

RIDING ESTABLISHMENTS LICENCE CONDITIONS IMPLIMENTATION OF THE REVISED LICENCE CONDITIONS FOR RIDING ESTABLISHMENTS, RIDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1964

Report By: Head Of Environmental Health And Trading Standards

Wards Affected:

County-wide

Purpose

1. To consider implementing revised licence conditions for Riding Establishments.

Legislation: **Duty to specify conditions in the licence**

2. The authority shall specify conditions to ensure :-

- Section 1(4) (a) whether that person appears to them to be suitable and qualified either by experience in the management of horses or by being the holder of an approved certificate or by employing in the management of the riding establishment a person so qualified, to be the holder of such a licence; and
- (b) the need for securing:
- (i) that paramount consideration will be given to the condition of horses and that they will be maintained in good health, and in all respects physically fit and that, in the case of a horse kept for the purposes of its being let out on hire for riding or a horse kept for the purpose of its being used in providing instruction in riding, the horse will be suitable for the purpose for which it is kept;
 - (ii) that the feet of all animals are properly trimmed and that, if shod, their shoes are properly fitted and in good condition;
 - (iii) that there will be available at all times accommodation for horses suitable as respects construction, size, number of occupants, lighting, ventilation, drainage and cleanliness and that these requirements be complied with not only in the case of new buildings but also in the case of buildings converted for use as stabling;
 - (iv) that in the case of horses maintained at grass there will be available for them at all times during which they are so maintained adequate pasture and shelter and water and that supplementary feeds will be provided as and when required;
 - (v) that horses will be adequately supplied with suitable food, drink and (except in the case of horses maintained at grass, so long as they are so maintained) bedding material, and will be adequately exercised, groomed and rested and visited at suitable intervals;

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- (vi) that all reasonable precautions will be taken to prevent and control the spread amongst horses of infectious or contagious diseases and that veterinary first aid equipment and medicines shall be provided and maintained in the premises;
 - (vii) that appropriate steps will be taken for the protection and extrication of horses in the case of fire and, in particular, that the name, address and telephone number of the licence holder or some other reasonable person will be kept displayed in a prominent position on the outside of the premises and that instructions as to action to be taken in the event of fire, with particular regard to extrication of horses, will be kept displayed in a prominent position on the outside of the premises;
 - (viii) that adequate accommodation will be provided for forage, bedding, stable equipment and saddlery.
- 1(4a) (a) a horse found on inspection of the premises by an authorised officer to be in need of veterinary attention shall not be returned to work until the holder of the licence has obtained at his own expense and has lodged with the local authority a veterinary certificate that the horse is fit for work;
- (b) no horse will be let out on hire for riding or used for providing instruction in riding without supervision by a responsible person of the age of 16 years or over unless (in case of a horse let out for hire for riding) the holder of the licence is satisfied that the hirer of the horse is competent to ride without supervision;
 - (c) the carrying on of the business of a riding establishment shall at no time be left in the charge of any person under 16 years of age;
 - (d) the licence holder shall hold a current insurance policy which insures him against liability for any injury sustained by those who hire a horse from him for riding and those who use a horse in the course of receiving from him, in return for payment, instruction in riding and arising out of the hire or use of a horse as aforesaid and which also insures such persons in respect of any liability which may be incurred by them in respect of injury to any person caused by, or arising out of, the hire or use of a horse aforesaid;
 - (e) a register shall be kept by the licence holder of all horses in his possession aged three years and under and usually kept on the premises which shall be available for inspection by an authorised officer at all reasonable times.
- 1.(9) Any person who contravenes the provision of subsection (1) of this section shall be guilty of an offence ; and if any condition subject [to which a licence under this Act is subject (whether by virtue of subsection (4a) of this section or otherwise)] is contravened or not complied with, the person to whom the licence was granted shall be guilty of an offence.

Background

3. Since the last review of conditions in 2002 the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and the British Veterinary Association have published new Guidelines. These were published in January 2004.
4. The new licence conditions are a combination of the previous conditions, the new Guidelines and other Authorities Conditions.
5. All the Riding Establishment licence holders in the County were consulted, responses were received and amendments made as appropriate.
6. Also an advert had been placed in the Hereford Times inviting people to comment on the proposed licence conditions from which no responses were received.
7. The revised conditions are set out in Appendix 1.

