



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2025

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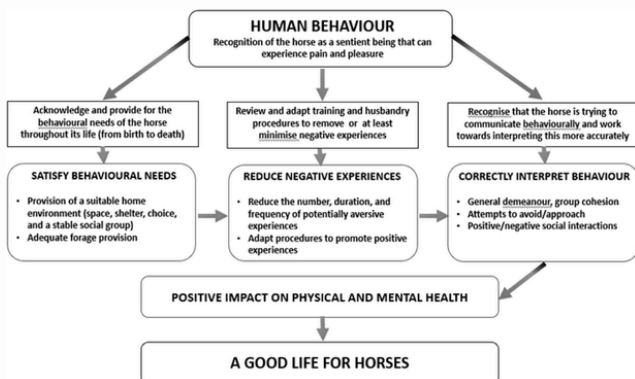
NEWC UPDATE

Exploring Horse-Human Connections: Insights on Enhancing Equine Welfare

Listen to NEWC Director, Dr. Carol Hall, discussing her research with NEWC Executive Secretary, Dr. Rachel Kay, on horse welfare, focusing on how horse-human interactions affect quality of life.

She shares findings from their Systematic Review, which explores pain recognition, emotional reactivity, and handling, highlighting the importance of fulfilling horses' physical and social needs. Dr. Hall emphasises how positive interactions with humans can improve welfare, offering valuable insights into enhancing the lives of horses in sport and leisure activities.

Listen on the International Society for Equitation science website via [this link](#).



Ep. 18 Living the Good Life? Welfare and Horse-Human Interactions

December 16, 2024

Equitation Science

Ep. 18 Living the Good Life? Welfare and Horse-Human Interactions

00:00
-54:46

Dr Hall was also an invited presenter (virtual) at the [Horse XP 2025 Conference](#) held in Italy on 15th-16th March 2025.

The presentation was titled 'Please don't blame your horse' and was based on Part 2 of the recently published review: [Hall C and Kay R 2024 Living the good life? A systematic review of behavioural signs of affective state in the domestic horse \(Equus caballus\) and factors relating to quality of life. Part II: Horse-human interactions. Animal Welfare 33.](#)



Welcome to the ConferenceHorse XP!

"eXPerience for wellness" are the key words for change.

The proposals of Addestramento Etologico® continue to revolutionize the way of training in the equestrian world.

- ✓ The goal is to continue to bring innovation to the equestrian world.
- ✓ Propose a new teaching format thinking about the future of the horse.
- ✓ Creating a concrete connection between science, theory and everyday practice
- ✓ Fund research and development projects for the horse.
- ✓ The project was created with the support of Dynamo Academy in the unique context of Dynamo Camp

Horse XP is a conference aimed at reflecting on the importance of horse welfare and how innovation and science can impact its future, providing a meeting point for those who wish to make a qualitative leap in their approach to horses through a concrete connection between science, theory, and daily practice. It was a non-profit event, and the proceeds will fund research and development projects for horses. The audience included enthusiasts, industry professionals, and university students.

NEWC Annual Member Awards



We are delighted to announce the return of NEWC's Annual Member Awards! These awards provide a fantastic opportunity to recognise and celebrate the outstanding work and achievements of individuals and teams within our member organisations.

Further details, including how to submit nominations, will be sent via email soon. Keep an eye on your inbox and prepare to shine a spotlight on the incredible efforts within our network!

NEWC Yard/Operations Managers Network

The NEWC Yard/Operations Managers' Network workshops will be held on Thursday **22nd May** and Thursday **20th November** 2025.

These virtual workshops, hosted on Zoom from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, provide a supportive space for attendees to share knowledge, ideas, experiences, and best practices in managing equine-keeping establishments, yards, and facilities.

May Workshop: Focus on Strangles, featuring Nic deBrauwere MRCVS, NEWC Director and Head of Welfare and Behaviour at Redwings.

November Workshop: Discussion on end-of-life decisions for equines.

