

ABRS+ Code of Conduct for the Welfare of Horses



Introduction

The Association of British Riding Schools, Livery Yards and Riding Establishments (ABRS+) is a national member body for riding school, trekking and livery businesses. The Codes of Conduct adopted by the ABRS+ are built on the principle that members and their staff must:

- Behave with integrity and a sense of what is right
- Ensure their actions show respect for others (both people and horses)
- Demonstrate fairness and equality

These ethical principles underpin membership of the ABRS+ and are not optional.

Principles

This code for the Welfare of Horses should be read in conjunction with the Code of Conduct for Members, Code of Conduct for Good Employment and the Code of Conduct for Coaches, Trainers and Instructors.

This Code of Conduct is a guide for good practice in the welfare of horses and must be followed by members and by the staff that they employ (whether paid or voluntary).

Members must provide for the welfare of horses:

- Ensure that the horses for which they are responsible (either permanently or temporarily):
 - Live in a physical environment that enables them to experience various forms of comfort:
 - Sufficient space
 - Sufficient ventilation
 - Sufficient shelter and shade
 - Tolerable levels of light and noise
 - A well-maintained and clean environment
 - Established and predictable routines
 - Have a diet that meets fully their nutritional requirements:
 - Food that is sufficient, appropriately varied and balanced
 - Achieve and maintain good health and fitness:
 - Good husbandry practices
 - Well-designed and well-managed facilities
 - Access to appropriate and timely veterinary care
 - Are able to express their normal behaviours both in their interactions with other horses and with people
 - Are suitable, capable and safe for the required work.
- Comply with national codes of practice for the welfare of horses:
 - England, Wales and NI: Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses, Ponies, Donkeys and Their Hybrids

- Scotland: Code of Practice for the Welfare Of Equidae
- Ensure, where they have horses for hire, they possess a valid license issued by the local authority and that they only hire horses that are included on the license.

The ABRS reserves the right to withdraw membership and/or listing from a member where there is a material breach of this Code of Conduct. Breaches of the Code of Conduct will arise from a complaint received by the ABRS. Complaints will be investigated through the ABRS Complaints Procedure.

Membership and/or may also be withdrawn where there is a withdrawal of underpinning licenses and/or certificates. Where membership and/or listing is withdrawn, the ABRS plaque must be returned and all reference to the ABRS removed from promotional material, signs and websites.

Review arrangements

The Code of Conduct will be reviewed every three years, or in the following circumstances:

- Changes in legislation and/or government guidance
- As a result of any other significant change or event