



National Equine Welfare Protocol

“The prevention of equine suffering and neglect, and when necessary their rapid remediation, are the paramount considerations”



June 2008





BUCKINGHAM PALACE

There are many agencies with varying degrees of interest and involvement in equine health and welfare. Sixty independent welfare organisations come together in the National Equine Welfare Council (NEWC), with many more organisations outside NEWC working towards similar welfare goals, often in geographically defined areas. Collectively they represent a considerable force for the good of equines. But despite this wealth of expertise and resource we have hitherto lacked the ability to coordinate and use it to maximum effect, with a recent high profile welfare case illustrating some of the challenges. This prompted an initiative to bring together representatives of the welfare sector, plus various public sector organisations, to develop a Protocol to establish how we might do things better, both to deal with incidents when they occur and, we must hope, to reduce the likelihood of them happening again. Drawing the best from such a diverse group called for a particular blend of organisational experience and diplomacy in the chairman and I am very grateful indeed that Major General Robert Gordon lent his expertise as a UN negotiator to the task.

This Protocol sets out how, collectively and individually, the industry will act both to promote equine welfare and to respond to reported instances of neglect or abuse. This information will be widely available and will advise the public on how to report their concerns. The production of the Protocol represents the beginning of a dynamic process which has identified objectives to be pursued and developed over the coming years. Central to this initiative are, in England and Wales, the 2006 Animal Welfare Act and, in Scotland, The Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006. These are based on the concept of a duty of care to animals, and the promotion of responsible ownership. We have an economic and social strategy for the horse industry which aims to promote the success and prosperity of what is already a £4 billion industry. On the back of that strategy we have, in England and Wales, a Health and Welfare Strategy for the horse which was launched in May 2007. This is a ten year plan to ensure that all our horses, ponies and donkeys are as healthy as possible, are treated as humanely as possible, and everyone responsible for equine health and welfare understands and fulfils their duty of care.

This Protocol represents an integral part of that Health and Welfare strategy and I commend it to you.

Foreword by the Chairman of the Review

It is not the starting point of any journey but the distance to be travelled, the terrain and the climate which determine how difficult the passage will be. I am very pleased to say that chairing this review has been one of the more agreeable journeys I have undertaken. The distance to be travelled from where the various organisations previously stood to the place they wanted to be was not great nor, given the unanimity of purpose amongst all parties, was the going in the least bit arduous. Moreover, the climate was rendered equable by the collegiate spirit of the entire working group which prevented any sense of territoriality or defensiveness from intruding. For all these reasons I warmly applaud the participating organisations. I applaud, too, the support expressed by those organisations which considerations of manageability dictated could not be accommodated within a small working group. Their continuing input is no less important to the well being of equines than those whose names are subscribed below.

You will find no blinding flashes of light or examples of breathtaking innovation in the pages that follow. The seven Commitments upon which the working party is wholeheartedly agreed come under the general heading of simple good sense. It is a fact of life that good sense is often easier to deploy consistently and to good effect when it has been determined collectively and expressed unambiguously. And if we have succeeded in dispelling ambiguity in setting down the results of our deliberations then Annemarie Westwood from The British Horse Society and Liane Crowther from The Horse Trust, who collectively provided the Secretariat for the review, deserve especial mention for their skills in winnowing out the chaff and packaging the wheat so efficiently.

The conclusion of the review is not the end of the business but the beginning. The working group members are resolved, with as many other organisations as wish to participate, to keep under constant review both their performance against the various agreed Commitments and, more generally, the state of equine welfare across the UK. I am sure they will continue the journey with the same will and energy with which they began it.



Major General (Retired) Robert Gordon CMG, CBE

Supporting statement from Jonathan Shaw MP, Minister for The Horse Industry

As Minister with responsibility for the horse I am all too aware of the stresses and strains placed on the police, local authorities and welfare organisations in tackling horse abuse and neglect. I have been appalled by some of the cases I have seen and I applaud the tremendous commitment shown by those agencies who find themselves in the frontline when these incidents come to light.

The Animal Welfare Act, which came into force last year, means that at long last we have in place legislation that has the potential to make huge improvements in the way that animals are cared for. But we are going to miss out on this opportunity if the agencies which enforce the law and care for animals that have been subjected to abuse are not being properly supported.

I therefore welcome the work done by those who drew up the Protocol. It is absolutely essential that everything is done to encourage statutory and welfare organisations to work closely together to prevent horses from suffering unnecessarily. I look forward to seeing the vision set out in the Protocol bringing about very real improvements to welfare standards.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Shaw'.

Supporting statement from Association of Chief Police Officers President Ken Jones

The National Equine Welfare Review was established to facilitate and work with key partners to bring about improvements and beneficial changes to assist the large number of agencies involved in the health and welfare of horses.

The Association of Chief Police Officers of England, Wales and Northern Ireland (ACPO) is one of the agencies which, along with other organisations, is involved in the protection of animals and the enforcement of the law.

ACPO is committed to the challenges that lie ahead to meet the commitments made in this Protocol and its ongoing development. We look forward to continuing to work with our partners in accordance with the National Equine Welfare Protocol and respond effectively to reports of neglect and abuse.


A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ken Jones', written over a horizontal line.

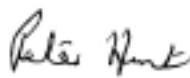
Ken Jones QPM, Chief Constable

This National Equine Welfare Protocol was developed by representatives from local and national government, the Police, welfare organisations and others with an interest in equine welfare. It is applicable throughout the UK.

We, the undersigned, support the Protocol and agree to work in collaboration to fulfil the commitments detailed in Annex A.

Signed:


The Blue Cross 


Bransby Home of Rest for Horses 

British Equine Veterinary Association 

The British Horseracing Authority 

The British Horse Society 

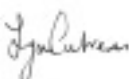
The Donkey Sanctuary 


The Horse Trust 

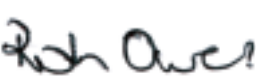
Horseworld 

The Livestock Auctioneers Association 

National Equine Welfare Council 

Redwings Horse Sanctuary 

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals 

World Horse Welfare (the new name for the International League for the Protection of Horses) 

National Equine Welfare Protocol

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1. This Protocol sets out guidelines for how cases of equine neglect and abuse should be reported and handled, and what the relevant organisations can do to reduce the incidence of equine welfare problems.
- 1.2. Neglect can be defined by reference to section 9 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006¹ (with analogous provisions in Part 2 of the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006²) as the failure of the keeper of an animal to take such steps as are reasonable in all the circumstances to ensure that the needs of an animal for which he is responsible are met to the extent required by good practice.
- 1.3. Abuse may, by reference to the legislation in both jurisdictions, be summarised as the misuse, maltreatment or excessive use of an animal leading to unnecessary suffering.
- 1.4. It is of paramount importance that suspected cases of equine neglect and abuse are reported to the appropriate organisation with the resources to investigate and handle the case, and that if it becomes apparent that extra resources or knowledge are required, multiple organisations work together in an efficient and co-ordinated manner.
- 1.5. The Protocol has two basic premises and is set out accordingly. The first premise is that we should take every reasonable step to prevent equine suffering by providing information, advice and education. The second is that, when evidence of equine suffering is presented, we should take every reasonable step to alleviate that suffering as quickly and efficiently as possible. It is the stated intention of every signatory to this Protocol to act in concert whenever this is appropriate, and to support each other in matters relating to the securing of equine welfare.
- 1.6. The Protocol recognises that welfare concerns range from the minor to the criminal, and that the competence and experience of different organisations will determine which is best placed to take the lead in any particular case.
- 1.7. In this document, 'equine' or 'horse' refers to horses, ponies, donkeys (asses), hinnies, mules and other equids.

¹http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2006/pdf/ukpga_20060045_en.pdf

²http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/acts2006/asp_20060011_en_1

2. STATUTORY CONTEXT

- 2.1 The Animal Welfare Act 2006 and the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 (“the 2006 Acts”) make it an offence to cause physical or mental suffering, whether this is by a positive act or an omission, to a protected animal (which includes horses) if the person knew or could be expected to know that an animal would suffer as a result. The Acts also place an additional responsibility on the keeper and owner of an animal to ensure that its needs are met.
- 2.2 A person responsible for an animal who permits another person to cause unnecessary suffering will commit an offence. He will also commit an offence if he fails to take reasonable steps to prevent the suffering from taking place.
- 2.3 The Acts also make it a requirement for owners and keepers to meet the needs of animals, including the need:
- for a suitable environment (place to live)
 - for a suitable diet
 - to exhibit normal behaviour patterns
 - to be housed with, or apart from, other animals (if applicable)
 - to be protected from pain, injury, suffering and disease
- 2.4 The law defines 16 as the minimum age at which a person can buy an animal and prohibits giving animals as prizes to unaccompanied children under this age.
- 2.5 Anyone who is cruel to an animal, or does not provide for its welfare needs may, upon conviction, be banned from owning and keeping animals, fined up to £20,000 and/or sent to prison for up to 12 months.