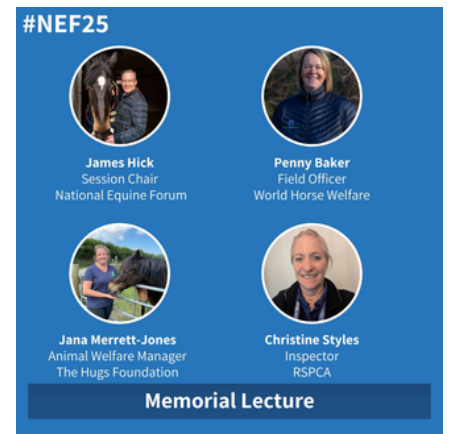
Invitations will be sent to all equine-keeping members soon. For more information, contact info@newc.co.uk.



NEWC Sponsored NEF 2025 Live-Stream

The [National Equine Forum \(NEF\)](#) hosted its 33rd annual event on Thursday, 6th March 2025, at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers in London. This prestigious gathering brought together industry leaders, veterinary professionals, and equestrian enthusiasts to discuss key developments and challenges in the equine sector.

In a significant effort to broaden accessibility, NEF 2025 was live-streamed for free, made possible by the generous support of sponsors, including NEWC, whose contribution ensured that equine professionals and enthusiasts worldwide could tune in without financial barriers.



This year's #NEF25 Memorial Lecture paid tribute to the late Kirsty Withnall, a dedicated NEWC Director and RSPCA Special Operations Unit lead inspector, who played a pivotal role in major welfare cases, including the 2008 Spindles Farm case in Amersham.

Representatives from NEWC member charities led the Memorial Lecture panel, discussing 'Charities Working Together.' The session showcased the strength of collaboration in equine welfare, honoring Kirsty's legacy and the principles she dedicated her career to advancing.

Joining the discussion were World Horse Welfare Field Officer, Penny Baker; The Hugs Foundation Animal Welfare Manager, Jana Merrett-Jones; and RSPCA Inspectorate National Equine Lead, Christine Styles. Together, they shared insights and experiences on the power of teamwork in improving equine welfare.

Welcome to our new Members



HorseBack UK is a multi-award-winning Scottish charity that focuses on improving health and well-being by inspiring recovery, fostering positive change, and helping individuals find renewed purpose, particularly those who are disadvantaged or marginalised. Through horsemanship, equine-assisted

learning, rural skills training, and outdoor activities, HorseBack UK delivers award-winning projects designed to help participants develop new coping strategies, build life skills, and strengthen resilience while earning nationally recognised awards and qualifications. Find out more about their work, [here](#).

Founded in 1979, **Freshfields Animal Rescue** is a respected sanctuary, rescue, rehabilitation, and rehoming charity providing compassionate care for a wide variety of animals, including horses, ponies, and donkeys.



Their 19-acre facility in Gwynedd, North Wales, houses state-of-the-art stables, field shelters, and ample grazing areas, ensuring their equines receive the highest standard of care. The team is committed to rehabilitation, rehoming, and education, helping to improve equine welfare not just in their sanctuary but also in the wider community. Find out more about their work [here](#).



The **Cleveland Bay Horse Society** is dedicated to preserving and promoting the Cleveland Bay. As a registered charity, they regulate, promote, and protect pure and part-bred Cleveland Bay horses, ensuring this versatile and historic breed thrives for future generations. The Society's efforts include maintaining the studbook, supporting breeding programs, and organising events to showcase the breed's versatility and temperament. Learn more about their mission [here](#).

BHS Proactive Events

The BHS, along with the support of the BEVA Trust, run a programme of clinics across the UK which offer a health check by a vet, castration, passporting, microchipping, dental checks and hoof care at a reduced cost, as well as advice and support on a huge range of issues.

The Spring clinics will be held on:

- Wednesday 19th March - North West Auctions, Jct 36, Milnthorpe, LA7 7FP
- Wednesday 26th March - Ruthin Farmers Auction Co, Parc Glasdir, Ruthin LL15 1PB
- Wednesday 9th April - Berkshire College Agriculture, Burchetts Green, Maidenhead, SL6 6QR
- Tuesday 29th April - Thrapston Livestock Auction, Market Rd, Thrapston, Kettering NN14 4JU

Autumn Clinic:

- Wednesday 1st October 2025, at Thirsk Auction Mart, Blakey Lane, Thirsk. YO7 1AB

Please email molly.baxter@bhs.org.uk for further details.

