out in Appendix A.

## **Rugs**

31. Not all horses will need a rug in inclement weather as some hardy breeds with thick coats are capable of living outdoors throughout the year without rugs. Some of these hardy breeds often thrive better without rugs, as rugs can sometimes be a cause of skin irritation. However, where horses are of less hardy breeding, clipped or elderly they may require a rug to help keep them warm and dry during cold, wet weather.

32. Rugs and hoods should be of the correct size to suit the horse, of the correct type (i.e. designed for the use to which it is being put), of the correct weight to suit the horse and the weather conditions, and correctly fitted to prevent rubbing, hair loss and abrasions. Rugs should be regularly removed so the horse's body condition and general health can be checked. Ideally this should be done daily.

33. Rugs should be cleaned and, if necessary, repaired regularly and all fastenings kept in good working order. A spare rug should be available to allow a very wet rug to be dried out.

## **Supervision**

34. Horses at grass should be inspected at least once a day, preferably more often. Stabled or group-housed horses should be inspected at least twice a day, again preferably more frequently. Particular attention should be paid to their gait, demeanour, feet, body condition and appetite so that early signs of disease, injury, illness or signs of parasites can be noticed and appropriate treatment promptly provided. Skin problems (e.g. lice, rain scald, mud fever, ringworm and sweet itch) are particular problems found in horses at pasture.

35. Hooves of horses should be picked out daily and at the same time examined for signs of injury, loose shoes, impacted foreign material or anything else unusual.

36. Apart from those on turnout with little work, horses should be groomed regularly, but not excessively (which could remove the protective grease from the coat), to ensure that the coat is clean, free from wounds or parasites and to detect rug, tack or harness rubbing.

## **THE NEED FOR A SUITABLE DIET**

### **Feed**

37. Horses are naturally "trickle" feeders, who eat little and often, whose diet is mainly grasses, which have a high roughage and low energy content. Horses should be provided with a balanced, predominately fibre-based diet: either grass, hay, haylage or a hay replacement in order to mimic their natural feeding pattern as

closely as possible. Horses should be fed little and often, whether roughage or concentrates are being fed, and at regular feeding times.

38. Good grazing should ensure an adequate intake of roughage and minerals; if grazing is poor supplementary feeding may be required. One way to limit grazing in large areas of grazing land is to divide the land into strips by using electric fencing.

39. All conserved forage should be of good quality; it should be clean (free from soil, debris and poisonous plants), smell fresh and be free from dust and mould. Feeding forage at floor level is good for horses' respiratory health, provided the underlying ground is kept reasonably clean. It also means that the horse eats in a similar position to that when grazing naturally.

40. The quantity of concentrates fed to a horse as supplementary feed in addition to any grazing or similar fodder should be no more than that necessary to provide the required energy for the type of work done and body condition of the horse. Each feed should be well mixed and freshly prepared. Horses should not be worked on a full stomach.

41. Feed should be correctly processed, stored in vermin-proof containers, and carefully handled to prevent spoiling and to ensure the nutritional value is maintained. Feed containers and utensils should be kept clean to discourage rodents. Contaminated, mouldy or stale leftover food and forage should not be fed to the horse and should be removed daily.

42. Where loose horses are fed in groups there should be one feeder per horse plus an extra feeding point. Two horses' lengths should be allowed between feeders to minimise the risk of injury to horses through competition for food.

43. The weight and condition of every horse should be monitored regularly to avoid welfare problems and feeding adjusted as necessary for animals that are too fat or too thin. Obesity and over eating remains the major cause of laminitis. At any time of year fat animals will fall into the high risk category for developing laminitis. Fat animals, particularly when the lush spring grass with its high energy content is freely available, are particularly at risk. Grazing may therefore need to be restricted at this time. See Appendix B for details of Condition Scoring which can help owners and keepers monitor their horse's weight and condition to avoid both obesity and emaciation.

## **Water**

44. It is essential that all horses have adequate access to a clean supply of fresh water, or that adequate clean water is made available to them on a regular basis throughout the day. Natural water sources such as streams are not always satisfactory, as they may be contaminated, so an alternative supply may be required unless natural water sources are clean, copious, have easy access and do not have a sandy base which may cause problems if disturbed when the horses drink. Extra care should be taken during hot or icy weather to ensure the water supply is maintained and sufficient, for example, by regularly breaking the ice during cold spells or providing an additional water source during hot weather. Additional water may need to be provided after exercise.