3. THE PURPOSE OF THE PROTOCOL

- 3.1 This Protocol is designed to communicate the responsibilities of those who own, keep or interact with horses to prevent cruelty and inadequate care and to address these issues effectively when they arise. It sets out the stakeholders involved and the likely welfare issues. It recognises the diversity of national and local government and non-governmental organisations involved in the prevention of equine welfare abuse, provides a framework for their effective cooperation, advises how public concerns can be communicated and sets out expectations on what can, and cannot, be done when equine abuse is observed or suspected.

- 3.2 The Protocol demonstrates the commitment of the organisations and agencies to work effectively and co-operatively for the improvement of equine welfare generally and the rapid and effective relief of equine suffering. It is being made widely available.
- 3.3 The Protocol is intended to be a binding statement of intent for better coordination, and not a compendium of operating procedures. It is expected that the latter will be produced as a result of the publication of this Protocol. The parties to this Protocol have agreed that the National Equine Welfare Council (NEWC) is best placed to facilitate the review of progress, including the exchange of best practice and the discussion of ideas which may lead to the development of improved operating procedures. The individual signatories to this Protocol will retain responsibility for delivering their own programmes for the alleviation of equine suffering.
- 3.4 It is not within the scope of this Protocol to inquire closely into the reasons for the neglect of equines, nor the motivation behind malicious or sadistic acts.

4. THE TWO ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM

- 4.1 Reducing the incidence of equine neglect or abuse by means of:
 - 4.1.i. improved education for all those who own, use or care for equines, with easier access to advice and guidance;
 - 4.1.ii. improved use of existing resources by the voluntary sector and the better sharing of information, workload, expertise costs etc.; and
 - 4.1.iii. the enforcement of existing legislation. This in itself will increase awareness of the onus of responsible horse ownership and act as a credible deterrent to infringement.
- 4.2 Reacting to instances where serious equine neglect or abuse is suspected, including:
 - 4.2.i. clearer advice for members of the general public who wish to report their concerns;
 - 4.2.ii. improved systems for receiving, recording and reacting to information about possible inadequate equine husbandry or care or cruelty; and
 - 4.2.iii. effective cooperation with the public sector, with the voluntary sector, and between sectors, with clearer understanding of resource availability, expertise, geographical cover etc.

5. REDUCING THE INCIDENCE OF EQUINE NEGLECT AND ABUSE

5.1 Humans may cause horses to suffer out of malice, indifference or ignorance (such ignorance including misplaced confidence of a person's own ability). It is likely, too, that socio-economic factors (including poverty and cultural differences over what constitutes acceptable treatment for equines) might lead to suffering.

5.2 In cases of neglect or abuse the person responsible for the actions (or failure to act) may face prosecution. Such responsibility is not limited to the owner or keeper of the animal but applies equally to third parties. In less serious cases the appropriate intervention may amount to no more than the provision of advice or assistance, although other forms of intervention may be required to bring as rapid an end as possible to the suffering of the equine.

Prosecuting offenders

5.3 Where it appears that an offence has been committed under the 2006 Acts, action must be taken by those organisations that are best placed to investigate the case. If a serious offence has been committed every attempt will be made to prosecute, with punishment being secured through the courts. However, successful prosecution will rely to a large extent on the vigilance and cooperation of the public, and on those organisations which are well placed to monitor activity in the equestrian sector.

5.4 Indifference to suffering may itself be the consequence in part of malice and/or ignorance, or simply a refusal to take any interest in the well-being of the animal. Where the horses are in the care and control of a licensed riding establishment or auctioneer, or when they are in transit, local authorities have a role in monitoring standards of care and detecting and responding to manifest cases of neglect or abuse.

Improvement Notices

5.5 In England and Wales, local authorities and Defra Animal Health (formerly the State Veterinary Service) have the power to issue statutory Improvement Notices under the 2006 Act (in Scotland the equivalent is the Care Notice), requiring owners to take specific steps to discharge the duty of care imposed upon them by the Act. Some welfare organisations issue non-statutory Improvement Notices. Whether statutory or non-statutory, Improvement or Care Notices can be used as evidence to support an allegation that a keeper is not fulfilling their duty of care.

Commitment

The welfare signatories to this Protocol undertake to review, within 12 months, the use of Improvement and Care Notices under the 2006 Acts with a view to assessing and, if necessary, increasing their effectiveness.

5.6 Aside from those specific areas noted above in which local authorities have a statutory responsibility, it may be a matter of chance whether or not the neglect or abuse is discovered. Whether the causal factor is malice or indifference, the scope for welfare organisations to prevent suffering (as opposed to responding to it when it comes to light) is slight.

Education

5.7 Where many welfare organisations can and do reduce the probability of suffering is in the provision of education and advice to all those who keep equines. A number of welfare organisations also provide bespoke training to people, organisations and public agencies that have a professional interest in equine health and welfare.

5.8 Free advice and information on a range of equestrian health, care and welfare issues is available. See Annex B for details. Where the advice and information is available in printed format, copies may be obtained by visitors to those organisations which have facilities for visitors, and are distributed at stands when the organisation is present at shows and other public events.

5.9 There are many aspects to equine welfare which need to be covered in educational programmes, including (but not limited to) an appreciation of what responsible horse ownership and sensible breeding entail, a compassionate but objective approach to euthanasia, weight management, knowing when to seek veterinary advice, appreciating the full cost of owning one or more horses, and the issues surrounding the use of horses after the end of their working career.

Commitment

Without inhibiting the ability of organisations to continue to provide training in their own way and under their own names, the welfare signatories to this Protocol will devise and adhere to a common core curriculum for such training, including the development of common assessments as to what may constitute neglect and abuse.

The welfare organisations will, within 12 months, confer to identify and fill gaps in the provision of information, education and advice, and identify areas where advice may be conflicting.

5.10 Some horse owners may not have access to the Internet, others may not be comfortable with the written word, others still may come from sections of the community which are reluctant to engage with welfare organisations or public agencies. Some may fall into all three categories.

Commitment

The organisations which are party to this Protocol will seek to communicate effectively and work sensitively and productively with people and organisations which represent the interests of all sections of the equine community with a view to promoting good equine care and husbandry.

6. REACTING TO INSTANCES WHERE SERIOUS EQUINE NEGLECT OR ABUSE IS SUSPECTED

- 6.1 Equine neglect and abuse can take many forms. For example: the horse may not be receiving an appropriate diet and may be unable to maintain the correct bodyweight; it may not be provided with sufficient access to water; it may be kept in an unsuitable environment where it is likely to be injured or poisoned; and the keeper of the animal may not provide the necessary veterinary care when it is ill or injured.
- 6.2 The general public should be aware that animals that are the subject of a welfare complaint may already be receiving veterinary attention. (This in many cases legally covers the owner or keeper's duty of care provided the veterinary advice is followed.) An organisation to which a case is referred will usually try to make contact with the owner of the animal to establish whether this is the case and speak to their veterinary surgeon if appropriate. It should be borne in mind that lean competition horses may have visible ribs and there are a number of veterinary conditions that can cause an animal to lose weight, so the visibility of the ribs does not necessarily imply neglect.

Commitment

The organisations which are party to this Protocol will ensure its widest possible dissemination. In particular, they will give prominence to the information it contains on how concerns over equine welfare can be reported.

Cooperation

- 6.3 With so many organisations potentially involved in responding to suspicions or reports of neglect or abuse, there are risks. The first is that each may falsely assume that someone else is dealing with a case, leading to a situation where no-one deals with it. The second is that two or more organisations may attempt to deal with it in an uncoordinated way, leading to wasted effort and the possible cancelling

out of the good work of the other organisation(s). The third, reflecting natural human instincts, is that an organisation which believes it was the first to take up the case may not welcome "interference" from another organisation, even when that second organisation may have something valuable to contribute.

- 6.4 Where it appears to a welfare organisation that one or more other organisations are involved in the same case, and where the lead field officer is not able to establish effective communications with the field officer(s) in the other organisation(s) such that conflict of effort can be avoided, he or she will request that the relevant organisations make contact at senior level to agree how the case should best be managed.
- 6.5 Where a regulator has full control of the persons involved (for example the British Horseracing Authority's regulation of racehorse trainers) it should take up its responsibilities. In complex situations that go beyond its full control such regulators should work with national/local agencies, authorities and voluntary organisations.
- 6.6 The prevention of equine suffering and neglect, and when necessary their rapid remediation, are the paramount considerations. Notwithstanding any other provision in this Protocol, nothing shall be done which impedes the rapid provision of assistance to equines that are at risk.

Commitment

Each organisation recognises and endorses the competence and ability of each other organisation, as set out in this Protocol, to alleviate equine suffering and will, whenever the situation warrants, seek to act in concert with each other. By the same token, each organisation recognises that certain situations may not be improved by the saturation of uncoordinated effort. Where organisations work collaboratively they will ensure that any public statements made in respect of the case will fairly and accurately reflect the contribution of each.