The BHS Horse Care and Welfare team continues to run **Horse Health Days** by attending yards, riding schools, equestrian centres, colleges or pony clubs with their weighbridges to weigh horses and get hands-on fat scoring. Owners can then monitor their horse's condition year-round and make necessary changes, with the BHS offering tailored weight management advice and ongoing support. For more information, visit: horse-health-day



UK's Relationship with the EU

The Border Control Post at Sevington, which will carry out live animal inspections following entry to Great Britain via the short straits, will not be ready for operation in Spring 2025. The Labour administration is exploring the possibilities of a sanitary and phytosanitary (or veterinary)

reciprocal agreement with the EU which has effectively deprioritised the implementation of the Border Target Operating Model. The plans for the BCP at Holyhead are being similarly reviewed.

The Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee has opened an inquiry on animal and plant health. The intent is to provide consistent scrutiny of ongoing and emerging issues and opportunities relating to animal and plant health. The Committee will call for evidence on a regular basis and produce iterative and focused reports throughout the inquiry.

The first call for evidence, which closed at the end of January, was on biosecurity at the border: committees.parliament.uk/work/8790/animal-and-plant-health/publications/



Legislation

Equine ID

The UK Government has announced it does not have the budget for the proposed digitalised identification and traceability system. The equine sector, via the British Horse Council, is engaging with the UK Government to identify potential solutions to allow the Statutory Instrument, which will update the current equine identification legislation in England, to be progressed.



As reported previously, Scotland and Wales have yet to consult on this for their own territories, but are actively engaged, and Scotland is supportive of digital ID. Northern Ireland has administrative challenges but is acutely aware of the gaps in data that exist within their territory and the risks this poses to biosecurity and food chain safety.

Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Bill

The Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Act 2024 bans live animal exports of horses and other animals including cattle, sheep, and pigs, from Great Britain for slaughter and fattening.

Defra's Welfare in Transport team is currently working with the equine sector, including the BHC and shippers, to co-design a solution enabling secondary legislation to be laid that will have a hope of being able to enforce this ban. Although there is agreement that it will be impossible for it to be watertight without digital ID for equines.

Welfare During Transport (EU)

The Council of the European Union and the European Parliament are currently discussing the European Commission's proposed legislation for the welfare of animals during transport. As currently written would create a significant disparity between the UK and EU, particularly with regard to the type of journeys covered.

It will derogate most non-slaughter movements, but currently excludes those for breeding, from the detailed provisions in the legislation. There is concern across the industry that some of the proposed requirements, such as around required residency periods and veterinary supervision of loading, would have a significant detrimental impact to the sector.

Equally, there is concern from the welfare sector that derogating all movements except for slaughter will make the legislation unenforceable and is a step backwards from the current regulation. It would also create a loophole that would allow unscrupulous traders to declare equines as moving for a purpose other than to slaughter to ensure they do not need to comply with the detailed requirements.



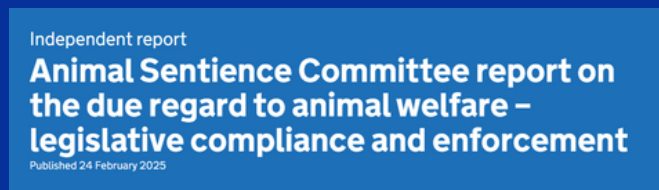
Enforcement

The Animal Sentience Committee (ASC) report on the due regard to animal welfare – legislative compliance and enforcement was published on the 24th of February 2025.

This includes the following recommendations:

- A central body responsible for directing and coordinating animal welfare law surveillance and implementation, working collaboratively with other governmental organisations and, where necessary, NGOs.
- Setting out minimum resource allocation for animal welfare enforcement activities in agencies (such as local authorities), for example, budget, adequately trained and qualified personnel (minimum 2 per Local Authority).
- Central reporting of animal welfare offence reports, investigations, and prosecutions (or fixed penalty notices, improvement notices) which is available as an open-access annual report, broken down by species and sector and local authority.
- Appropriate and effective use of fixed penalty and improvement notices; including limits on the number of times they can be applied to an individual or business, before other routes of prosecution are applied (or scaling fines to business turnover).
- Route for incorporation of relevant animal welfare science into codes of practice, inspection regimes and use of animal welfare assessment tools in enforcement activities.