Options

8. it is for the Regulatory Committee to decide:-
 - a whether to adopt the Riding Establishments Conditions
 - b refuse to adopt the licence conditions
 - c or reach some other decision

Appendix 1

**Standard Conditions Attached to Riding Establishment Licences****Riding Establishments Act 1964****1.1 INSURANCE**

- 1.1** The licence holder shall hold a current Public Liability Insurance policy to provide indemnity against liability at law to pay damages for accidental bodily injury or damage to property to those hiring a horse for riding or receiving instruction in riding resulting from his own activities or those of members of his staff or of his clients in connection with his business.

2.0 QUALIFICATIONS OF APPLICANT AND RESPONSIBLE PERSONS

- 2.1** The person keeping a riding establishment shall be suitable and qualified either by experience in management of horses or by having the holder of an approved certificate or by employing in the management of the riding establishment a person so qualified.
- 2.2** If the management of a riding establishment is to be entrusted to another person by the applicant, the suitability and experience of the nominated person must be considered and reported on.
- 2.3** No horse may be let out for hire for riding or used for providing instruction in riding without supervision by a responsible person of the age of 16 years or over unless (in the cases of a horse let out for hire for riding) the holder of the licence is satisfied that the hirer of the horse is competent to ride without supervision.
- 2.4** The carrying on of the business of the establishment must at no time be left in the charge of any person under 16 years of age.

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3.0 RECORD KEEPING

- 3.1 **A register must be kept of all horses in the licence holders possession aged three years and under and usually kept on the premises which shall be available for inspection by an authorised officer at all reasonable times.**
- 3.2 **An appointment book/stable records must be maintained and be available for the inspector to ascertain that the horses are adequately rested, supplied with food, drink and bedding material.**
- 3.3 **Records of parasite control must be available to be checked.**
- 3.4 **The Health and Safety Assessment must be available for an authorised officer of the Council to see during any inspections.**

4.0 GENERAL MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 **The supply of food, drink and bedding material must be adequate and suitable; the hay and food shall not be mouldy or rat infested. Horses must be adequately exercised, groomed, rested and visited at suitable intervals.**

5.0 NOTICES

- 5.1 **The name address and telephone number of the licence holder or other responsible person must be displayed prominently and clearly on the outside of the premises. The postcode must also be displayed on the notice to help the emergency services locate the premises in the event of fire.**
- 5.2 **The notice must have directions of what to do in the event of a fire.**
- 5.3 **No smoking notices must be present in all areas of the premises in prominent positions.**
- 5.4 **The current licence must be displayed prominently for public viewing on the premises at all times.**
- 5.5 **The licence conditions must be kept safely on the premises and must be readily available to all members of staff.**

6.0 FIRE PRECAUTIONS

- 6.1 **The licence holder must ensure that appropriate steps will be taken for the protection and extrication of horses in case of fire and in particular, that the name, address and telephone number be displayed in a prominent position on the outside of the premises. Instructions as to the action required with particular attention being paid to the extrication of the horses, are kept displayed in a prominent position on the outside of the premises.**

- 6.2 Fire extinguishers must be serviced annually and the last service date must be visible on an attached label.
- 6.3 There must be clear access to all stalls and loose boxes.
- 6.4 For small fires a water tap and hose must be available at all times.
- 6.5 A full and sufficient fire risk assessment must be undertaken. If five or more persons are employed then the significant findings must be recorded.

7.0 DISEASE CONTROL AND FIRST AID EQUIPMENT

- 7.1 All reasonable precautions will be taken to prevent and control the spread among horses of infectious or contagious diseases and that veterinary first aid equipment and medicines shall be provided and maintained in the premises.
- 7.2 Isolation facilities must be provided for the isolation of any animal with infectious disease.
First aid equipment shall include antiseptic solution and powder, dressings, bandages, scissors and a thermometer.
- 7.3 The name address and telephone number of the attending veterinary surgeon and doctor be prominently displayed at each establishment in case of emergency.