- 6.7 The law provides that only certain limited details may be released and reported once a matter goes to court. This information includes the name, age and address of the defendant, the charges and the location of the hearing. Any reporting deemed by the Court to be prejudicial to the case could lead to its dismissal.

Commitment

Once legal proceedings are in train the principal prosecuting authority will lead on communications with the press. Supporting organisations will not do anything by way of press or public announcements which might prejudice the successful prosecution of the case.

- 6.8 Annex D details how a complaint will usually be handled and what information is required from the complainant. Annex E provides details of the organisations which have Welfare Officers who are able to investigate equine welfare reports, plus contact details and times for when these officers are available. Members of the public reporting a welfare concern should understand that there may be many factors (including, but not limited to legal issues) which may prevent the organisation to which the report was made from bringing a swift and noticeable improvement to the horse's condition. However, they may be assured that every report made will be dealt with as quickly and efficiently as the circumstances allow.
- 6.9 The National Equine Welfare Council will collect information from those of its members who are not currently signatories to this Protocol but who wish to support it and have resources, facilities or expertise to offer. This information will be made available to other organisations in order to meet the ongoing commitment to better communications and cooperation between organisations. Details of these additional organisations will be added to Annex C over time.

Commitment

Given that the prevention of equine suffering and neglect, and when necessary their rapid remediation, are the paramount considerations, and following on from the preceding Commitments, the parties to this agreement will meet once a year in June as a Protocol Review Group to assess the state of equine welfare in the UK. Where they identify shortcomings they will seek to agree appropriate remedial action. The meetings will be facilitated by the National Equine Welfare Council, with the costs being borne by the participating organisations.

Annex A

The commitments

1. The welfare signatories to this Protocol undertake to review, within 12 months, the use of Improvement and Care Notices under the 2006 Acts with a view to assessing and, if necessary, increasing their effectiveness.
2. Without inhibiting the ability of organisations to continue to provide training in their own way and under their own names, the welfare signatories to this Protocol will devise and adhere to a common core curriculum for such training, including the development of common assessments as to what may constitute neglect and abuse. The welfare organisations will, within 12 months, confer to identify and fill gaps in the provision of information, education and advice, and identify areas where advice may be conflicting.
3. The organisations which are party to this Protocol will seek to communicate effectively and work sensitively and productively with people and organisations which represent the interests of all sections of the equine community with a view to promoting good equine care and husbandry.
4. The organisations which are party to this Protocol will ensure its widest possible dissemination. In particular, they will give prominence to the information it contains on how concerns over equine welfare can be reported.
5. Each organisation recognises and endorses the competence and ability of each other organisation, as set out in this Protocol, to alleviate equine suffering and will, whenever the situation warrants, seek to act in concert with each other. By the same token, each organisation recognises that certain situations may not be improved by the saturation of uncoordinated effort. Where organisations work collaboratively they will ensure that any public statements made in respect of the case will fairly and accurately reflect the contribution of each.
6. Once legal proceedings are in train the principal prosecuting authority will lead on communications with the press. Supporting organisations will not do anything by way of press or public announcements which might prejudice the successful prosecution of the case.

7. Given that the prevention of equine suffering and neglect, and when necessary their rapid remediation, are the paramount considerations, and following on from the preceding Commitments, the parties to this agreement will meet once a year in June as a Protocol Review Group to assess the state of equine welfare in the UK. Where they identify shortcomings they will seek to agree appropriate remedial action. The meetings will be facilitated by the National Equine Welfare Council, with the costs being borne by the participating organisations.

Annex B

The following table shows printed information and advice currently available at no cost from equine welfare organisations.

Name of Organisation	Publication																												
<p>British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA) Mulberry House 31 Market Street Fordham, Ely Cambridgeshire CB7 5LQ</p> <p>Tel: 01638 723555 www.beva.org.uk</p>	<p>Horse Care Guide</p>																												
<p>The British Horse Society (BHS) Stoneleigh Deer Park Kenilworth Warwickshire CV8 2XZ</p> <p>Tel: 01926 707807 www.bhs.org.uk</p>	<p><i>Publications marked * are issued jointly with The Horse Trust</i></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>1 Basic Feeding</td> <td>15 Guide to Ragwort for Landowners and Occupiers</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 Bedding for Horses</td> <td>16 Guide to Tethering Horses and Ponies</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 Breaking the Strangles Hold</td> <td>17 Horse Respiratory Health *</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 Buying & Owning your First Horse *</td> <td>19 Loaning or Leasing a Horse or Pony *</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5 Caring for Old and Retired Horses*</td> <td>20 Pasture Management *</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6 Colic *</td> <td>21 Prevention and Management of Laminitis</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7 Cost of Keeping a Horse or Pony *</td> <td>22 Sample Loan Agreement</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8 Dangers of Ragwort *</td> <td>23 Strangles *</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9 Essential Health Care Requirements *</td> <td>24 STEPS (Strategy To Eradicate Strangles)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10 Equi-Care Magazine</td> <td>25 Sweet Itch *</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11 First Horse Owners Information Pack</td> <td>26 Tetanus & Influenza Vaccinations *</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12 Guidelines for the Keeping of Horses: stable sizes, pasture acreages and fencing</td> <td>27 Venereal Diseases – Codes of Practice</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13 Guide to African Horse Sickness *</td> <td>28 Worm control</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14 Guide to Horse Care and Welfare *</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	1 Basic Feeding	15 Guide to Ragwort for Landowners and Occupiers	2 Bedding for Horses	16 Guide to Tethering Horses and Ponies	3 Breaking the Strangles Hold	17 Horse Respiratory Health *	4 Buying & Owning your First Horse *	19 Loaning or Leasing a Horse or Pony *	5 Caring for Old and Retired Horses*	20 Pasture Management *	6 Colic *	21 Prevention and Management of Laminitis	7 Cost of Keeping a Horse or Pony *	22 Sample Loan Agreement	8 Dangers of Ragwort *	23 Strangles *	9 Essential Health Care Requirements *	24 STEPS (Strategy To Eradicate Strangles)	10 Equi-Care Magazine	25 Sweet Itch *	11 First Horse Owners Information Pack	26 Tetanus & Influenza Vaccinations *	12 Guidelines for the Keeping of Horses: stable sizes, pasture acreages and fencing	27 Venereal Diseases – Codes of Practice	13 Guide to African Horse Sickness *	28 Worm control	14 Guide to Horse Care and Welfare *	
1 Basic Feeding	15 Guide to Ragwort for Landowners and Occupiers																												
2 Bedding for Horses	16 Guide to Tethering Horses and Ponies																												
3 Breaking the Strangles Hold	17 Horse Respiratory Health *																												
4 Buying & Owning your First Horse *	19 Loaning or Leasing a Horse or Pony *																												
5 Caring for Old and Retired Horses*	20 Pasture Management *																												
6 Colic *	21 Prevention and Management of Laminitis																												
7 Cost of Keeping a Horse or Pony *	22 Sample Loan Agreement																												
8 Dangers of Ragwort *	23 Strangles *																												
9 Essential Health Care Requirements *	24 STEPS (Strategy To Eradicate Strangles)																												
10 Equi-Care Magazine	25 Sweet Itch *																												
11 First Horse Owners Information Pack	26 Tetanus & Influenza Vaccinations *																												
12 Guidelines for the Keeping of Horses: stable sizes, pasture acreages and fencing	27 Venereal Diseases – Codes of Practice																												
13 Guide to African Horse Sickness *	28 Worm control																												
14 Guide to Horse Care and Welfare *																													

Name of Organisation	Publication	
<p>Blue Cross Blue Cross Head Office Shilton Road Burford Oxfordshire OX18 4PF</p> <p>Tel: 01993 822651 www.bluecross.org.uk</p>	<p>1 Basic Equine First Aid 2 Care of the Companion Horse 3 Care of the Older Horse 4 Colic: Prevention and Management 5 Common Ailments 6 Correctly Fitting Tack 7 Choosing a Riding Horse 8 Essential Hoofcare 9 Euthanasia 10 Exercise and on-going training 11 Feeding and Watering</p>	<p>12 Fireworks and your pets: safety around horses 13 Laminitis 14 Loading and Transporting Horses 15 Obesity: prevention and management 16 Routine Healthcare 17 Stabling and Livery 18 The field-kept horse 19 Vaccinations and Disease control 20 Worm control and Pasture Management 21 Yard Safety and Security</p>
<p>Defra Defra Publications Admail 6000 London SW1A 2XX</p> <p>Tel: 0845 955 6000 www.defra.gov.uk <i>(under section on animal health and welfare)</i></p>	<p>1 Animal Welfare Act (2006) 2 EU Welfare in Transport Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005</p>	<p>3 The Welfare of Horses at Markets (and Other Places of Sale) Order 1990</p>
<p>The Donkey Sanctuary Sidmouth Devon EX10 0NU</p> <p>Tel: 01395 578222 www.thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk</p>	<p>1 A Guide to Caring for your Donkey 2 Buying a Donkey 3 Care of the Geriatric Donkey 4 Colic in Donkeys 5 Cost of Owning and Keeping a Donkey 6 Dealing with Death/ Euthanasia 7 Donkey Condition Scoring 8 Donkey Foot Care – Notes for Owners 9 Feeding Donkeys 10 Feeding the Elderly Donkey</p>	<p>11 Foaling – A Guide 12 Heart/Girth Measurement 13 Hyperlipaemia 14 Mules and Hinnies 15 Poisonous Plants 16 Respiratory Disease 17 Sarcoïd Fact Sheet for Owners 18 Treatment of Wounds 19 Transport Notes for Donkey Owners 20 Understanding Donkey Behaviour</p>