45. The trough should be securely fixed at a convenient height to allow, if necessary, horses of different size to drink comfortably and it should not be possible for the horse to paw the water or dislodge the trough and knock it over. There should be no sharp edges, protruding corners or exposed taps – they should be boxed in. Water troughs and containers should be cleaned regularly to prevent the build up of algae. Troughs should be positioned in a way so that it would not be possible for a horse to be trapped or cornered in the area of the trough.

## **THE NEED TO EXHIBIT NORMAL BEHAVIOUR PATTERNS**

46. Horses and ponies require adequate exercise, or freedom to exercise, and this will require time and effort from the horse owner or keeper. Horses that are continuously stabled should be either exercised (ridden or in hand) or be given space in which to exercise themselves each day, unless under veterinary advice to do otherwise.

47. Horses require calm, consistent and sympathetic handling by competent people. Horses respond best to a firm but gentle approach and to rewards for correct responses

## **THE NEED TO BE HOUSED WITH, OR APART FROM, OTHER ANIMALS**

48. Being gregarious animals horses prefer to live in social groups. They should therefore be socialised with their own species, preferably with an equine companion or if this is not possible, with another animal. They also enjoy human company so, if kept on their own, they require more frequent human contact and supervision. Donkeys have particular socialisation needs and can, for example, become ill if separated from a companion.

49. Horses should always be treated as individuals even when kept in large groups. When forming new groups care should be taken to avoid fighting and stress, particularly if they are to be mixed together. This risk can be reduced by increasing the space allowance or by penning the new animal close to the existing group for a short period and / or removing back shoes of all animals during the introduction period. Separation of incompatible animals is particularly important in this system; horses should not be mixed in fields or communal barns if any one individual is aggressive, nor should shod horses normally be mixed with those that are unshod. Incompatible individuals, such as entire males (colts, stallions) and “rigs” (a stallion with undescended testicles or a horse which has been incompletely castrated) should be separated. In communal barns mares heavily in foal or with foal at foot should also be separated from other horses. When living in groups horses always develop a pecking order, so it is important to be aware of bullying and it is important that the correct amount of feed and water is provided for all the horses in the group. Care needs to be taken to ensure that those lower down the pecking order are getting the feed and water which they require.

50. As a general rule the more horses kept; the more time, effort and resources are required to safeguard the welfare of the horses. The size of the group is also important.

## **THE NEED TO BE PROTECTED FROM SUFFERING, INJURY AND DISEASE**

Section 19 of the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 states:

(1) A person commits an offence if-

(a) the person causes an animal unnecessary suffering by an act, and

(b) the person knew, or ought to have known, that the act would have caused the suffering or be likely to do so.

(2) A person who is responsible for an animal commits an offence if –

(a) the person causes the animal unnecessary suffering by an act or omission, and

(b) the person knew, or ought to have known, that the act or omission would have caused the suffering or be likely so to do.

### **Discipline and restraint**

51. It is an offence to cause an animal unnecessary suffering therefore any discipline should be appropriate, timely, reasonable and proportionate. Similarly any restraint method used to assist normal management or treatment of the horse should be the most mild and effective method available and should be applied by a competent person only for the minimum period necessary. Sedatives must only be used under veterinary advice.

### **Prompt recognition of ill health**

52. Everyone responsible for the supervision of horses should be able to recognise signs of ill health and have a basic knowledge of equine first aid. It is also important that owners and keepers have access to a veterinary surgeon to diagnose or treat any illness, injury or disease and have their contact details easily available, including out of hours details. Horse passport should be easily accessible, otherwise some treatments may not be available.

53. Owners and keepers of horses should be able to recognise the normal behaviour of their horses and recognise the signs that indicate poor health. These include:

- change in appetite (for food and water);
- change in droppings;
- change in demeanour or behaviour;
- losing body and coat condition; and
- the presence of any injury or lameness.

54. When a horse becomes unwell, the cause of this deterioration should be identified and immediate remedial action taken. Veterinary advice should be obtained if the horse appears to be ill or in pain and the cause is not clear or if initial first aid treatment is not effective. In the case of foot problems, advice could be obtained from a registered farrier. Advice from the veterinary surgeon or farrier should be followed diligently.

