

# Good yards Safe yards .....and that's no accident



Issue 1 2008

## Editors message

Welcome to 'Good yards Safe yards'. This new magazine is here to help everyone get the most out of their time spent with horses. Horses are fantastic creatures and have so much to offer. They provide a great way to be active, the opportunity to learn and the chance to communicate on a special level.

*Good yards Safe yards* hopes to help us all to understand and respect the horse and its environment, and this means a safe and secure place for both people and horses.

There will be tips from top professionals, competitions, news items and helpful product information. If you are a yard owner then why not put this issue up on your notice board for your clients and staff to read.

Look out on the British Horse Society web site [www.bhs.org.uk](http://www.bhs.org.uk) for details of free places on 'Safety with Horses', the fastest growing equine learning package and qualification in the UK today. Or why not email or post your name, address and telephone number to register early so you can be sure to get a place as soon as they are released.

To register early email [safety-with-horses@warkscol.ac.uk](mailto:safety-with-horses@warkscol.ac.uk) or write to  
Equi Study  
Warwickshire College  
Moreton Morrell  
Warwick  
CV35 9BL

Helping you to keep your yard, people and horses safe and happy.

Kind regards

Karen Tolley



*Ella Mahon a student at Warwickshire College is now able to include the 'Safety with Horses' Level 2 National Award on her Curriculum Vitae*

## This issue

- Why are good yards, safe yards?
- Win a brand new Charles Owen riding hat - FREE Competition
- Stable fires - what can you do? Advice on the causes of stable fires and a fire safety tip from Harry Paviour - Fire Safety Expert
- Safety tip - from Lucy Katan of the British Grooms Association
- *Safety with Horses* - the fastest growing equine qualification



## Contributors

Harry Paviour – Fire Safety Consultant  
Lucy Katan – British Grooms Association  
Karen Tolley – Equi Study  
Karen Sinclair – Environmental Health Officer

## Acknowledgements

Our thanks to Charles Owen - competition sponsors







Each issue we will be featuring a safety tip from a wide variety of professionals working in the horse industry.

To start the series we have a contribution from Lucy Katan, a top professional groom who is now leading the development of the new British Grooms Association.

*“Don't use lead rope clips to secure stable doors, they are incredibly tempting for a horse to play with and then before you know it they have the clip protruding through their lip. If your horse is a 'Houdini', then use a safety bolt up top and a strong kick bolt down the bottom of the door.”*

## Why are GOOD yards SAFE yards?

There is nothing new about being safe around horses. Horses are the same they today as they were 100 years ago. Riding and caring for horses is all about good old-fashioned horsemastership.

Dedicated, professional and knowledgeable people are often found working on well-managed yards. It is almost impossible to have one without the other. What makes the difference is their wealth of knowledge and experience, providing a positive influence on the day-to-day yard routine and management.

One of the most important qualities that a good 'horse' person will possess is a high level of attention to detail. They will notice if someone is struggling with a particular horse, gates have been left open, or if an animal is off colour.

Horses on well-managed yards have the best chance to become settled and secure in their surroundings, and this means that their natural inclination to the flight response will be reduced.

Good management reduces the risk of accidents by creating a safe and secure environment.

So it really is no accident that good yards are safe yards for both people and horses.

## Prevention is better than.... loss of life or property

It is considered that at least 85% of all serious fires in stables and farms are down to arson attacks. Of which, a high percentage will involve the loss of animal lives.

In contrast statistically there are far fewer accidentally started fires in stables and farms that have resulted in the loss of an animal's life. Accidental fires that occur during the day when people are around seldom end up with a loss of an animal's life. In these cases most often the fire is discovered almost instantaneously and staff can react quickly and effectively.

### Who could do such a thing?

Arson can also be the result of actions by; disgruntled staff, Occupiers Insurance Fraud, actions by Animal Rights Activists, wanton vandalism and by persons with mental conditions such as Psychological Mental Attitude.

### What can be done?

The threat of an arson attack on stables however small must be taken very seriously

and also be a key feature of any fire risk assessment process.

To prevent arson - all occupiers MUST carry out an Arson Risk Assessment and heed the weaknesses identified in the yard and the buildings security for both day and night.

### Practical safety tip

Do your stables have access to a fire hydrant or a large lake or pond nearby, (e.g. 60 metres from any building) which is easily accessible for use by the Fire Service? Be aware that it may be difficult to reduce the potential for extensive property damage in the event of a fire, accidental or arson, if access to water is limited.

Occupiers of stables without access to a sufficient water source nearby should seriously consider other alternatives.

Further advice on any aspect of fire risk assessment and management for stables can be sought from:

**Harry Paviour,**  
Equine Fire Safety Consultant  
Telephone 01608 651116



Remember it takes just a few minutes for a horse to die through smoke inhalation

**Editors note - how many of us actually know or have thought about whether there is sufficient water available in close proximity to our yards? Why not find out what water is available and where it is located and be fully prepared to deal with such emergencies?**

## COMPETITION

### WIN A CHARLES OWEN RIDING HAT

All you have to do to be in with a chance of winning a fabulous new Charles Owen riding hat of your choice is give THREE reasons why you might need to replace your existing hat. All correct answers will be added to a prize draw and the winner will be notified by post and also named in the next issue of *Good yards Safe yards*

#### Terms of the competition

Send your answers on a postcard to:  
Equi Study  
Warwickshire College  
Moreton Morrell,  
Warwickshire CV35 9BL

You should include your full name and address and state that you are happy to be mentioned as a prizewinner in future competition promotions.  
All entries must be received by 31st July 2008



## Health & Safety in the Workplace

Health and Safety in the equine sector comes under the remit of either the Health & Safety Executive or the local Environmental Office depending on what type of equine business is involved.