Name of Organisation	Publication																								
<p>The Horse Trust Home of Rest for Horses Speen Princes Risborough Bucks HP27 0PP</p> <p>Tel: 01494 488464 www.horsetrust.org.uk</p>	<p>Publications marked * are issued jointly with The British Horse Society</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>1 Buying and Owning Your First Horse *</td> <td>13 Laminitis</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 Caring for Old and Retired Horses *</td> <td>14 Humane Destruction and Euthanasia</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 Choosing a Horse</td> <td>15 Loaning or Leasing a Horse or Pony *</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 Colic *</td> <td>16 Pasture Management *</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5 Cost of Keeping a Horse or Pony *</td> <td>17 Protecting your Investment: types of insurance cover and policy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6 Dangers of Ragwort *</td> <td>18 Responsibilities of Horse Ownership</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7 Essential Health Care Requirements *</td> <td>19 Strangles *</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8 First Aid for Horses</td> <td>20 Sweet Itch *</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9 First Aid for People around Horses</td> <td>21 Tetanus & Influenza Vaccinations *</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10 Guide to African Horse Sickness *</td> <td>22 The Pre-purchase Examination of Horses</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11 Guide to Horse Care and Welfare *</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>12 Horse Respiratory Health *</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	1 Buying and Owning Your First Horse *	13 Laminitis	2 Caring for Old and Retired Horses *	14 Humane Destruction and Euthanasia	3 Choosing a Horse	15 Loaning or Leasing a Horse or Pony *	4 Colic *	16 Pasture Management *	5 Cost of Keeping a Horse or Pony *	17 Protecting your Investment: types of insurance cover and policy	6 Dangers of Ragwort *	18 Responsibilities of Horse Ownership	7 Essential Health Care Requirements *	19 Strangles *	8 First Aid for Horses	20 Sweet Itch *	9 First Aid for People around Horses	21 Tetanus & Influenza Vaccinations *	10 Guide to African Horse Sickness *	22 The Pre-purchase Examination of Horses	11 Guide to Horse Care and Welfare *		12 Horse Respiratory Health *	
1 Buying and Owning Your First Horse *	13 Laminitis																								
2 Caring for Old and Retired Horses *	14 Humane Destruction and Euthanasia																								
3 Choosing a Horse	15 Loaning or Leasing a Horse or Pony *																								
4 Colic *	16 Pasture Management *																								
5 Cost of Keeping a Horse or Pony *	17 Protecting your Investment: types of insurance cover and policy																								
6 Dangers of Ragwort *	18 Responsibilities of Horse Ownership																								
7 Essential Health Care Requirements *	19 Strangles *																								
8 First Aid for Horses	20 Sweet Itch *																								
9 First Aid for People around Horses	21 Tetanus & Influenza Vaccinations *																								
10 Guide to African Horse Sickness *	22 The Pre-purchase Examination of Horses																								
11 Guide to Horse Care and Welfare *																									
12 Horse Respiratory Health *																									
<p>National Equine Welfare Council (NEWC) 10 Wales Street Kings Sutton Banbury Oxon OX17 3RR</p> <p>Tel: 01295 810060 www.newc.co.uk</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>1 Code of Practice for Welfare Organisations Involved in the Keeping of Horses, Ponies and Donkeys</td> <td>3 Equine Industry Guidelines Compendium for Horses, Ponies and Donkeys</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 Code of Practice for Markets and Sales</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	1 Code of Practice for Welfare Organisations Involved in the Keeping of Horses, Ponies and Donkeys	3 Equine Industry Guidelines Compendium for Horses, Ponies and Donkeys	2 Code of Practice for Markets and Sales																					
1 Code of Practice for Welfare Organisations Involved in the Keeping of Horses, Ponies and Donkeys	3 Equine Industry Guidelines Compendium for Horses, Ponies and Donkeys																								
2 Code of Practice for Markets and Sales																									
<p>Redwings Horse Sanctuary Administration Hapton Norwich NR15 1SP</p> <p>Tel: 01508 481000 www.redwings.org.uk</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>1 Abandonment</td> <td>10 Horse health and happiness</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 Barbed wire</td> <td>11 Laminitis</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 Behaviour issues</td> <td>12 Putting a horse on loan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 Body condition scoring card (horses)</td> <td>13 Ragwort</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5 Body condition scoring card (donkeys)</td> <td>14 Retirement</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6 Cushing's</td> <td>15 Strangles</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7 Donkey ownership</td> <td>16 Summer horse care</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8 Feeding and nutrition</td> <td>17 Tethering</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9 Hoof care & farriery</td> <td>18 Worms and de-worming</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>19 Winter horse care</td> </tr> </table>	1 Abandonment	10 Horse health and happiness	2 Barbed wire	11 Laminitis	3 Behaviour issues	12 Putting a horse on loan	4 Body condition scoring card (horses)	13 Ragwort	5 Body condition scoring card (donkeys)	14 Retirement	6 Cushing's	15 Strangles	7 Donkey ownership	16 Summer horse care	8 Feeding and nutrition	17 Tethering	9 Hoof care & farriery	18 Worms and de-worming		19 Winter horse care				
1 Abandonment	10 Horse health and happiness																								
2 Barbed wire	11 Laminitis																								
3 Behaviour issues	12 Putting a horse on loan																								
4 Body condition scoring card (horses)	13 Ragwort																								
5 Body condition scoring card (donkeys)	14 Retirement																								
6 Cushing's	15 Strangles																								
7 Donkey ownership	16 Summer horse care																								
8 Feeding and nutrition	17 Tethering																								
9 Hoof care & farriery	18 Worms and de-worming																								
	19 Winter horse care																								

Name of Organisation	Publication	
<p>The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) Wilberforce Way Southwater Horsham West Sussex RH13 9RS</p> <p>Tel: 0870 010 1181 www.rspca.org.uk</p>	<p>1 A horse of your own? 2 Does pain get results? – carry a whip designed to encourage your horse, rather than inflict pain on it 3 Donkeys pet care sheet 4 Horses pet card 5 Horse and ponies – know what your pet needs 6 Horse sense – what you must do/what you must pay</p>	<p>7 Microchipping your horse 8 Pony and horse care sheet 9 Protect your pet from Firework fear 10 The dangers of Ragwort 11 Tethering equines – how to avoid problems 12 Winter watch - caring for horses and ponies at grass</p>
<p>World Horse Welfare <i>(The new name for the International League for the Protection of Horses)</i> Anne Colvin House Snetterton Norfolk NR16 2LR</p> <p>Tel: 01953 497200 www.worldhorsewelfare.org</p>	<p>1 Advice on Horse Safety around Firework Night 2 Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease 3 Guidance on Feeding 4 Helping to Prevent Horse Thefts 5 Knowing When to Say Goodbye 6 No Teeth, No Horse</p>	<p>7 Ragwort Advice 8 Ragwort Alert 9 Right Weight 10 Strategy to Eradicate and Prevent Strangles 11 The Equine Population of the UK 12 To Stable or not to Stable 13 Understanding Your Horse's Needs</p>

Although this information is free, supplying organisations are always grateful for a contribution to their costs in return for leaflets which are sent through the post

Annex C – Participants

Public Sector Organisations & Trade Associations

1. Association of Chief Police Officers (England, Wales & N Ireland)

1.1. Introduction

1.1.1 The Animal Welfare Act 2006 makes provisions about animal welfare. Sections 18 and 19 of the Act provide the police and other statutory agencies (e.g. Inspectors of welfare organisations or local authority Inspectors) with powers to act in relation to animals in distress.

1.2. Enforcement by the police

1.2.1 The police have not been placed under any specific duty in relation to the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and will therefore only play a role in the enforcement of the most serious offences.

1.2.2 Most offences are reported directly to the RSPCA for them to deal with. Any complaints that come directly to the police will automatically be referred to the RSPCA unless it is a farmed animal whereupon the complaint will normally be referred to Defra Animal Health (formerly the State Veterinary Service) and/or the relevant local authority.

