

## Hiring out horses

### Pre-inspection information

#### Notes:

- The minimum size of a stables must be: Horses: 3.65m x 3.65m (12ft x 12ft) Large Horse: 3.65m x 4.25m (12ft x 14ft); Ponies: 3.05m x 3.05m (10ft x 10ft) Large Ponies 3.05m x 3.65m (10ft x 12ft) Mules: 3.65m x 3.65m (12ft x 12ft) Donkeys: 3.05m x 3.05m (10ft x 10ft, Large donkeys: 3.05m x 3.65m (10ft x 12ft) and must allow room for horse to lie down and move around.
- Door width must be minimum 4ft wide and must be bolted top and bottom.
- The height of the door must allow the horse to look out with the head comfortably over the door unless it can be shown that there is a valid reason not to allow heads out.
- Doors must open outwards or through slide mechanism.
- Appropriate isolation, in separate self-contained facilities, must be available for the care of sick, injured or potentially infectious animals.
- There must be a preventative healthcare plan in place agreed with the appointed veterinarian or appointed veterinary practitioner.
- Where instruction riding is taking place there must be a minimum riding area of 20m x 40m
- Where staff are employed a separate hand wash basin with an adequate supply of hot and cold water must be provided for them to wash their hands.
- Active and effective environmental enrichment must be provided to the animals in inside and any outside environments.
- When a new horse enters the premises, the horse must be kept in isolation for a minimum of 14 days and must not have direct contact with other horses or any equipment used in the care of other horses.

#### Procedures/policies needed:

- A written staff training policy (to include induction, annual appraisal, planned continued professional development, use of online courses and literature, should no staff be employed this should demonstrate the license holders own knowledge development. This must cover horse welfare, horse behaviour, horse handling, feeding and preparation, cleanliness and hygiene, disease prevention and control and recognition and treatment of sick/ injured animals.
- A cleaning and disinfecting procedure (to include isolation provisions)
- A procedure covering transportation
- A procedure covering feeding
- A procedure covering the prevention of, and control of the spread of, disease
- A procedure covering the death or escape of an animal
- A procedure covering the care of animals following suspension/revocation of the licence or during and following an emergency (emergency plan)
- Preventative Fire Risk Assessment that includes location map re access/egress for people and horses.
- Processes must be in place to meet the needs of young and new horses including appropriate training and slow introduction to different noises and sights that will be part of their daily routine or workload.
- A policy must be in place for monitoring the introduction of new horses to existing groups.

## Records:

- A plan/record of the type, quantity, frequency of food each horse receives must be kept.
- Any medication given must be prescribed/recommended for the individual horse by a veterinarian, and each instance must be recorded.
- Records of POMs (Prescription only medications) administered must be recorded in horse passports by the veterinarian or owner where required.
- A record of all animals euthanased, the carcass disposal route and the identity of the individual that carried it out must be kept for 36 months.
- A record will be kept to demonstrate that each horse workload/regime is balanced to meet the needs of each individual horse including maximum weight of rider.
- There must be a register of all horses kept for the licensable activity on the premises and each horse's valid passport showing its unique equine life number and microchip number (if any).
- A documented system of recording observation for illness, injury or behavioural problems must be maintained.

## Star ratings:

As part of the new regulations each premises will receive a star rating following their formal inspection. In order to achieve the best star rating possible each premises will need to have covered all of the standard conditions and have all consents, policies and procedures in place.

In order to meet the highest possible rating for both the high and low risk categories in the rating matrix certain extra conditions will need to be met. The higher standards are classified in to two types: **required** and **optional** and are outlined below. **Higher standards that appear in blue text are required**, whereas **those that appear in red text are optional**. To qualify as meeting the higher standards, the business needs to achieve all of the required higher standards as well as a minimum of 50% of the optional higher

## Required

- There must be an option for a permanent individual turn out paddock/pen to allow horses their own area for grazing/turnout if required owing to ill-health or domination by other horses.

Horses must be inspected at least once during the out of hours period (e.g. 1800-0800).

- All horses must have a structured management and care programme to include their exercise needs with suitable alternatives for those unable to exercise, such as additional grooming, physiotherapy etc.

Each horse will have its own specific care plan detailing age and any health related conditions.

- Records must evidence individual monitoring and training plans for horses in connection with individual training needs to complement their use within a riding school. This must be accompanied with evidence of regular and effective checks with saddler for comfort and fit.

Initial assessments must be undertaken for new riders and details of assessment recorded.

- Documented risk assessment must be available for all such equipment, for example horse clippers, horse walker, yard blowers, arena levelling equipment and any additional therapy based machines or equipment.
- Documented risk assessment must be available for activities, including PPE requirements that include appropriateness of PPE relative to differing tasks and situations.

## Optional

- At least one member of key staff must hold an OFQUAL regulated Level 3 qualification or higher.
  - Size of stable must exceed minimum requirements. Horses will not be in reach of each other to bite and there will be room to work around them. Horses will be in view of each other, unless kept singly for management reasons, such as isolation or stallion management purposes.
  - There must be a separate secure, clean and well-lit veterinary inspection area that enables safe access to allow inspection of a horse.
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- There must be separate well lit, lockable, purpose built feed room with water available and additional storage for supplements.
  - A competent person must be on site at all times.
  - Independent specialist nutritional advice must be sought as appropriate for individual horses and documented alongside the weekly body condition scoring. Records must evidence individual health plans and monitoring for horses in connection with dietary requirements. There must be legible and up to date feed chart on display that informs correct feeding amounts for individual horses.