55. Veterinary advice should be sought immediately if the horse is suffering from severe lameness, recumbency, acute pain, respiratory distress or large open wounds.

### **Routine health care**

56. A parasite control programme should be put in place following consultation with a veterinary surgeon; this may include the use of wormers, and appropriate faecal worm egg counts. Careful pasture management including the rotation of grazing and dung collection is an important part of an effective parasite control programme.

57. There should be adequate control of infectious and contagious disease by a programme agreed with a veterinary surgeon, which will include appropriate hygiene and isolation procedures and vaccination.

58. Teeth should be inspected by a veterinary surgeon or qualified equine dental technician at least once a year, and rasped or otherwise treated if necessary. Horses with worn or abnormal teeth are unable to chew their food properly which leads to poor digestion. Owners and keepers should look out for signs of this problem, such as: half-chewed food dropping out of the mouth; poor condition and lack of energy; and abnormal mouth movements when ridden.

The Farriers (Registration) Act 1975 states:

Under this Act it is an offence for an unregistered person to describe himself as a farrier or shoeing smith, and it is an offence

for an unregistered person to carry out an act of farriery. An act of farriery is described 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".

59. Every horse owner and keeper should have some understanding of the care of a horse's feet, which grow continuously and the need to treat lameness promptly and effectively. Feet should be trimmed by a competent person and attention should be given to their growth and balance. Horses ridden or driven on roads or hard, rough surfaces should be regularly shod by a registered farrier. The Farriers Registration Act 1975 requires anyone shoeing horses to register each year with the Farriers Registration Council. This includes those people who only shoe their own horses. Loose shoes and those with risen clenches should receive prompt attention from a farrier to prevent possible injury. Hooves should be trimmed or re-shod as advised by the farrier, which should usually be every 4-8 weeks.

60. Flies can cause a great deal of irritation to horses, particularly during the summer, and can introduce infection to wounds so an appropriate treatment from a veterinary surgeon should be used. Midges can also be a source of irritation during the spring and summer and can cause sweet itch. Consideration should be given to preventative fly and midge control through the use of fly repellents, fly rugs or masks and, for horses sensitive to fly or midge bites, stabling at dawn and dusk when flies and particularly midges are most active.

### **Saddlery and Harness**

61. Saddlery and harness should be suitable for the purpose, being appropriate to the needs and abilities of both horse and rider. They should be correctly fitted, preferably by a qualified saddle fitter, and regularly cleaned and maintained in good order to ensure comfort, safety and effectiveness.

62. Boots and bandages: if used, these should be suitable for the purpose, correctly fitted to avoid discomfort or injury and only left on for the minimum time necessary.

### **Transporting Horses**

63. The transportation of horses and ponies should always be as safe and stress free as possible and in accordance with current rules and regulations.

Annex 1 of EC Regulation 1/2005 requires that animals are fit to be transported and states that:

No animal shall be transported unless it is fit for the intended

journey, and all animals shall be transported in conditions guaranteed not to cause them injury or unnecessary suffering.

Animals that are injured or that present physiological weakness or pathological processes shall not be considered for transport and in particular if:

- (a) they are unable to move independently without pain or to walk unassisted;
- (b) they present a severe open wound, or prolapse;
- (c) they are pregnant females for whom 90% or more of the expected gestation period has already passed, or females who have given birth in the previous week;
- (d) they are new born mammals in which the naval has not completely healed.

(c) and (d) do not apply to **registered** equidae if the purpose of the journey is to improve the health and welfare conditions of birth, or for newly born foals with their registered mares, provided that in both cases the animals are permanently accompanied by an attendant, dedicated to them during the journey.

Registered equidae have a restricted definition and only applies to those covered by article 2(c) of Directive 90/426 EEC and covers horses registered by a breeding or other authority but excludes those intended for slaughter.

## **Euthanasia**

64. It may be necessary, in the event of incurable illness, old age or permanent unsoundness or, more suddenly, in the event of an accident, to arrange the humane destruction of a horse. The horse's welfare must always come first. Therefore, in the interests of the horse, owners should give the issue their full consideration well before the time comes to make a decision to prevent the horse suffering unnecessary pain and distress.