1.2.3 The police use their discretion in deciding how to prioritise animal welfare offences, exactly as they do with other criminal offences. The types of offence where it would be reasonable to expect police involvement, albeit with the assistance other enforcement agencies, are :

- the allegation involves animal fighting;
- the allegation is one of very serious cruelty;
- an animal is in distress and police powers are needed to effect its rescue;
- the situation is such that police powers to enter and/or arrest are necessary;
- violence against a person has been used or threatened;
- other criminal offences are involved;

- the allegation is a serious one, and justice is being obstructed; or
- the allegation refers to a wildlife crime.

1.2.4 While this list is not exhaustive and does not seek to constrain police discretion, it does illustrate the sort of aggravating factors that would tend to trigger police involvement in offences under the Act.

1.3. Powers of the police

1.3.1 Where an animal is suffering a constable may take steps immediately to relieve the animal of its suffering. The Act does not automatically permit the destruction of an animal unless a veterinary surgeon certifies that it should be destroyed for its own good. However, in exceptional circumstances a constable may destroy an animal without a certificate if there is no reasonable alternative to destroying it and it is not practicable to wait on a vet.

1.3.2 A constable may also take an animal into possession if it appears to him that the animal is suffering, the circumstances are unlikely to change and it is in urgent need of attention. The constable exercising these powers must inform, as soon as practical, the person responsible for the animal that this has been done. Any person who intentionally obstructs a constable in exercising these powers is guilty of an offence.

1.3.3 A constable also has, under section 19 of the Act, a power of entry onto premises for the purpose of searching for a protected animal if he reasonably believes the animal is on the premises and it is suffering or it is likely to suffer. However this does not authorise a constable to enter any part of the premises which is used as a private dwelling. A constable may use reasonable force in exercising these powers, but only if it appears that entry is necessary before a warrant issued by a Justice of the Peace, can be obtained and executed.

1.4. The Police Commitment

1.4.1 The Police service is committed to supporting the RSPCA, local authorities, and Defra Animal Health leading an investigation or prosecution or indeed any other body that is providing specialist expertise to them.

1.4.2 The Police will use their powers to investigate any serious breach

of the law, to assist others affect the rescue of an animal, to search premises, to effect an arrest, to prevent violence or the threat of violence being used against any person, or where other criminal offences are involved or justice is being obstructed.

- 1.4.3 The Police service has entered into a "Statement of Intent" with the RSPCA which affirms what each organisation is committed to doing in support of the other in the enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act 2006. This will be the primary guide to the service in its interactions with other voluntary specialist groups in the animal welfare work

2. Local Authorities (in England and Wales)

2.1 Although local authorities, collectively or individually, are not signatories to this Protocol, the following paragraphs give an outline of local authorities' powers and responsibilities.

2.2 The Animal Welfare Act 2006 does not place a statutory duty on local authorities, and enforcement of the Act is at the discretion of the individual council. However, many local councils are using the powers granted to them by the Act, particularly in premises at which they already have a statutory presence.

2.3 Local council roles and responsibilities depend on whether they are a county, district or unitary council. The roles and responsibilities of county, district and unitary councils in relation to the main pieces of legislation affecting equines are outlined below.

2.4 County and Unitary Councils

- **Welfare of Horses at Markets (and other Places of Sale) Order 1990**

Local council presence at sales is risk-based and dependent on local circumstances. Concerns relating to the welfare of horses at a market or sale should be reported to the county or unitary council covering the area.

- **Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order 2006**

Enforcement of the welfare in transport regulations focuses on the commercial transport of animals and may occur at sale, port or in transit on the basis of risk and dependent on local circumstances.

- **Horse Passports (England) Regulations 2004**

The primary purpose of the regulations is to ensure

unsuitable horses do not enter the food chain. However, inspections do not review compliance with horse passport legislation in isolation, but also consider wider relevant areas such as welfare, welfare during transportation and legislation relating to other livestock species as appropriate. County and unitary councils with horse gatherings, horse slaughterhouses and relevant border entry points in their area consider appropriate scheduled visits to such premises (and during transport) on a risk-based approach.

2.5 County and unitary councils also have a wider enforcement role in relation to the health and welfare of farmed animals. Horses are not farmed animals in the context of the legislation and premises with only horses would not be inspected by local councils. However, in practice, officers may check the welfare of horses should these be kept at a farm that is already being inspected because it holds livestock. If cases of equine abuse are suspected on a livestock farm, the county or unitary council should be notified.

2.6 **District and Unitary Councils**

- **Riding Establishments Acts 1964 and 1970**

District or unitary councils license riding establishments on an annual basis. Local councils take into account the suitability of the manager, facilities, precautions against fire and disease, the suitability of the horses, the health and welfare of the horses and the report of a listed veterinary inspector when granting and renewing licences. Concerns about a riding establishment should be reported to the district or unitary council covering the area.

2.7 When they do not involve the premises/situations detailed in points 2.4 - 2.6 above, cases of equine abuse should be reported to one of the welfare organisations in Annex C (who should remain in communication with the local authority where appropriate).

2.8 Contact details for the unitary, county and/or district council covering your area can be found on the Direct Gov website (www.directgov.gov.uk).

3. **The Livestock Auctioneers Association**

3.1 The Livestock Auctioneers Association is a professional association representing livestock auctioneers throughout England and Wales. Amongst its objectives is the promotion of high standards of

welfare and for humane treatment of equines passing through markets, requiring sympathetic handling by properly trained and competent personnel.

- 3.1.1. Operators of markets are governed by The Welfare of Horses at Markets (and other Places of Sale) Order 1990, The Welfare of Animals at Markets Order 1990, The Welfare of Animals at Markets (Amendment) Order 1990, and The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006; all of which are mirrored in Wales.
- 3.1.2. Operators of auction markets should be familiar with all animal welfare legislation and a Welfare Officer should be appointed for every animal gathering.
- 3.1.3. Should the market Welfare Officer decide that the condition of an animal be such that it is suffering, showing signs of discomfort, or stress he will liaise with the Local Authority's Animal Health Inspector to ensure that aid is given to the animal as quickly as is possible.

Welfare and Veterinary Organisations

4. The Blue Cross

- 4.1. The Blue Cross animal welfare charity homes thousands of animals each year and its three dedicated equine centres have a strong reputation for rehabilitating, retraining and rehoming horses. The charity takes in equines in difficult circumstances, cases of neglect, behavioural issues or owner tragedies, and helps these horses and ponies resume active lives in new homes on a monitored loan basis.
- 4.2. Equine welfare is an integral part of The Blue Cross equine activities. Blue Cross Equine Centres provide emergency intake for horses and ponies in need, with dedicated practical facilities (including isolation, veterinary support and intensive care) and specialist staff.
- 4.3. Within the equine welfare department of The Blue Cross the Equine Welfare Education Officer coordinates the charity's practical response to equine welfare emergencies through liaison with other equine charities, police and local authorities.
- 4.4. The Blue Cross is proactive in cooperating with those charities and other agencies that operate front-line welfare inspectorates,

providing practical support and advice in cases of alleged neglect, abuse or abandonment. This support includes assisting with transportation and welfare boarding of animals that have been rescued or seized pending Court proceedings, and the provision of facilities for emergency intake of animals in desperate need to Blue Cross care for rehabilitation and ultimate rehoming.

- 4.5. The Blue Cross operates a Horse Ambulance Service, with fully equipped ambulance units and trained personnel, in response to emergencies to transport horses to a place of safety. Additional equine transport is also available to assist other charities and agencies with the removal of horses in need to a place of safety.
- 4.6. The Blue Cross is committed to promoting proper use of the horse and responsible animal ownership. In support of practical welfare services, the charity works to improve welfare standards through education, providing practical support, information and advice to horse owners.

5. Bransby Home of Rest for Horses

- 5.1 Bransby Home of Rest for Horses operates two rescue centres – one in Lincolnshire and one in Herefordshire. It has 2 horse ambulances and takes into its care animals from the RSPCA, police and members of the public. 24-hour rescue is also provided to collect animals found wandering on the highways.
- 5.2 Facilities are on site at both homes for retirement, rehabilitation and recovery. Animals are re-homed through the foster scheme.
- 5.3 A successful and established foster scheme is in operation, with 148 horses, ponies and donkeys re-homed to permanent homes. Continuous checks are made on the animals and excellent relationships maintained with all fosterers. Animals are re-homed both as riding animals and companions
- 5.4 An isolation yard for all new arrivals and suspected infectious diseases is on site in Lincolnshire, with screening for Strangles now in operation following work carried out in conjunction with the Animal Health Trust.
- 5.5 The Herefordshire centre inspects animals turned out on the Welsh hills and provides hay when necessary. Animals are removed to the home at Stoke Prior when their condition warrants it.
- 5.6 Excellent relationships are maintained with other animal

protection charities. Local calls of concern received from the public are always followed up and any necessary action taken, or advice given.

- 5.7 RSPCA prosecution cases are boarded, treated and monitored at both homes. Prosecution evidence is given in court to aid prosecution if required.
- 5.8 Facilities are on-site at the Lincolnshire Centre to hold educational lectures on all aspects of horse welfare.
- 5.9 Equine Welfare is at the heart of all BHRH's work, with horse management and welfare advice available at the telephone and via the website.