8.0 THE HORSES

- 8.1 Horses must be in good health, and in all respects physically fit and, in the case of a horse kept for the purpose of its being let out on hire for riding or a horse kept for the purpose of its being used in providing instruction in riding, the horse must be suitable for the purpose for which it is kept.
- 8.2 No horse aged three years or under nor any mare heavy in foal nor any mare within three months after foaling may be let out for hire for riding or used, in return for payment, for instruction in or demonstrating riding.
- 8.3 The feet of all animals must be properly trimmed and, if shod their shoes must be properly fitted and in good condition.
- 8.4 Any horse in need of veterinary attention must be removed from work immediately and veterinary advice sought. Appropriate treatment must then be carried out.
- 8.5 A horse found on inspection of the premises by an authorised officer to be in need of veterinary attention must not be returned to work until the holder of the licence has obtained at his expense and has lodged with the local authority a veterinary certificate that the horse is fit for work.
- 8.6 In the case of horses maintained at grass there must be available for them at all times during which they are so maintained adequate pasture,

shelter and water. Supplementary feeds must be provided as necessary.

8.7 Horses at grass must be visited at least twice daily by a person competent to recognise injury or illness.

8.8 Horses must be adequately supplied with suitable food, drink and (except in the case of horses maintained at grass, so long as they are so maintained) bedding material, and must be adequately exercised, groomed and rested and visited at suitable intervals.

9.0 ACCOMODATION

9.1 There will be available at all times accommodation for the horses suitable as respects construction, size and number of occupants. Able to provide warmth and shelter in hygienic conditions.

9.2 Yards must provide enough space for every animal kept there.

9.3 Access to boxes and stalls must be safe and convenient. Stalls shall be large enough to allow the animal to lie down and get up without risk of injury. Boxes shall be large enough to allow the animal to turn around and there should be sufficient headroom, as a minimum for a horse to hold its head in a normal upright position without its ears touching the roof. Both shall be free of fittings and projections or other structural features that might cause injury to horse occupants. Doors must open outwards and be of robust construction.

9.4 Lighting must be adequate to render the use of artificial lighting unnecessary in daylight. Horse must be protected from injury from windows, electric switches, loose wires and other equipment in stalls and boxes. In the absence of electricity alternative lighting must be available.

9.5 Ventilation must provide fresh air without draughts.

9.6 Drainage must be adequate to carry away liquid voided by the horses and keep the standings dry. Drains shall discharge outside the buildings. Provision for the storage and disposal of manure and spoiled bedding must be made. This must be located sufficiently far from buildings to avoid the risk of fire and spread of disease.

9.7 Fences must be maintained in safe condition, free from hazards and loose or broken rails. Fields must be free of rubbish, parked machinery and other equipment likely to cause injury to horses. There must be control of injurious weeds including ragwort.

9.8 Adequate accommodation must be provided for forage bedding, stable equipment and saddlery.

10.0 SADDLERY AND RIDING HATS

10.1 All riding equipment shall be maintained in a good condition so as not to cause suffering to the horse or accident to the rider.

- 10.2 Riding hats must comply with the most recent British Safety Standard and display the BSI Kite mark.**

11.0 INDOOR AND OUTDOOR SCHOOLS

- 11.1 The surface of the school must be well drained, free of standing water and maintained regularly to keep it level and smooth. There must be give in the surface consistent with the nature of the surface material of which it is composed.**
- 11.2 Indoor schools must have no central roof stanchions. All stanchions around the walls must be either outside of the innermost protecting wall or well padded up to a height above the head of a rider on the tallest horse used in the establishment.**
- 11.3 There must be no other projections either around the walls or elsewhere in the school that could cause injury to horse or rider.**
- 11.4 Outdoor schools must be properly fenced and maintained so as not to cause injury to horse or rider. Lighting stanchions must be properly padded (as above) if they are sufficiently close to the riding surface to present the danger of contact.**
- 11.5 Indoor schools must have functional doors and outdoor schools must be able to be closed off by gates or rails when in use.**

12.0 HACKING

- 12.1 The operator must be able to demonstrate their ability to gauge the skill level of the rider for the appropriate horse.**

13.0 TRAIL RIDING

- 13.1 Provision must be made for replacing sick or lame horses must be made.**
- 13.2 Any horse used for longer distances must be rested sufficiently between rides.**
- 13.3 Unguided Trail Riding must have adequate control and management in place to cover all eventualities. This will include checking in rider by phone at night. The horse must be checked during overnight stays.**

14.0 RIDING SCHOOLS WITH ATTACHED LIVERY

- 14.1 There shall be a clear distinction of premises between the hired out horse and those for livery.**
- 14.2 A separate feed, tack, and other facilities should be provided.**

15.0 CLINICAL INSPECTION OF THE HORSES

15.1 A suitably darkened stable must be provided for the ophthalmic examination.

15.2 The Horse must be rested for inspection of auscultation of the chest.

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