The full report can be found here: [Animal Sentience Committee report on the due regard to animal welfare – legislative compliance and enforcement - GOV.UK](#)



There is work ongoing to set up a new National Companion Animal Welfare Panel for local authorities, similar to The National Animal Health and Welfare Panel, but with the focus being on welfare, rather than health. Anyone within a local authority whose role covers animal welfare can find out more from sharon.edwards@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Fireworks

A Private Members' Bill that, if passed, would prevent members of the public buying fireworks louder than 90 decibels was presented to Parliament on the 16th of October 2024.

It is due to have its second reading on the 25th of April 2025 - bills.parliament.uk/bills/3791



Licensing of Animal Activities (Wales)

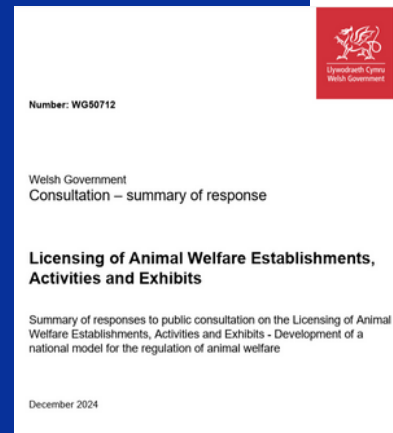
In February 2024, a Welsh Government consultation closed on licensing of animal activities in Wales.

The Welsh Government has published its analysis of the responses it received to this consultation, which included livery yards and animal welfare establishments.

The majority of respondents agreed that many establishments, activities, and exhibits could benefit from a consistent form of regulation or setting of standards under a national model.

There was consensus that regulation needed to be proportionate, fit for purpose and activity-specific, supported by a consistent, adequately resourced and qualified enforcement framework.

The full report can be found here: gov.wales/licensing-animal-welfare-establishments-activities-and-exhibits



Scottish Code of Practice for Equidae

The Scottish Government has asked the equine sector to take the lead on revising the Scottish Code of Practice for the Welfare of Equidae, which would then be reviewed and endorsed by Government.

Six working groups with representatives from across the sector have been set up and are working towards producing an initial draft by April 2025, however the sector has been advised that Scottish Government time may not allow for it to be reviewed until later this year.



Industry News

Redwings - Strangles Awareness Week (5th -11th May)

Vets, horse owners and yard owners are encouraged to get involved with this year's Strangles Awareness Week (SAW), by signing up as Ambassadors and promoting the campaign's important BEST practice messaging to help prevent spread of the disease.

The acronym, which stands for 'Boost immunity with Strangles vaccination'; 'Engage with trusted information'; 'Separate unfamiliar horses' and 'Temp check routinely', is at the centre of the campaign.

SAW 2025 takes place at the beginning of May (5th - 11th) and aims to get everyone in the horse world working together to reduce the spread and impact of Strangles infections, which can be financially and emotionally costly.



For more info click here [Become an Ambassador for Strangles Awareness Week! | Redwings Horse Sanctuary](#)

Bransby Horses

Bransby have partnered with their local Lincolnshire Police force in response to 130 incidents of loose horses in the past 12 months. [Lincolnshire Police's Rural Crime Unit](#) are now better equipped to manage such situations thanks to donated headcollars and lead ropes from Bransby Horses.

Inventively, the essential equipment of 20 headcollars and lead ropes, have been fitted with QR codes which when scanned with a smartphone, provide officers with information on how to approach, catch and lead an equine, as well as contact details for Bransby Horses and other charities to ensure officers are prepared when they encounter horses in need.

This equipment is now available in police stations across the Lincolnshire and every rural crime team response vehicle, enabling officers to act swiftly and safely when managing loose horses, ensuring the welfare of the animals and the safety of the public and officers.



Equine Grass Sickening Breakthrough

Researchers have made a significant breakthrough in the search for the causal agent for grass sickness: a neurotoxic enzyme, with intriguingly similar actions to snake venom toxins.