6. The British Equine Veterinary Association

- 6.1. The British Equine Veterinary Association is a professional association representing equine veterinary surgeons. Its objectives are to promote the veterinary and allied sciences in relation to the welfare of horses, to encourage research into equine problems, provide a forum for the discussion and exchange of ideas on the management, health and diseases of the horse, and to disseminate information to the members of the Association.
- 6.2. When disputes arise over issues of equine welfare a veterinary surgeon is often called upon to give expert advice. This should be impartial, accurate and sympathetic.
- 6.3. Veterinary Surgeons should be aware of the importance of attending welfare cases if requested. They should be familiar with the animal welfare legislation and what is expected of an expert witness. Accurate notes should be taken along with photographic evidence where possible.

7. The British Horseracing Authority

- 7.1. The BHA regulates horseracing in the UK and this specifically includes the welfare of horses under the control of those it regulates. Those regulated include owners of horses in training, jockeys and trainers, but do not include thoroughbred horse breeders, or those who keep thoroughbred horses retired from racing, except those in the care of licensed trainers.
- 7.2. Rule 51 (i) of the Rules of Racing states: "Every Trainer shall conduct his business of training racehorses with reasonable care and skill and with due regard to the interests of his Owners and to the safety of his employees and agents and of the horses in

his charge and to the provisions of the Code of Conduct laid down in Appendix V to these Orders and Rules. For the avoidance of any doubt reasonable care and safety under this Sub-Rule extends to any horse under the care or control of a Trainer whether or not currently in training.” In effect this Rule replicates section 9 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

- 7.3. This means in effect that for thoroughbreds in training, and for all horses under the care of licensed trainer, the BHA can, and does, exercise oversight of horse welfare and can apply sanctions.
- 7.4. This oversight is exercised by a nationwide team of stable inspectors, who use the BHA’s Veterinary Officers as needed. This oversight is underpinned by Intelligence and Licensing functions. Sanctions in case of non-compliance can be severe, and are operated by the BHA’s disciplinary process. As noted above this does operate in areas of animal welfare, in effect providing a rapid system of control that complements the Animal Welfare Act. The BHA is currently in discussion with ACPO and the RSPCA to define clearly each organisation’s animal welfare roles and responsibilities in respect of Sections 4 and 9 of the Animal Welfare Act as related to horseracing.
- 7.5. The key point to appreciate in the detection, investigation, control and prevention of equine abuse of horses in the care of licensed trainers or to anyone regulated by the BHA is the need to involve immediately the British Horseracing Authority. It has the capacity, expertise, powers of entry to licensed premises, processes, sanctions and most of all willingness, to act.

8. The British Horse Society

- 8.1. The British Horse Society embraces the spectrum of equestrian and equine interests, including education and training, access and rider safety, the inspection and approval of equestrian establishments, competitions and, of course, welfare.
- 8.2. The Society’s welfare work is coordinated by the Welfare Department at its Headquarters in Stoneleigh. It addresses equine welfare in four ways. First, it has trained Volunteer Welfare Officers throughout England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland. The strength of our system is that our Welfare Officers are able to monitor cases and work with owners over a period of time.
- 8.3. Second, the Society provides a helpline which owners and keepers can call for free advice. Although this may not at first sight appear

to be a welfare matter, answering a question from a less-than-knowledgeable owner (e.g. “Is it all right for me to trim my pony’s hooves myself?”) may prevent a welfare problem from arising.

- 8.4. Third, it provides a wide range of free literature (most of which is available as free downloads from the Internet – see table in Annex B), supplemented by a range of books which are available by mail order from the BHS shop (www.britishhorse.com).
- 8.5. Finally, the Society conducts training events and conferences for its own Welfare Officers (see below), for public agencies such as local authority Trading Standards Officers and the SSPCA, and for the general public.
- 8.6. BHS Welfare Officers have no powers to go on to land or to seize animals. However, the BHS commits to respond promptly to reports of apparent equine neglect, abuse or suffering in their area. The BHS further commits to providing feedback to the person making the report if he has provided contact details.
- 8.7. It is often the case that reports of neglect, abuse or suffering are not well-founded. Sometimes, too, the Welfare Officer will discover that an animal which has been reported as being in poor condition is already receiving proper care and attention from the owner and the owner’s veterinary surgeon. Where Welfare Officers believe that the condition of an animal is below par but does not require urgent remedial action, they will attempt to speak to the owner or keeper with a view to providing advice on better care and husbandry.
- 8.8. If a Welfare Officer decides that the condition of an animal is such that it is suffering unrelieved pain or acute discomfort, or that, without immediate intervention its condition is likely to deteriorate, he or she will liaise with such other agencies or organisations (including the Police and the local authority, and/or the RSPCA) with a view to bringing swift and effective aid to the animal.

9. The Donkey Sanctuary

- 9.1. During the forty years of its existence The Donkey Sanctuary has developed a reputation as a world centre of excellence on the care of donkeys and mules. The Professional Handbook of the Donkey is universally regarded as a definitive source of information on the breed. Since its inception the charity has admitted over 12,000 donkeys into its care throughout the

United Kingdom and Ireland. It also operates throughout mainland Europe and in five other countries throughout the developing world.

- 9.2. The charity's welfare officers are based throughout the United Kingdom. This team currently consists of five full-time Regional managers and 38 part-time Area Welfare Officers, whose primary role is to investigate reports of alleged ill treatment or neglect of donkeys and mules. Newly appointed welfare officers are given a comprehensive induction training course, and this is reinforced by compulsory annual training courses at the Sanctuary's headquarters in Devon.
- 9.3. As a matter of policy, The Donkey Sanctuary does not instigate criminal proceedings for breaches of animal welfare laws, but the charity has a history of providing specialist support to organisations that do.
- 9.4. The Sanctuary's Training Centre provides training courses and workshops that deal with various levels of donkey care and with donkey behaviour. These are available free of charge at the main centre in Devon or at other venues throughout the UK. Hybrid courses are also available for specialist groups such as beach donkey operators or representatives of other equine welfare organisations, local authorities or other enforcement agencies.
- 9.5. Provision of long term livery, which includes specialist remedial care by vets, farriers and equine dental technicians, is available for the temporary housing of donkeys and mules that are being held pending the outcome of Court proceedings.
- 9.6. Within the UK the charity employs eight veterinary surgeons who, in addition to attending to donkeys and mules within the Sanctuary's farms, are available to provide advice and support to professional colleagues in the field. This can be by way of telephone, written communication, or CPD. On occasion this may involve veterinary referral for surgery to be carried out at the Sanctuary's operating theatre.
- 9.7. The Sanctuary's pathology laboratory is able to provide analysis of biochemistry and haematology samples and worm count analysis of faecal samples sent to them by attending vets.
- 9.8. The Donkey Sanctuary also has a fleet of equine transporters and a pool of suitably qualified, experienced drivers.

9.9. The Sanctuary's veterinary surgeons and welfare officers are available 24 hours per day, seven days per week for advice and assistance.

10. The Horse Trust

10.1. The Horse Trust operates a free welfare advice helpline that is manned 8.30 to 4.30 Monday to Friday. Callers can ask for advice on topics such as responsible rehoming and general horse management. Out of hours calls are directed to an answer machine.

10.2. The Horse Trust will investigate welfare complaints where the horse is located in the Home Counties. Out of hours emergencies or complaints relating to horses in other areas would be redirected to other appropriate organisations.

10.3. The Horse Trust produces free educational literature for horse owners and keepers, which is available in electronic form from our website or as a hard copy.

10.4. The Horse Trust has a retirement sanctuary based in Buckinghamshire. With over 200 acres and a resident veterinary surgeon. The Trust has the staff and resources necessary to care for elderly, sick or injured horses, ponies and donkeys. Facilities include an isolation block to cater for animals with suspected infectious diseases. Rescued equines can be cared for by The Trust on a short or long term basis. In the case of a large rescue operation up to 50 horses can be cared for in the short term. Transport for welfare cases can be provided if a horse is located within 50 miles of The Trust.

10.5. The Trust does not have adequate facilities for backing or ridden rehabilitation of rescued equines. Youngsters taken in by the Trust would receive groundwork training but assistance from other organisations would be required when the animals reached riding age.

10.6. The Horse Trust provides supplementary equine welfare training to RSPCA Inspectors and Trading Standards Officers. The Trust has over 100 equines on-site and can educate officers in how to handle equines and provide practical welfare training.

11. HorseWorld

11.1. HorseWorld is an equine welfare charity, dedicated to the rescue,

rehabilitation and rehoming of neglected, mistreated, or abandoned horses, ponies and donkeys. The charity focuses its activities in the South West region, largely within a three-hour driving radius of Bristol. The charity rescues or otherwise takes possession of approximately 100 equines annually. Most of these animals are re-homed via the charity's equine loan scheme following rehabilitation or veterinary recuperation. The HorseWorld team combines a great depth of skills and expertise in equine welfare and training, with staff members possessing BHS qualifications alongside Intelligent Horsemanship experience and equine physiotherapy.

