

**Darlington Public Event Safety Advisory Group**

**A14 – Pony Rides at Events**



The event organiser should include details in the event plan of the person who will be responsible for the ponies; evidence that the ponies are suitable for public use; the method of transporting the ponies to and from the event; and where any transport vehicle used will be parked during the event.

To provide evidence of the ponies suitability the ride operator should be required as part of any agreement to provide essential details and confirm agreement to the conditions printed below: by completing and signing form F14 (Application to operate a pony ride). This document will form part of your event plan.

**Conditions relevant to approval of a pony ride**

1. Where ponies are let out for riding, or instruction in riding, in return for payment, they shall be provided by a Riding Establishment that is currently licensed under the Riding Establishment Acts of 1964 and 1970, and they shall ensure that all ponies are used in compliance with the provisions of those Acts together with the Protection of Animals Act 1911, and the Animal Welfare Act 2006 at all times whilst they are being used for such rides.
2. Ponies must be under the constant supervision of a responsible named person over the age of 16 years. The term 'pony' shall also include Horse, Donkey, Mule and Ass.
3. No pony aged less than 4 years nor any mare in foal nor any mare within three months after foaling may be used for rides.
4. The feet of all ponies must be properly trimmed and, if shod, their shoes must be properly fitted and in good condition. All shoes must be paired (ie must have all four shoes or both front or rear shoes) and any lost shoes must be replaced immediately or the animal taken out of use until properly fitted.
5. Ponies must be adequately supplied with suitable food and drink, must be adequately groomed and rested and be provided sufficient shelter and shade.
6. All riding equipment supplied for a pony ride must be maintained in good condition and free from defect which is likely to cause suffering to the pony or accident to the rider.
7. There must be provision for the removal and disposal of manure and spoiled straw off the site at the end of each day of the event.
8. The operator of such rides shall inspect the area before use and satisfy themselves that it is free from dangerous litter and poisonous plants or shrubs,

9. The operator of such rides must permit an inspection of the Ponies by an authorised officer of the Council, the Council's Veterinary Surgeon or the RSPCA at any time while the animal is on Council owned land and if a Pony is found in need of veterinary attention, it shall not be used for rides until the operator has obtained at their own expense a veterinary certificate that the pony is fit and suitable for rides.