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- 5 vet RCVS PSS Tier 2 Equine Practice since 2005
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Do we need Livery Yard Licensing?

- Generally accepted as a "good thing"
- Concern about welfare standards
- Concern about standards of horse care
- Dealers, studs, sanctuaries too
- BHIS livery yard approval scheme, started in 1961. 970 "establishments" approved
- Anomaly

Livery yard licensing – is it an anomaly?

- The Performing Animals (Regulation) Act 1925
- The Pet Animals Act 1951
- Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963
- The Breeding of Dogs Act 1973, The Breeding of Dogs Act 1991 and the Breeding and Sale of Dogs (Welfare) Act 1999

Riding Establishments Acts 1964 and 1970

- Clearly defined, includes riding schools, hacking and trekking centres, and beach donkeys. It should also include hirelings and polo clubs (that give lessons to the public).
- Annual inspection on behalf of the local authority (358 in the UK) by a RCVS listed vet. Vets initially "vetted" by the BVA/RCVS REA Committee who provide 5-yearly CPD.
- Approximately 2,000 licensed riding establishments in the UK. System generally well-respected.
- 300 or so vets on the Inspectorate List

Animal Welfare Act 2006

- AWA 2006 is primary legislation based on the "five freedoms"
- Facilitates secondary legislation
- Almost "job" of welfare organisations and BEVA to sort out secondary legislation.
- First objective, the Code of Practice for Welfare of Equines

Animal Welfare Act 2006

Promotion of welfare Sections 9 to 12 set out specific offences which relate to the promotion of welfare. Section 9 imposes a duty to ensure welfare. Section 10 empowers inspectors under the Act to issue improvement notices to those responsible for animals. Section 11 relates to the sale of animals to persons under 16 and the giving of animals as prizes to unaccompanied under 16s. Section 12 provides for the making of regulations for the purpose of promoting the welfare of animals for which a person is responsible.

Licensing and registration Section 13 confers power to make regulations that will require people conducting certain activities involving animals to register or hold a licence, and to deal with existing licensing or registration regimes relating to such activities.

Codes of practice Sections 14 to 17 contain details of the purpose and function of Codes of Practice along with details of how they will be made, amended and revoked.

Livery yard Licensing Working Party

- Group meeting quarterly since Spring 2007, after AWA ratified.
- Chaired by BEVA, current president, Chris House
- Attended by BHIS (hosts), ABRIS, World Horse Welfare, NEWC, RSPCA, RCVS/BVA, LACORS
- Evidence gathering, devise an inspection method and assist in delivery

Do we need Livery Yard Licensing – Prove it!

- Small committee, volunteers
- Evidence of Welfare problems in livery yards
- Dossier of Evidence
- Assess public opinion. World Horse Welfare online survey
- How many livery yards? Finding them.
- Estimate 20,000. Reality...hard to achieve

Definition of an Equine Establishment

The term "equine establishment" has been adopted, and has been defined as a yard, grazing or similar facility accommodating **three horses or more** which exists as:

- An establishment providing accommodation or services including grazing for horses for reward.
- An establishment where horses are let out for hire for riding, driving, instruction or similar purposes.
- An establishments used for the rescue, rehabilitation, re-homing and retirement of horses.
- Any establishments where horses are kept for sale.
- Establishments where horses used for the above categories (1-4) are kept for more than 30 days in any one year.



The Inspection

- 16 page document recently submitted to the Scottish Executive, and, less formally to the Welsh Assembly
- Details Background, Local Authority Licensing, Applications
- Exemptions, e.g. BHA, BHS, RCVS establishments
- Inspection every 18 months, with veterinary involvement every 3 years.
- Riding Establishments continue with annual veterinary inspections.



The Document (continued)

- Licence Holder.** Adult, qualifications, experience, suitability
- Facilities.** Accommodation, manure, grazing, schools, general management, health, biosecurity, horse assessment, medicines, passports, first aid, fire safety, health and safety, supervision, notices.
- Documentation.** Livery agreements, public liability insurance, passports, health plans, parasite control programme, vaccination policy, disease prevention and contingency, health and safety policy, fire risk assessment, accident records
- Inspectors.** Veterinary inspectors from RCVS/BVA List (to be expanded). Local authority Inspectors qualifications and training.
- Definitions**



The way forward...

- Scots did commit to consultation, initially in 2009...
- More Evidence Gathering
- Role of BEVA
 - Assistance in producing evidence for welfare dossier
 - Number and location of Equine Establishments



The way back...

- Economic climate and political/public stomach
- Too ambitious
- Responsibility and Cost Sharing – horseowners on a plate
- A third way...



Alternatives...

- Expansion of voluntary schemes
- Encourage new ones - ABRS, insurance incentives
- BEVA Yard Health Plans
- Restrict definition – SANCTUARIES
- Make NEWC membership compulsory for sanctuaries



Opportunity missed...

- Voluntary schemes, health plans etc will not include the "bad eggs"
- Equine Welfare, human exploitation and safety
- We'll keep plugging away!