In the majority of cases Environmental Health departments of local Councils are responsible for enforcing health and safety legislation in riding schools/livery yards. They investigate most reported accidents and incidents arising

from these premises. The principles of the legislation are around self regulation, largely based upon risk assessments.

For a variety of reasons Councils are only notified of a small percentage of reportable accidents in comparison with the number that are actually believed to occur. However these statistics show the main causes of fatal accidents relate to falls from height, e.g. riders falling from horses. Other accidents relate to kicking/biting injuries caused by horses when being handled such as when being lead in from fields and in the vicinity of stables. Other significant hazards relate to manual handling, the use of electrical appliances and dusts emitted from hay and straw.

Environmental Health personnel are experienced in enforcing the legislation across a wide range of premises and the principles are the same in all. However the hazards in riding establishments/livery yards may be less commonly seen and control measures are sometimes not immediately evident. For this reason the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) have published comprehensive guidance which covers the main areas of legislation and provides relevant examples of control measures along with photographs for ease of



use. Extensive consultation took place with organisations such as the Health and Safety Executive, the British Horse Society, Association of British Riding Schools, British Veterinary Association before the guidance was produced. It was written by Karen Sinclair-Williams, an Environmental Health Officer and riding instructor who is also a member of the DEFRA horse working party involved with the proposals to introduce livery yard licensing, and by Professor Mike Sinclair-Williams, also originally an Environmental Health Officer who has a doctorate in safety risk management.

The guidance is primarily aimed at Enforcement Officers although may equally be of use to proprietors and those responsible for undertaking the risk assessments. Of particular interest may be the inspection checklist which many local authorities use when inspecting the premises. The checklist has recently been circulated by the Association of British Riding Schools to all of its members as an indication of the areas an Enforcement Officer might be interested in. It is available free to download from the CIEH website - [www.cieh.org](http://www.cieh.org), under knowledge and publications/health and safety.

**In addition Karen Sinclair-Williams can be contacted for relevant advice and information on:**

[k.sinclair@spelthorne.gov.uk](mailto:k.sinclair@spelthorne.gov.uk)



# The fastest growing equine qualification in the UK today

Equestrianism and indeed horse ownership is now within the reach of a far higher percentage of the population in the UK. This is great news for this area of leisure and competition, but this trend also creates a new set of challenges in terms of providing the right education to ensure horse welfare and safety.

As the profile of those involved in owning and caring for horses has changed, so has the way in which this essential knowledge now is handed on.

'*Safety with Horses*' is a completely new way of learning whilst at the same time gaining a nationally recognised qualification. The learning and qualification package is designed for \*anyone who handles and rides horses.



*The Safety with Horses course can be taken anywhere that there is access to horses and equine facilities and by \*anyone who is 16 years and over and resident in the UK (not including Northern Ireland)*



In the first 3 years '*Safety with Horses*' has attracted great interest on a national educational level as well as within the equine world. Winner of a national Beacon Award for the Use of Information Learning Technology to Support the Learner and Enhance Teaching, the package is now being used by the Mounted Police, charitable organisations (such as International League for the Protection of Horses, Riding for the Disabled Association), riding schools and livery yards, in addition to many of the colleges delivering equine studies across the UK.



*Successful candidates from Upper Poolands Farm in Worcestershire pictured with International Showjumper Tim Stockdale at a recent 'Safety with Horses' Award event held at Warwickshire College*

## What makes the programme so popular?

An incredible 97% of all candidates who complete the package and qualification say that they would recommend the course to others.

For Chief Inspector Lynn Roby the reason Officers at The Greater Manchester Police Mounted Unit now complete the course as part of their training is because "there is nothing else around quite like it".

So far a wide range of candidates from all areas of the equine world have completed the pack and achieved the award.

Tim Stockdale was the VIP guest at a recent 'Safety with Horses' award event. Over 200 successful candidates from all over the UK made the journey to Warwickshire College to receive their certificates personally from the very popular top international show jumper. Many of the yards who had taken part got the added bonus of a group photo opportunity with Tim (something for the photo gallery back at home!)



*Kim Bailey, Stable Manager GMP Mounted Police Unit*

## USEFUL PRODUCTS

A new product just out is designed to offer protective padding for structural hazards in equine facilities. Drawing on experience in the manufacture of protective sports equipment **GEE GUARDS** provide a practical safety solution for structural hazards in riding, racing, stud and polo environments.



For more information contact  
**GEE GUARDS on Tel: 07980 000368**

If you would like to send a contribution for possible inclusion in *Good yards Safe Yards* then please contact:

Email: [safety-with-horses@warkscol.ac.uk](mailto:safety-with-horses@warkscol.ac.uk)  
**Tel: 01926 318340**