

Emergency Horse Care Plan



Riding Establishment:

Purpose

To outline the immediate and short-term procedures for the **safe relocation and continued care** of all horses and ponies if:

- The licensed premises become unsafe or unusable (e.g. fire, flood, storm damage, power failure).
- The riding school license is suspended, revoked or not renewed.
- An emergency (e.g. legal, public health, disease outbreak) restricts normal operations.

Scope

This plan applies to:

- All **riding school-owned horses and ponies**.
- Any **liveries or horses on loan** kept at the premises.
- **Staff and volunteers** responsible for horse care.
- **Clients and horse owners**.

Immediate Response (First 24 Hours)

- **If Facilities Become Unusable:**
 - **Evacuate horses** to a designated safe holding area (e.g. nearby arena, field).
 - Check all horses for injury.
 - Notify:
 - **Vet** – for triage and support where horse injury has occurred or is suspected.
 - **Horse Owners (if applicable)**.
 - Ensure necessary actions for immediate horse care and welfare are undertaken (these are likely to be seasonally dependent and will include consideration of supplementary feed, rugging and water).
- **If License Is Revoked or Suspended:**
 - Cease all riding school operations immediately.
 - Inform:
 - **Local Authority** (licensing body) of intended action.
 - **Clients and horse owners** of suspension.
 - **Insurers** of the situation.
 - Implement the **Relocation Plan** (see below).

Relocation Plan

- **Pre-Identified Emergency Holding Facilities:**

Maintain a list of **at least two alternative stabling options** with capacity to house all horses temporarily:

Facility Name	Location	Contact Name & Mobile No	Capacity	Notes

Agreements should ideally be **pre-arranged in writing** or confirmed via Memorandum of Understanding.

- **Transportation:**

- Maintain a list of **trusted horse transporters** with capacity for emergency movement.
- Staff or owners may assist with trailers or lorries if legal and insured.
- Ensure **Passports and microchip information** is taken with horses to alternative stabling, together with any other associated relevant records (such as feeding plans, vet records etc).

Short-Term Horse Care (First 7 Days)

- **Basic Needs:**

- Ensure care and welfare requirements associated with each horse are met in accordance with each horse's specific needs. This included:
 - Feeding regimes
 - Medications and supplements
 - Stabling and rugging
- Maintain **daily care routines** as far as is reasonably possible to reduce stress.

- **Medical Needs:**

- Vet to assess any horse affected by transport or trauma and associated care agreed/implemented.

- **Staffing:**

- Allocate key staff or volunteers to oversee care at each site.
- Maintain **clear shift schedules and contact rota**.

- **Security:**

- Relocated horses must be **securely fenced** and checked a minimum of twice daily.

- **Welfare Monitoring and Records**

Existing horse records should be maintained. Where this is not possible, written logs should be created to record:

- Daily health checks
- Feed and water intake
- Medication
- Any behavioural or welfare concerns

Communication Plan

- Use SMS, WhatsApp group, or emergency contact tree for updates to:
 - Staff
 - Horse owners
 - Local authorities

Provide **daily updates** for the first 72 hours; frequency may reduce once stable.

- **Social media updates** should be controlled and professional, led by a designated person to prevent misinformation.

Insurance and Legal

- Notify your **insurance provider** of the emergency or license change immediately.
- Check public liability and horse cover still apply during temporary relocation.
- Document all actions taken for use in case of claims or regulatory review.

Return to Normal or Long-Term Planning

If return to original premises is:

- **Possible:** Conduct safety checks and liaise with vets before transporting horses back.
- **Not possible:** Develop a longer-term **re-homing, leasing or disposal plan** (in line with best practice guidelines and licensing conditions).

Review and Training

- Review and update this plan **annually** or after any actual emergency.
- Conduct **staff training or tabletop scenarios** to familiarise everyone with procedures.