The toxin could be produced by ingested pasture microbes or within the horse by gastrointestinal microbes. While there is no suggestion that venomous snakes cause grass sickness, it is hoped that some of the drugs that are currently being developed to treat and promote nerve regeneration in people paralysed by snake venoms can aid recovery of horses from grass sickness.

This finding has the potential to lead to novel treatments and improved diagnostics for this devastating disease.

Further work is underway to determine the source of this neurotoxin; it is likely to be produced by a microbe such as a bacterium or fungus which grows on the horse's pasture during the cold and dry weather which precedes the disease.



Congratulations to the team at the Dick Vet Equine Hospital, University of Edinburgh, Newcastle University, Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie, and the University of Padova for this finding, which represents a major clue in solving the grass sickness puzzle.

The Equine Veterinary Journal [editorial can be found here](#). It is currently free to read.

[Researchers identify probable cause of equine grass sickness | British Equine Veterinary Association](#)

Equine Disease Surveillance and Biosecurity

The Equine Infectious Disease Surveillance (EIDS) team collaborates with equine industry stakeholders to control and prevent equine infectious disease occurrences in the UK. They oversee numerous surveillance schemes to aid the identification and reporting of specific infectious disease occurrences and provide a free disease control advice service for veterinary surgeons.

The EIDS Quarterly Report is produced in collaboration with BEVA and Defra/APHA. A link to the latest report can be found [here](#).



Is Your Farm or Stable at Risk?

Complete this questionnaire and find out how your farm/facility rates. You will also learn ways to improve the areas that are at risk.

The survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. Please choose the answer(s) that best reflects your farm.

CALCULATE the Biosecurity risk on your farm/facility.

Calculate Your Risk



A new, innovative online healthcare tool to help equine owners better manage and understand biosecurity has been developed by UK vet students and is available through the University of Guelph.

Complete a short questionnaire and find out how your facility rates and learn ways to improve the areas that are at risk.

Try it here - [Personalised Biosecurity Risk Calculator](#)

Competitions and Marketing Authority (CMA)

The CMA has recently published a series of working papers setting out their current assessment of the evidence they have gathered and their emerging views as part of their Market Investigation into Veterinary Services.

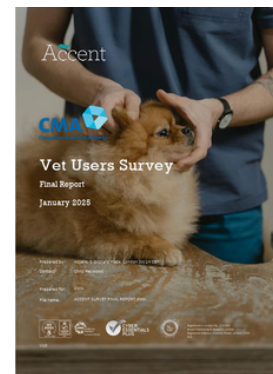
A link to the overview can be found here: [Overview \(PDF, 286KB\)](#) (6.2.25)

CMA have also published research papers which can be accessed below:

- [Qualitative research with veterinary professionals by Revealing Reality \(PDF, 1.4MB\)](#) (6.2.25)
- [Vet users survey final report by Accent \(PDF, 2.4MB\)](#) (6.2.25)

There are no proposed remedies by the CMA at this stage.

The RCVS response to the CMA papers can be read here [RCVS responds to CMA's working papers](#) | [British Equine Veterinary Association](#)



Help Shape the Future of Animal Musculoskeletal Care

The Register of Animal Musculoskeletal Practitioners (RAMP) is conducting a survey to better understand how owners and professionals access musculoskeletal (MSK) care for animals. As key stakeholders in equine and animal welfare, your insights will be invaluable in shaping future standards and improving access to qualified practitioners.

RAMP is a voluntary industry regulatory body that maintains a register of degree-level osteopaths, chiropractors, and physiotherapists who treat animals. Unlike human healthcare, where these professions are legally regulated, no statutory framework exists for MSK care in animals. RAMP ensures practitioners meet professional standards, hold appropriate qualifications, and operate under a structured code of practice.

This survey aims to gather feedback on how MSK services are accessed, expectations around care, and the role of regulatory oversight. Your participation will contribute to a clearer understanding of the needs within the sector and help advocate for higher standards in animal health care.

Complete the survey [here](#) by 1st April 2025

For further details about RAMP, visit rampregister.org.



