

Horses Welcome

Accredited B&B for horses

The
British
Horse
Society



Welcome to our Horses Welcome Scheme

Horses Welcome is the UK's first quality-assured scheme for equine bed and breakfast accommodation. It began in the South of Scotland in 2006, and since then has grown to include members throughout the UK.

Becoming a member of the scheme demonstrates your commitment to providing a genuine 'home away from home' for horses.

We visit all Horses Welcome premises to ensure that the stabling, grazing and related facilities are of a suitable standard for visiting horses.

Only properties to which we would be happy to use for our own horses are endorsed, so the scheme can be promoted with confidence.

Members' premises are re-inspected once every three years to ensure the scheme's standards remain high.

Our standards are very practical. This booklet will give you an idea of what we are looking for. It will also give you some tips and hints for ensuring a successful business.

The scheme provides you with access to our central marketing which will complement the promotion you undertake personally.



What you get when you join . . .

- Custody and control insurance to cover your legal liability should a visiting horse be injured at your premises. This is applicable to centres in the UK, Isle of Man and Channel Islands.
- Your own member page on www.bhs.org.uk – we'll also link to your own website and facebook page if you have one. Or you can use your Horses Welcome page as your web page if you prefer.
- Marketing support, including marketing to more than 108,000 BHS and British Riding Club members.

The annual fee for membership is currently £95, which represents excellent value. Your membership year runs for a full year from the date on which you join the scheme.

BHS Approved riding schools and livery yards do not require a separate Horses Welcome inspection.

Your Horses Welcome contacts

This pack includes everything you need to join the Horses Welcome scheme. If you have any questions either before or after joining then please contact:

Approvals Department

02476840509

approvals@bhs.org.uk

Horses Welcome, The British Horse Society, Abbey Park, Stareton, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2XZ

Recommended standards for equine accommodation

The Horses Welcome scheme requires the following minimum facilities to be available:

Grazing

- Where the facility is grazing only there must be adequate shelter (man-made or natural) in the field and a safe, secure place to tie up for grooming and tacking up nearby.
- Where grazing is provided, it must be sufficient and safe, well maintained and free from poisonous plants. There must be secure fencing and a safe gate. Please note that the insurance provided to Horses Welcome hosts only covers non-Rylock fencing. An electric stand-off fence to stop horses putting their foot through the fence is acceptable. If there is inadequate grass, good quality hay should be provided. Clean, fresh water should be easily accessible preferably in a trough.
- Visiting horses should be grazed separately from resident horses. If there is more than one group of visiting horses they should be grazed apart from each other.



Stabling

- Each stable should be of sufficient dimensions (a minimum of 10ft x 12ft x 8ft high for a horse up to 15.2hh) in good condition with a floor that drains easily. Clean, fresh water should be available either from a self-feeding trough/drinker or in a bucket with a tap nearby.
- Stables must be safe and secure.

Feed, bedding and equipment

- Where stabling is provided, each loose box should have sufficient clean, mould-free bedding. Visiting riders with specific bedding needs expect to pay more, otherwise it is up to you what type of bedding you choose to offer.
- Some visitors will bring their own hard feed, others riding between different overnight stops may ask you to provide it. Discuss this at the time of booking. If you do not usually stock feed, it is not unreasonable to buy a bag to their specification at a pre-agreed fee.

- Visitors should be expected to muck out stables/skip out fields for themselves, unless you agree to do this for them (for which you could charge a fee). Suitable tools should be provided.
- Visitors should be encouraged to bring their own grooming kit. If a grooming kit is provided it must be disinfected after a visitor leaves.
- Secure storage for tack must be available.
- There must be easy access for trailers/lorries and space to park and turn.

Disease Prevention and visiting horses

- Visitors should be asked to comply with your Disease Prevention measures, including having up-to-date vaccination and worming records. It is up to you whether you require sight of vaccination certificates or passports.
- Resident horses should be disease free. You should, in advance of their arrival, notify visitors if one of your horses contracts a virus or other contagious infection.
- It is highly recommended that you confirm all bookings in writing and make bookings conditional upon agreement that all visiting horses are healthy on arrival. You should also make clear that, as proprietor, you reserve the right to refuse accommodation to any horse which shows symptoms of illness or transmittable diseases either on arrival or during the course of its stay.

Insurance and risk

- All proprietors who become members of the Horses Welcome scheme must hold appropriate public liability insurance cover for their property.

Access to Facilities

The Horses Welcome scheme is aimed both at leisure riders keen to explore new countryside away from home and competition riders needing overnight accommodation.

The number of visitors you are likely to attract will depend very much on your location and what you can offer, either on-site or locally. Some may be looking only for an overnight stop with either turnout or a clean stable, whereas for others the attraction will be scope for enjoyable off-road riding.

Human Needs

Horses Welcome gives no quality assurance for human accommodation, but please consider the facilities required by people travelling or holidaying with horses.

If you are unable to provide suitable human Accommodation on-site, you will need to link up with a nearby B&B, hotel, guesthouse, bunkhouse or someone willing to provide suitable accommodation. In these circumstances, think about how you will co-ordinate booking with that provider so that the guests don't have to book twice.



Hints and Tips

The following, while not compulsory, are suggested to help you meet visitors' needs:

- A welcoming host is more important than any special facilities.
- Make it clear in advance what you can offer and the costs involved for any optional extras.
- Show your visitors around the main facilities as soon as they arrive.
- Facilities to dry outdoor clothing, footwear, tack and numnahs are essential in bad weather.
- An information pack will be appreciated by visitors and make life easier for you, too. This should include emergency contact numbers for vets and farrier(s), local riding routes and other relevant tourist information.
- Some visiting riders may be interested in a baggage transfer service.



Horses Welcome Application Form



Name of Contact: _____

Name of Business: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

Contact No. _____ Mobile No. _____

Email: _____

Website: _____

Facebook: _____

Do you operate any of the following at your centre:

Riding School

Livery

Retraining

Trekking

Affiliated to any other holiday organisations: _____

General Description of your business and what you offer the equestrian tourist as a basis for your listing on the BHS website (please visit the website for examples on www.bhs.org.uk)

Equestrian Facilities (stabling, grazing and facilities your offer visiting horses, including parking availability)

How many horses can you accommodate?

Stables _____ Grazing _____

Accommodation for People (please describe what type of accommodation and food you offer visitors and quality assurance ratings if any)

Please circle whichever of these you provide:

B&B

DB&B

Packed Lunch

Self-Catering Only

Any other information _____

Directions

The BHS reserves the right to use its own wording for any descriptions of Horses Welcome scheme members on the website and for publicity purposes.

I hereby apply to be included in the BHS Horses Welcome Scheme.

I agree to pay the BHS £100 to cover the initial inspection cost.

Signed _____ Dated _____

Print Name _____

Please return this form complete with cheque made payable to:

The British Horse Society

Abbey park

Stareton

Kenilworth

Warwickshire

CV8 2XZ

Registered No: 444742, England.

Registered Charity Nos: 210504 and SC038516

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