

Venue Considerations for Horse and Pony Welfare.

The Pony Club has at its core the values of Fun, Friendship and horsemanship which is provided through the range of activities delivered through central organisation and centres/ branches.

A key part of this is providing a suitable, safe and welfare considered environment for these activities, not only for our members but also for the horses and ponies taking part.

When selecting a suitable location to host an activity we consider the welfare implications of the venues.

These considerations include

- Ground/ Surfaces: all ground and surfaces which horses and ponies attending Pony Club activities is to be taken in to account. The composition of the surface, maintenance and preparation for the activity is a key part to supporting this and is to be discussed with the venue/ contractor supporting the event.
 - o Steps are taken to ensure that the surface/ ground reduce factors that could lead to injuries. This could be through harrowing or aggravating for example
- Training and competition areas, these are to take place in suitable locations and with suitable and safe ground/ surfaces
- Obstacles used in training and competition are designed with horse, pony and rider safety in mind.
 - o Cross country fences used are to meet the Pony Club guidance as identified in the current eventing organisers handbook
- Stabling at events, activities and competitions take health and welfare of the horse and/ or ponies staying in them as priority. They are:
 - o Fit for purpose, safe, stable and constructed in line with the providers guidance
 - o Hygienic, including well ventilated or of suitable size for the horse or pony residing in it
 - o Provide access to forage and water to support the horse or ponies system to operate at optimum efficiency despite being away from home
 - o Bedding provided is sought from a reputable supplier and of good quality
- If cooling and washing areas are provided, these are safe and secure with access to support following activities such as water in warm weather.

Tack and equipment may be checked at the venue, this will be undertaken by an official.