Education/Research/CPD Opportunities

World Horse Welfare launches new Fat Scoring Resources

During 2024, a project was undertaken to incorporate human behaviour change principles into their weight management materials. Research highlighted that horse owners struggle to remain objective when fat scoring their horse. World Horse Welfare asked staff from across the organisation to complete a survey examining motivations and barriers to fat scoring, staff were then invited to take part in a series of fat scoring workshops. The results from the survey and feedback from the workshops were used to update the materials, which led to a new way of presenting each of the body areas that are scored during the fat scoring process.

Instead of the traditional whole-body diagram per score, the redesigned materials show each of the 3 body areas which are scored during the process:

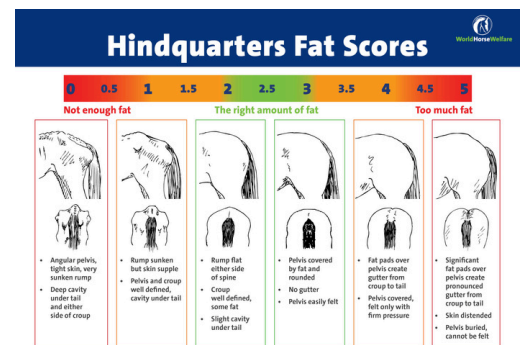
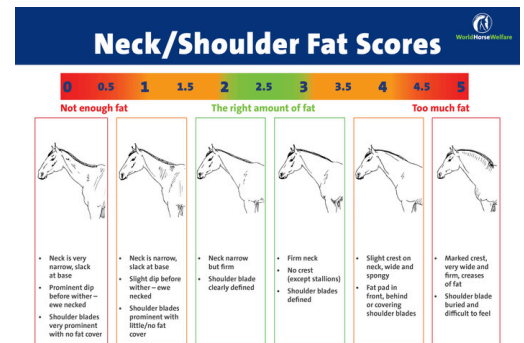
- Neck and shoulder
- Back and barrel
- Hindquarters.

The newly developed resources were trialled at Your Horse Live in November 2024 to get essential feedback via a short survey for horse owners.

An overwhelming 97% preferred the updated resources, with over 70% being very likely to use them when fat scoring their own horses.

- “Much clearer descriptions and images”
- “Clear visual and bright images which are easy to interpret for any age and experience”
- “Really clear methodology, people can follow and have a good foundation in assessing their horses”

These new resources are available to download from their website advice page via the following link: [Weight: is your horse the right weight?](#)



Advancing Equine Welfare

Significant progress is being made in the [Morris Animal Foundation](#) funded Social Stables project at Hartpury University, which is investigating the impact of social access (via removable stable partitions) on stabled horses' sleep quality and quantity, social interactions, foraging behaviour, and cognitive flexibility – a key factor in equine trainability.



The research team is already uncovering valuable insights, and the forthcoming data is expected to deepen understanding of equine welfare in stabled environments.

This pioneering study is being led by a dedicated team of researchers from Hartpury and also benefits from collaboration with Dr David Marlin (AnimalWeb Ltd), Dr Tamzin Furtado (University of Liverpool), Dr Jo Hockenhuil (University of Bristol), and Dr Marianne Freeman (University Centre Sparsholt).

The research team looks forward to presenting the findings to inform and enhance equine welfare practices as the project progresses.

RSPCA Calls for United Action to Improve Equine Welfare

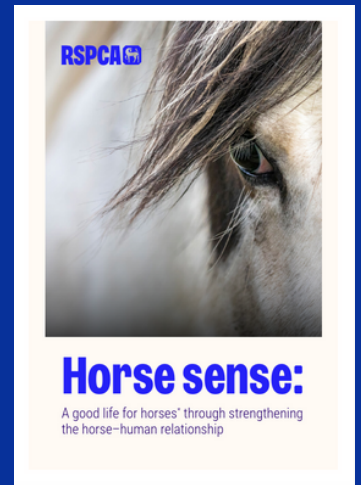
The RSPCA has released a comprehensive report titled "*Horse Sense: A Good Life for Horses Through Strengthening the Horse-Human Relationship*," calling for a unified effort among horse owners, the equine sector, and governments to enhance equine welfare.

The report identifies several key welfare concerns, including:

- Inadequate facilities that limit turnout, grazing, and socialisation opportunities.
- Health issues such as obesity and gastric ulcers.
- Behavioural problems stemming from limited social interaction and rough handling.