65. Where, in the opinion of a veterinary surgeon, a horse is significantly suffering, has not responded to treatment for a serious injury or condition involving significant pain, has a disease or injury from which there is no prospect of recovery and for which no treatment is available, or where a horse is in such a condition that it would be inhumane to keep it alive, the animal should be humanely destroyed without delay by veterinary surgeon or an appropriately experienced and equipped person such as a knacker or hunt kennel employee by an approved method.

66. In a non-emergency situation, where a horse is permanently unsound or has a recurring or permanent and steadily worsening condition, a rational decision should be made with due regard for the horse's future and welfare.

67. As horses become older their needs may become greater, they may well require increased supervision and additional veterinary care. When a horse reaches the end of its active working life, or is very elderly, consideration should be given to whether the horse can be provided with a good quality of life in retirement. Owners have a responsibility to ensure that they or whoever is entrusted with the care of such an animal is fully aware of the needs of that animal otherwise consideration should be given as to whether it would be kinder to have the horse painlessly destroyed.

## **APPENDIX A: TETHERING**

### **A Suitability of the Animal**

1. Not all animals are suitable for tethering,
2. Young animals; horses under two years old should not be tethered.
3. Pregnant animals should not be tethered in the last third of pregnancy.
4. Nursing mothers should not be tethered
5. Mares should not be tethered near stallions
6. Stallions should not be tethered
7. Sick animals should not be tethered
8. Old (over 20 years old) animals should not be tethered.

### **B Site. (the area to which the tethered animal has access)**

1. The site should be reasonably level, have good grass cover, and be free of any objects, natural or man made, which could ensnare the tether.
2. A site in which a high proportion of the herbage consists of weeds is not suitable.
3. The site should not be waterlogged.
4. The site should not be crossed by any public right of way.
5. The site should not have anything on it, which might injure an animal.
6. The site should not be used without the written permission of the landowner. Written permission should include a requirement to abide by this code.
7. An adequate area for tethering should allow access by any part of the horse's body and with an extra 4 metres between the hind quarters of one horse and another.

### **C Tethering Equipment.**

1. Either a well-fitting leather head collar, or a broad leather neck strap must be used. These should be fitted with a 360° swivel device where the chain is attached.
2. The chain should be approximately 20 ft in length, and must be strong enough to prevent breakage, but light enough to prevent pressure sores from the tethering equipment. Rope or nylon should not be used.
3. The ground stake must not protrude above ground level, and must be fitted with a 360° swivel.

### **D Food and water.**

1. In many cases the site will provide adequate food in the form of grass; where this is the case the tether site should be changed at least once daily to ensure the quality of the pasture.
2. If the grass is not sufficient for the animal's need, sufficient forage food should be available throughout each day.
3. Water should be made available, regularly, in a spill-proof container.
4. Containers for concentrate food should be kept in a clean and safe condition.

## **E Shelter.**

1. Animals should not be exposed to the full heat of the sun, to heavy rain, snow or hail, or to strong winds for other than very short periods. In extremes of weather shelter should be provided.
2. Shelter should, at a minimum, provide shade from the sun and from severe wind. In prolonged rain, a well drained area must be available.

## **F Exercise**

1. Animals must be given freedom to exercise off the tether for a reasonable period at least once a day.

## **G Supervision.**

- 1 Tethered animals require a high level of supervision, and should be inspected no less frequently than six hourly intervals during normal waking hours.
2. Provision should be made to deal with situations where extremes of weather or other circumstances occur.

## **H Identification.**

- 1 All tethered animals should be marked in such a way as to be permanently identifiable, and from this identification the keeper or owner should be able to be readily contacted.
- 2 This could be achieved by use of a freeze-brand or microchip registered with a 24-hour access database.
- 3 Alternatively the animal could have some form of identification attached to the head collar or neck strap giving full details of the keeper or owner.

## **I Other requirements.**

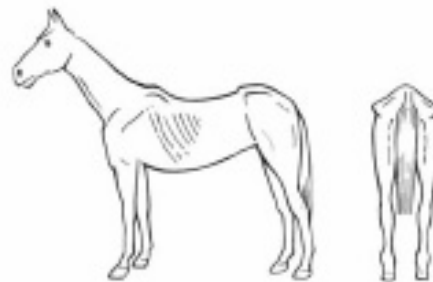
1. They may need protection from ill-intentioned persons.