- 11.2. HorseWorld does not have the capacity to commit to legal prosecution and generally works with the RSPCA or statutory bodies when cases get to this stage. Investigative work is generally carried out with partners, too, as the organisation has no animal inspectorate. A low level of primary investigation is undertaken, however, usually following reports from concerned members of the public in the case. It is regularly found that advice to owners is sufficient to improve matters if it is warranted. Serious cases are referred to the statutory bodies for judicial consideration.
- 11.3. Incidents that involve straying animals and abandonments are regularly referred by the Police or other bodies. HorseWorld has a specialised road fleet that allows these animals to be gathered up and held until stray repatriation takes place. Efforts are always made to identify abandonment perpetrators in the hope that they can be brought to account.
- 11.4. The incidence of illegal grazing is high within the HorseWorld area of operation. Support and advice is given to farmers and landowners subject to this activity. In certain circumstances animals will be lifted if there are welfare concerns.
- 11.5. HorseWorld has a strong education and training ethos, supporting the local community and beyond. Individuals with social and special needs are firmly included along with equine specialists and undergraduates from the local veterinary faculty.

12. Redwings

- 12.1. Redwings' purpose is to provide and promote the welfare, care and protection of horses, ponies, donkeys and mules. We are the largest horse sanctuary in the UK with more than 1,000 retired equine residents in our direct care as well as several hundred

rehomed through our guardianship scheme. Around 150 new arrivals are brought into the charity every year. Many of these are equines with needs that do not make them straightforward to handle, care for or rehome. Redwings' facilities include its own fully equipped hospital with three vets, equine reception centre (where screening for Strangles takes place), humane handling team and active welfare team with two further veterinary surgeons dedicated to our welfare work.

- 12.2. By employing welfare specific veterinary surgeons, Redwings is able to offer crucial support to other charities which includes working with the RSPCA to take forward prosecutions when it becomes necessary. Their training and experience can also be very useful when liaising with other vets on welfare cases and when giving advice and guidance to horse owners.
- 12.3. Redwings also has a network of Field Officers and volunteer advisers across the UK. These individuals are trained in legal processes, effective communication techniques and are committed to maintaining and furthering partnerships with other welfare representatives in their local area.
- 12.4. Redwings has particular expertise in the rescue of unhandled or abused equines. Handling limitations are often a key factor in welfare cases and can limit the courses of action open to another organisation. Our ability to help this type of equine is not limited to rounding up and removing them, but extends to a specialised transportation team, sanctuary capacity to accommodate often large family groups, and staff, including vets, who are sensitive and skilled in caring for such animals. In the long term, Redwings can also offer rehoming or retirement avenues to suit the needs of each equine that comes into our care. Our advice and skills in this area are sought by welfare organisations, the police and local councils to deal with cases of neglect, abandonment and straying, using the most appropriate legislation. In Norfolk this has led to a formal agreement with police to collect and board any equine found straying on the road, day or night.
- 12.5. Education is naturally a significant element of both our aims and our practical work. Our printed welfare leaflets are supplemented by advice on our website and two office based staff spend their time offering often in depth advice and guidance as well as taking welfare reports and ensuring all aspects of an investigation are followed through effectively.

13. RSPCA

- 13.1. The RSPCA's reach extends far beyond horses, but their welfare is nevertheless a very important part of our work. We attend to numerous cases of equine neglect and abuse each year, campaign for better animal welfare, lobby for changes in the law, educate adults and children, and much more besides.
- 13.2. But when, despite our efforts, animals suffer at the hands of malicious or indifferent people, we bring all our specialist legal expertise and experience to bear to prosecute offenders. In this regard we are able to provide a national service which our partners in the other organisations are not equipped to provide themselves. Equally, we often rely on them to lend their equine-specific knowledge, either to bring rapid relief to suffering horses, or to provide a safe haven for them, or to help us prepare a robust case for the courts. We do have facility to look after and rehome equines in our animal centres, but it is not as great as we would like and we rely on partners in the private sector for this as well.
- 13.3. The RSPCA's inspectors and animal collection officers (ACOs) are our frontline men and women who work around the clock in England and Wales. Our inspectors and ACOs, along with the inspectors' training school and the Special Operations Unit (our team of undercover inspectors who investigate illegal acts of animal cruelty), make up the RSPCA's inspectorate.
- 13.4. Every year thousands of children and adults are educated about animal welfare issues by our education team, which trains teachers, runs courses and provides schools with invaluable resources. We provide teachers with everything they need to deliver animal welfare in the classroom including worksheets, teachers' notes, photo packs and lesson ideas.
- 13.5. We base our animal welfare stance on care and compassion, but rely on sound science to inform our decision-making, formulate our policies, define our strategies, and promote change for the improvement of animal welfare. Our aim is to provide and utilise comprehensive, reliable and well-researched scientific and technical information on all aspects of animal welfare.
- 13.6. There are about 174 branches of the RSPCA across England and Wales run by volunteers. Each branch operates at a local level by offering advice and other services.

14. World Horse Welfare (*the new name for The International League for the Protection of Horses*)

- 14.1. World Horse Welfare Head Office in Norfolk has a dedicated welfare team with phone lines manned 08.00 to 18.30 Mon-Fri. Wherever possible welfare situations are resolved through education and persuasion. We would consider prosecution normally as a last resort. For larger cases needing admission to welfare centres we link with a number of charities (e.g. Redwings, RSPCA, HorseWorld) and holding yards. In difficult situations we have always found that the charities pull together and help each other out.
- 14.2. In common with all other charities World Horse Welfare does not have legal powers to enter property, but welfare concerns are investigated by full time employed Field Officers with equine and legal backgrounds. All concerns are given a case number and recorded on a World Horse Welfare database. Cases are updated at each visit and cross-referenced where appropriate. Field Officers have notebooks and duplicated improvement/warning notices. The Field Officer will endeavour to contact the initial caller to explain what the situation is and what will be done about it. Field Officers will enter premises whenever possible; if permission is initially refused they will try to gain visual/photographic evidence from outside the property. Appropriate authorities will be involved if evidence suggests forced access is required.
- 14.3. During investigations World Horse Welfare will liaise with other charities to ensure there is minimal duplication of work and to ensure a speedy response when possible. In particular, each Field Officer has links with RSPCA Officers in their area that will often assist. As soon as it becomes clear that a prosecution is likely and/or multiple numbers are involved we will operate as a team with the RSPCA.

Annex D

Reporting a Welfare Concern

Telephone numbers for organisations able to investigate a welfare concern can be found in Annex E.

When reporting a welfare concern, the operator may ask for the following information:

- Complainants name, address and telephone number (so that the organisation can contact them with an update on the situation).
- The date, time and place of the offence
- Information about the animal's environment and bodily condition
- The name(s) and address(es) of the person(s) involved.
- The name(s) and address(es) of any witnesses
- The registration number and description of any vehicle involved

Supporting information:

- Photographs or video footage showing the cruelty may provide vital evidence in a prosecution case. If the complainant has a camera to hand, and is safe to use, it may prove beneficial. The existence of photographic or video evidence should be mentioned to the controller when the case is reported
- The complainant will need to state whether they will be prepared to testify in court. If the complainant wishes to remain anonymous this wish will be respected.
- The operator will assess the information given by the complainant and prioritise the complaint as appropriate.

The operator will direct the complaint to the appropriate person who will deal with the complaint. At weekends or out of normal working hours there may be limited capability however this should not deter the complainant from reporting their concern. Callers should not take the law into their own hands and should provide the organisation with as much information as possible so that they can investigate the complaint legally and as rapidly as is necessary.

Duplication of Resources

Often, a caller will report a welfare concern to multiple organisations in the belief that this will result in the complaint being investigated more quickly. This is not usually the case and can waste resources that could be directed to another welfare problem. Callers may be asked whether they have logged the complaint with another organisation in order to limit this wastage.