To address these challenges, the report recommends:

- Legislative and policy reforms to strengthen existing laws and introduce new regulations, such as licensing for livery yards and equine rescues.
- Educational initiatives to bridge knowledge and skill gaps among horse owners and caretakers.
- Promoting attitude and behaviour changes to ensure horses' welfare needs are met consistently.



Dr Mark Kennedy, NEWC Director and RSPCA Senior Scientific and Policy Manager for Equines, said: "This report brings together vital research and outlines a number of ways in which horse owners, the equine sector and governments can all work together and be the driving force for change for horses everywhere."

Read more and download the full report [here](#)

Supporting Owners Through Equine Loss

For 30 years, the Blue Cross Pet Loss Support team has been helping people cope with the heartbreak of losing a pet — whether through death, enforced separation, or theft. In addition to supporting grieving pet owners, they also provide veterinary professionals and pet service providers with the skills to offer compassionate care during these difficult times.

Their accredited, award-winning Continual Professional Development (CPD) training courses, workshops, and webinars teach techniques to confidently support those experiencing pet loss. In 2025, they are offering equine-specific loss courses designed to provide specialized guidance for horse owners and caregivers.

- **Blue Cross Equine Loss Virtual Workshops:** 9th May and 10th September

These workshops are thoughtfully split into two parts: a two-hour, learner-led online session, followed by a three-hour, trainer-led virtual workshop. Participants will gain insights into the complexities of horse loss and grief in today's world, along with practical tools to offer meaningful support. Topics covered include quality of life, euthanasia, and self-care.

For more information, visit: [Blue Cross CPD Courses for Pet Professionals](#)

Bespoke equine loss training can also be arranged, either face-to-face or online. NEWC Members are eligible for a 10% discount — simply reference your membership when contacting plstraining@bluecross.org.uk.

Donkeys Take Centre Stage in New Exeter University Film Module

The Donkey Sanctuary has partnered with Exeter University to develop a groundbreaking new module as part of the university's film degree, focusing on the representation of donkeys in cinema. This first-of-its-kind course examines how filmmakers have portrayed the inner lives of donkeys, their personification in animation, and their roles in fables, fairy tales, religious narratives, and documentaries.

The module seeks to challenge long-standing stereotypes in popular culture that reduce donkeys to simplistic symbols of stubbornness, foolishness, or laziness — misrepresentations that can influence public perceptions and impact their welfare. Learn more about this innovative initiative here: [Lead role for donkeys in Exeter University course](#) | [The Donkey Sanctuary](#).



In addition, The Donkey Sanctuary's research team is actively exploring public perceptions of donkeys and their care in sanctuary settings. After conducting initial interviews with visitors in October, the team plans to gather further insights in May.

Another upcoming project will delve into donkey ownership in the UK and Ireland, investigating the motivations behind acquiring donkeys, their management, and the types of support owners might need. As part of this research, the team will also speak with prospective owners to better understand their expectations and decision-making processes.

Online Training Course-Supporting Behaviour Change in Animal Owners

Mental Health Nurse, Bronwen Williams, is running two further training courses this year in the Spring and Autumn on Using Motivational Interviewing and other strategies and interventions to support animal owners with behaviour change.

The course is designed for anyone working in animal health, care or welfare who has direct contact with owners and others who need to make behaviour changes for the welfare of their animals. This course is appropriate for those who have face-to-face visits and consultations and those who take phone calls.

The course will help those who need to have difficult conversations with animal owners, and others, about issues such as weight, euthanasia, breeding, general care and health, numbers of animals, including animal hoarding, and with re-homers or guardians and repeat welfare reporters.

For further information contact: bronwen.williams@yahoo.com



WorldHorseWelfare

World Horse Welfare's free **Welfare Wednesday webinars** are underway again. Further information on the upcoming speakers and all previous welfare webinars are free to access via this link:

[Welfare Wednesdays - World Horse Welfare](#)



Understand Horses Live 2025 and Equine Pain Course

Understanding and Assessing Equine Pain Enrolment Now Open

Understand Horses invites equine professionals to participate in the upcoming "*Understanding and Assessing Equine Pain*" course, starting on 12th April 2025.