BODY CONDITION SCORING OF HORSES

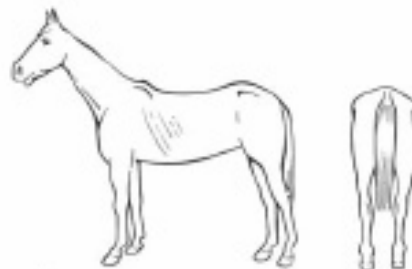
0 Very Poor



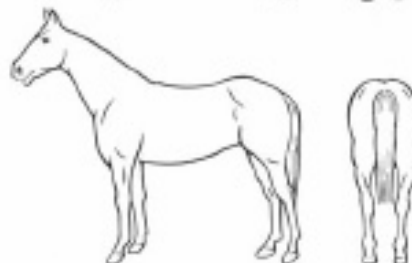
1 Poor



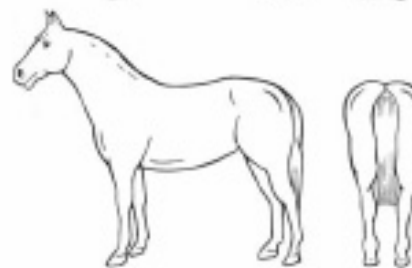
2 Moderate



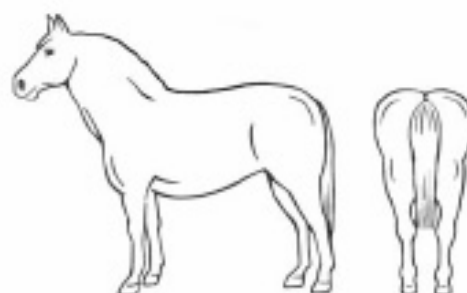
3 Good



4 Fat



5 Very Fat





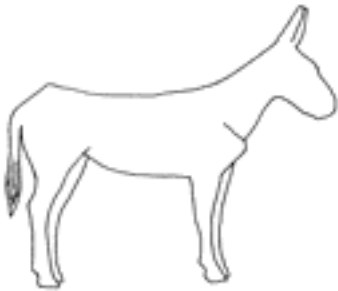







## BODY CONDITION SCORING OF HORSES

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.

## BODY CONDITIONING SCORING FOR DONKEYS

1. POOR		
2. MODERATE		
3. GOOD		
4. FAT		
5. OBESE		

## DONKEY BODY CONDITION SCORE CHART UK

	<b>NECK AND SHOULDERS</b>	<b>WITHERS</b>	<b>RIBS AND BELLY</b>	<b>BACK AND LOINS</b>	<b>HINDQUARTERS</b>
<b>POOR</b>	Neck thin, all bones easily felt. Neck meets shoulder abruptly, shoulder bones felt easily, 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>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>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>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.	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.

			Belly over developed		
OBESE	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.

Copyright The Donkey Sanctuary

Reproduced with the permission of the Donkey Sanctuary

## APPENDIX C: SOURCES OF INFORMATION

### Legislation

- Animal Health & Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006
- Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations.
- The Weeds Act 1959
- Horse Passports (Scotland) Regulations 2005

### Websites of relevant organisations

- [www.bhsscotland.org.uk](http://www.bhsscotland.org.uk)
- [www.ilph.org](http://www.ilph.org)
- [www.bhs.org.uk](http://www.bhs.org.uk)
- [www.newc.co.uk](http://www.newc.co.uk)
- [www.pcuk.org](http://www.pcuk.org)
- [www.bva.uk](http://www.bva.uk)
- [www.beva.org.uk](http://www.beva.org.uk)
- [www.wef.org.uk](http://www.wef.org.uk)
- [www.farrier-reg.gov.uk](http://www.farrier-reg.gov.uk)

### Publications relevant to topics covered by Code

- Scottish Government Publication  
Horse Passports: Guidance for all horse owners.
- British Horse Society Publications:  
The Complete Horse & Pony Care  
BHS Guide to Grassland management  
The BHS Complete Manual of Stable Management  
The BHS Veterinary Manual
- Pony Club Publications:  
Manual of Horsemanship  
Keeping a Pony at Grass
- National Equine Welfare Council  
Equine Industry Welfare Guidelines Compendium
- British Equine Veterinary Association  
Horse Care Guide