Annex E

Reporting a Welfare Concern – Advice for members of the public

Bransby Home of Rest for Horses

- Welfare helpline staffed 8am to 4pm Monday to Friday
- To report a welfare problem contact Bransby on 01427 788464
- Officers will investigate welfare complaints where the horse is located in Herefordshire, Humberside, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Yorkshire and Wales
- Emergency welfare concerns may be reported on the main number out of working hours however non-urgent calls made out of working hours will be dealt with the following working day
- Where the welfare concern relates to an animal that is not located in the counties mentioned above, the caller will be redirected to another appropriate organisation in their area
- Works with RSPCA to bring prosecutions as the organisation has no-in house prosecution team

The British Horseracing Authority

- If a member of the public observes a non-urgent welfare case involving a Thoroughbred racehorse in training they should contact Racestraight on 08000 852580
- If a serious welfare problem involving a Thoroughbred racehorse in training is observed out of office hours it should be reported to the RSPCA
- Can use its own disciplinary processes
- Works with RSPCA to bring prosecutions as the organisation has no-in house prosecution team

The British Horse Society

- UK Welfare helpline staffed 8.35am – 5pm Monday to Thursday and 8.35am to 3pm Friday
- To report a welfare problem anywhere in the UK contact the BHS on 01926 707804. Calls made out of office hours will be dealt with the following working day

- BHS Welfare Officers are not restricted to normal working hours and therefore may be able to attend out of hours
- Works with RSPCA to bring prosecutions as the organisation has no-in house prosecution team

The Donkey Sanctuary

- Inspectors are available to investigate donkey welfare complaints 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- To report a welfare problem contact the Donkey Sanctuary main switchboard on 01395 578222 or one of the regional welfare representatives (contact numbers below). The main switchboard number has voicemail
- Regional Welfare Officers are found in the following regions: Scotland, North East and Northern Ireland – 07717 814946; East of England – 07836 756117; North and Mid-Wales, Midlands, Cumbria, Lancashire, Yorkshire, Cleveland – 07850 963563; South and South East England – 07770 683767; South West England and South Wales – 07768 336912
- Each listed Regional Welfare Officer is responsible for a particular region and has on average 12 Area Welfare Officers who are always available
- Works with RSPCA to bring prosecutions as the organisation has no-in house prosecution team

The Horse Trust

- Welfare helpline staffed 8.30 to 4.30 Monday to Friday
- To report a welfare problem contact The Horse Trust on 01494 488464
- Will investigate welfare complaints where the horse is located in the Home Counties.
- Where the welfare concern relates to an animal that is not located in the Home Counties, the caller will be redirected to another appropriate organisation in their area
- Works with RSPCA to bring prosecutions as the organisation has no-in house prosecution team

HorseWorld

- Welfare helpline staffed 7.30am to 5pm Monday to Friday
- To report a welfare problem contact HorseWorld on 01275 832067

- Will investigate welfare complaints where the horse is located in the South West
- Works with RSPCA to bring prosecutions as the organisation has no-in house prosecution team

Redwings

- Welfare helpline manned 8.30am to 5pm Monday to Friday
- To report a welfare problem contact Redwings on 01508 481008
- Field Officers cover London and the South East, Northern England, the Midlands and East Anglia
- Out of hours emergency equine welfare complaints located in the areas mentioned above can be reported on 07747 444704
- Work with RSPCA to bring prosecutions as have no-in house prosecution team

RSPCA

- 24 hour cruelty and advice line
- To report a welfare problem contact the RSPCA on 0300 1234 999
- Inspectors cover England and Wales 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- Inspectors will attend emergencies that occur out of hours or at weekends however resources are reduced at these times.
- Inspectors called to investigate cases of neglect or abuse will provide advice and prosecute where necessary

World Horse Welfare (*the new name for the ILPH*)

- UK Welfare Hotline staffed 8am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday
- To report a welfare problem in the UK contact World Horse Welfare on 08000 480180
- The working hours for Field Officers are 8.30am to 5pm Monday to Friday
- Emergency calls falling outside these times will be referred to another appropriate organisation
- Works with RSPCA to bring prosecutions as the organisation has no in-house prosecution team

Annex F

Handling a welfare case – resource information for organisations

The Blue Cross

- Will assist police, local authorities and other welfare organisations with welfare cases located within a 50 miles radius of the centres in Burford and Rolleston
- For assistance with a welfare case during working hours (8am to 5pm Monday to Friday) contact The Blue Cross on 07919 696 797 or email equine.welfare@bluecross.org.uk
- Will provide welfare boarding and emergency in-take to rescued and abandoned equines, at its dedicated Equine Centres in Burford, Oxfordshire (01993 822454) and Rolleston, Staffordshire (0845 260 5505)
- For advice the Equine Welfare Department can be contacted on 01993 825517 (8am to 5pm Monday to Friday). This number has voicemail out of hours and calls will be handled the next working day
- Can provide transport and operates horse ambulance service within a 50 mile radius of the centres in Burford and Staffordshire. Please contact 01993 822454 or 01993 825517 for transport assistance

Bransby Home of Rest for Horses

- Will assist police, local authorities and other welfare organisations with welfare cases where the horse is located in Herefordshire, Humberside, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Yorkshire and Wales
- Operates a 24 hour welfare helpline which redirects to a mobile out of hours
- For assistance with a welfare case contact Bransby on 01427 788464
- Can provide livery to rescued and abandoned horses or those found on the road
- Can provide transport
- Has centres in Herefordshire and Lincolnshire with isolation facilities
- Works with RSPCA to bring prosecutions as the organisation has no-in house prosecution team

The British Horseracing Authority

- If a veterinary surgeon is concerned about the welfare of a Thoroughbred racehorse in training they should contact the British Horseracing Authority on 0207 152 0090
- Works with RSPCA to bring prosecutions as the organisation has no-in house prosecution team

The British Horse Society

- UK Welfare helpline staffed 8.35am to 5pm Monday to Thursday & 8.35am to 3pm Friday
- The BHS Welfare department can be contacted on 01926 707804. Calls made out of office hours will be dealt with the following working day
- BHS Welfare Officers are not restricted to normal working hours and therefore may be able to attend out of hours
- BHS Welfare Officers will assist other organisations with cases and may attend when horses are found on the road
- Works with RSPCA to bring prosecutions as the organisation has no-in house prosecution team

The Donkey Sanctuary

- Will assist police, local authorities and other welfare organisations with welfare and rescue cases involving donkeys and mules
- Inspectors are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- For assistance with a welfare case contact the Donkey Sanctuary main switchboard on 01395 578222 or one of the regional welfare representatives (contact numbers below). The main switchboard number has voicemail
- Regional Welfare Officers are found in the following regions: Scotland, North East and Northern Ireland – 07717 814946; East of England – 07836 756117; North and Mid-Wales, Midlands, Cumbria, Lancashire, Yorkshire, Cleveland – 07850 963563; South and South East England – 07770 683767; South West England and South Wales – 07768 336912
- Has veterinary surgeons that are available 24 hours a day
- Has centres in Devon, Dorset and Derbyshire
- Can provide transport
- Works with RSPCA to bring prosecutions as the organisation has no in-house prosecution team

The Horse Trust

- Will assist police, local authorities and other welfare organisations with welfare cases where the horse is located in the Home Counties
- For assistance with a welfare case call 01494 488464 during office hours (8.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday)
- Has a centre in Buckinghamshire with isolation facilities
- Can provide livery to rescued horses on a short or long term basis
- Can admit up to 50 horses in the short term
- Has an on-site veterinary surgeon
- Can provide transport where the horse is located within a 50 miles radius of The Trust
- Works with RSPCA to bring prosecutions as the organisation has no-in house prosecution team

HorseWorld

- Will assist police, local authorities and other welfare organisations with welfare cases where the horse is located in the South West
- Operates a welfare helpline which is staffed 7.30am to 5pm Monday to Friday
- For assistance with a welfare case call 01275 832067
- Police, Trading Standards and other welfare organisations may contact 07527 883681 for out of hours assistance with a welfare case in the South West
- Has a centre in Bristol with isolation facilities
- Can provide livery to rescued horses, abandoned horses or those found on the road
- Can provide transport
- Works with RSPCA to bring prosecutions as the organisation has no-in house prosecution team

Redwings

- Will assist police, local authorities and other welfare organisations with welfare cases
- Operates a welfare helpline which is staffed 8.30am to 5pm Monday to Friday

- For assistance with a welfare case during working hours call 01508 481008
- For out of hours emergency assistance call 07747 444704
- Field Officers cover London and the South East, Northern England, the Midlands and East Anglia
- Has centres in Norfolk, Essex and Warwickshire
- Can provide livery and veterinary care to rescued, abandoned and stray horses including large groups and unhandled equines.
- Norfolk based equine hospital in addition to two veterinary surgeons that can assist with welfare cases nationwide.
- Specialist equine roundup and transport team able to deal with feral, unhandled and other equines, that can travel all over the UK
- Works with RSPCA to bring prosecutions as the organisation has no-in house prosecution team

RSPCA

- Operates a 24 hour cruelty and advice line
- For assistance with investigation of a welfare complaint call 0300 1234 999
- Inspectors cover England and Wales 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- Inspectors will attend emergencies that occur out of hours or at weekends however resources are reduced at these times.
- Can arrange transport

World Horse Welfare (*the new name for the ILPH*)

- Operates a UK Welfare Hotline which is staffed 8am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday
- For assistance with a welfare case call 08000 480180
- The working hours for Field Officers are 8.30am to 5pm Monday to Friday.
- Has centres in Aberdeenshire, Somerset, Norfolk and Blackpool
- Can provide livery to rescued horses
- Can provide transport
- Works with RSPCA to bring prosecutions as the organisation has no-in house prosecution team