Animal Establishment Mandatory Conditions

Riding Establishments

Gateshead Council
Foreword

Mandatory Conditions Applicable to Licenses for Riding Establishments

General

These standard conditions apply to all licences unless removed or varied by the Regulatory Committee.

The granting of a licence for a Riding Establishment shall not be deemed to convey any approval or consent which may be required under any enactment by law, regulation or order other than the Riding Establishments Act 1964 and 1970.

The business owner has an obligation to ensure their business complies with all relevant current legislation and acts accordingly.

The principal legislation dealing with riding establishments is the Riding Establishments Act 1964 and 1970 which addresses the areas to be covered by the licence in relation to animal welfare and management. It is essential that you are familiar with the licence conditions.

It is advisable that establishment owners insure against public liability, third party liability, liability for death/loss of an animal in their care and veterinary fees.
Standard Conditions relating to Riding Establishments

1. LICENCE DISPLAY
1.1.1 Businesses operating riding establishments must be inspected and have a licence.
1.1.2 A copy of the licence must be displayed to the public in a prominent position in, on or about the riding establishment and a copy of the conditions available.

2. ANIMAL WELFARE
2.1.1 It is a requirement under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 that anyone who has responsibility for an animal has a legal duty to meet the five basic welfare needs. These are described below. This legal duty extends to riding establishment owners. You are required to ensure all animals in your care are given at least the minimum standard of care as stated in the five needs.

2.2 Need for a Suitable Diet
2.2.1 Animals must have access to fresh water at all times.
2.2.2 All animals must be provided with a diet to maintain full health and vigour.

2.3 Need for a Suitable Environment
2.3.1 All animals must be provided with an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.

2.4 Need to be Free from Pain, Injury or Disease
2.4.1 Any sick or injured animal must receive appropriate care and treatment without delay. Veterinary advice should be sought whenever necessary.
2.4.2 Adequate precautions must be taken to prevent and control the spread of infectious and contagious disease and parasites amongst the horses, staff and visitors.
2.4.3 All animal housing and exercise areas should be in a good state of repair to prevent injuries as far as reasonably possible.
2.5 Need to Express Normal Behaviour Patterns
2.5.1 All animals must be provided with sufficient space to allow for normal behaviour.
2.5.2 All animals must be given the opportunity for daily interaction and stimulation.

2.6 Need to be free from Fear and Distress
2.6.1 All establishments must provide conditions and care for animals which avoid fear and distress.

3. OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT
3.1 General
3.1.1 The number of horses accommodated at the establishment at any one time shall not exceed that stated on the application form. (i.e. the number of stables on the premises)
3.1.2 Horses must be maintained in good health and in all respects be physically fit. Horses kept for hire for riding or riding instruction must be suitable for this purpose.
3.1.3 The following horses must not be hired out for riding, or used in return for payment for instruction or in demonstrating riding:
   a. Any horse aged 3 years or under;
   b. Any mare heavy with foal;
   c. Any mare within three months of foaling.
3.1.4 Any riding equipment supplied for a horse let out on hire must be free from visible defect which is likely to cause suffering to the horse or accident to the rider.
3.1.5 No person under 16 years of age must be left in charge of the business at any time.
3.1.6 The licensee must hold a current insurance policy providing a minimum insurance cover of £5,000,000. This must insure him against liability for any injury sustained by those who hire a horse from him for riding and those who use a horse in the course of receiving from him, in return for payment, instruction in riding and arising out of the hire or use of a horse as aforesaid and which also insures such persons in respect of...
any liability which may be incurred by them in respect of injury to any person caused by, or arising out of, the hire or use of a horse as aforesaid.

3.1.7 A register must be kept by the licensee of all horses aged three years and under which are usually kept on the premises. This must be available for inspection by an authorised officer at all reasonable times.

3.2 Welfare

3.2.1 The feet of all animals must be properly trimmed and, if shod, their shoes must be properly fitted and in good condition.

3.2.2 A horse found on inspection of the premises by an authorised officer to be in need of veterinary attention must not be returned to work until the licensee has obtained at his own expense and has lodged with the local authority a veterinary certificate that the horse is fit for work.

3.2.3 Horses maintained at grass must have available adequate pasture, shelter and water. Supplementary feeds must be provided as and when required.

3.2.4 Horses must be adequately supplied with suitable food, drink and bedding material. All horses must be adequately exercised, groomed, rested and visited at suitable intervals.

3.3 Supervision

3.3.1 No horse shall be let out on hire for riding, or used for providing instruction in riding without the supervision by a responsible person aged 16 years or over unless, in the case of a horse let out on hire for riding, the licensee is satisfied that the hirer of the horse is competent to ride without supervision. The responsible persons must be named in the licence application.

3.3.2 At all times the management of the riding establishment must be by a qualified person. This is either by experience in the management of horses or by being the holder of an approved certificate, or by employing a person who is qualified to be the holder of such a licence.

3.4 Disease Control and Vaccination

3.4.1 All reasonable precautions must be taken to prevent and control the spread of infectious and contagious diseases.
3.4.2 Veterinary first-aid equipment and medicines must be provided and maintained on the premises.

4 Staff Management
4.1.1 A written training policy must be provided. Systematic training of staff must be demonstrated to have been carried out.

5 Construction
5.1.1 The construction of the riding establishment must be suitable, adequate to contain the animals, and provided with warmth and shelter in clean and hygienic conditions.
5.1.2 There must be convenient and safe access to stalls and boxes.
5.1.3 Stalls must be large enough to allow the animal to lie down and get up without the risk of injury.
5.1.4 Boxes must be large enough to allow the animal to turn round.
5.1.5 Yards must provide enough space for every animal kept there.
5.1.6 Lighting must be sufficient so that artificial illumination is not necessary in daylight.
5.1.7 Ventilation must provide fresh air without draughts.
5.1.8 Drainage must be adequate to carry away liquid waste and keep the standings dry.
5.1.9 There must be provision for storage and disposal of manure and spoiled straw.
5.1.10 Adequate accommodation must be provided for forage, bedding, stable equipment and saddlery.

5.2 Emergency Procedure
5.2.1 There must be a written emergency evacuation plan which must be on display and known to all staff.
5.2.2 The licensee must ensure that suitable arrangements exist for the protection and evacuation of horses in case of emergency.
5.2.3 The name, address and telephone number of the licensee or other responsible person must be displayed in a prominent position on the outside of the premises.