This comprehensive four-week programme, led by esteemed experts - veterinary behaviourist Roxane Kirton, veterinary physiotherapist Holly Gallacher, and equine behaviour consultant Justine Harrison - offers a practical, evidence-

based approach to recognising and assessing equine pain and discomfort from both physiological and behavioural perspectives.

Participants will benefit from four weeks of immersive learning, including video lessons, live group discussions via Zoom, access to a dedicated forum, real-life case studies, and actionable insights tailored for professionals seeking to enhance their understanding of equine welfare.

For further information and to register, please visit: [Understanding and Assessing Equine Pain](#)



Understand Horses Live - Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for Understand Horses Live, taking place on 9-10 August 2025 at Nottingham Trent University.

This two-day event promises an engaging programme of lectures, practical demonstrations, and workshops, covering a broad spectrum of topics in horse behaviour, training, physiology, equine science, and welfare.

An international panel of renowned equine professionals - including behaviour consultants, academics, veterinarians, physiotherapists, and trainers - will present a diverse range of topics on Saturday, followed by hands-on demonstrations and workshops with NTU Brackenhurst's resident horses on Sunday. For further details, please visit: [Understand Horses Live](#)

Make a Difference Events Return: Enhancing Equine Welfare Through Education

Bransby Horses is proud to announce the return of its Make a Difference (MAD) events. The MAD events offer an invaluable opportunity for equine professionals and horse owners to expand their knowledge, with Bransby Horses' experienced team and industry experts delivering insightful sessions on key welfare topics.

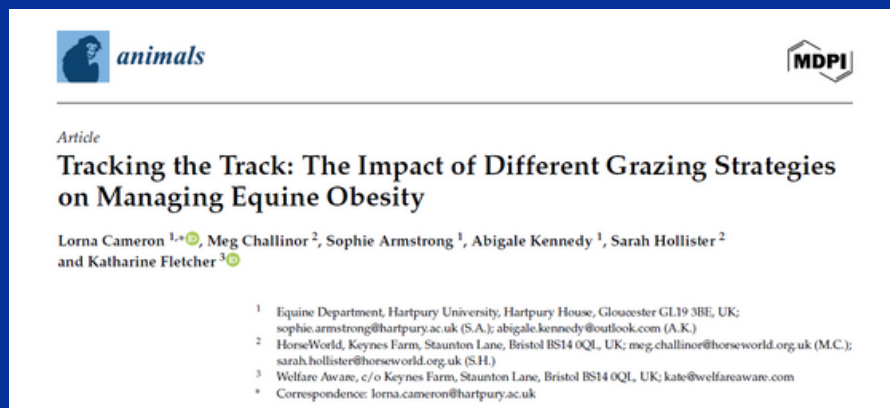


The first MAD event of 2025, "**Understanding Equine Behaviour**," will take place on Thursday, 10th April, at 11:00 AM in the Clifford Marshall Building at Bransby Horses in Lincoln.

The session will feature Dr. Helen Spence, an ABTC-registered Clinical Animal Behaviourist specialising in equines. Dr. Spence brings a wealth of experience, having worked extensively with equines and their owners, and is a Full Member of the Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors.

This event is highly recommended for equine professionals, trainers, and enthusiasts seeking to enhance their expertise and contribute to improving equine welfare.

Attendance is free of charge; however, pre-registration is required. To secure your place, please complete the registration form available [here](#).



A recent study by Hartpury University and HorseWorld Trust, published in *Animals*, explored grazing strategies to manage equine obesity, comparing traditional continuous grazing with a track system aimed at increasing horse movement.

Key Findings:

- Movement: Horses on the track system were more active.
- Body Condition: Increased movement didn't significantly affect body condition.
- Pasture Management: The track system reduced pasture damage and helped manage grass intake.

Implications: While the track system encouraged more movement it didn't significantly impact body condition within the study's timeframe. This highlights the need to pair activity-focused grazing strategies with controlled feeding and regular exercise to manage equine obesity effectively.

Access the research here: mdpi.com/2076-2615/15/6/874

NEWC Annual General Meeting (Virtual)

Date TBC 2025

