



Horse Welfare Statement

As members of BHS/BRC, Battle & District Riding Club (“BDRC”) are committed to ensuring that the welfare of the pony/horse is always a primary consideration and our aim is to promote the improvement of riding, training of ponies/horses and horsemanship through clinics, training, talks and demos held throughout the year.

To abide by the highest standards of horse welfare we expect the following of those who participate in Club activities:

Every pony/horse to have a valid passport and be microchipped

To be over 4 years old to attend any ridden club event and only undergo training/competition that matches their maturity and physical capabilities

To be healthy and fit enough to do the Club activity

Have regular foot care by a professional farrier

Be sound with no signs of lameness, injury or unusual swelling of the limbs

Show no symptoms of disease

Have correctly fitted tack. No over-tightening of nosebands or inappropriate tack that may cause pain or injury

Show no signs of any obvious distress whether caused by rider or other external factors

Show no signs of exhaustion

Show no blood anywhere on the pony/horse

No pony/horse to be manhandled on the ground or whilst ridden

No misuse of aids – whips, spurs and bits etc

No clipping or shaving of sensory hairs around ponies/horses mouth, nose, eyes and inner ear as this may reduce their sensory ability. Only dispensation is hair that has been clipped or shaven to allow veterinary treatment.

A rider should not be too heavy for their pony/horse, as a general rule a pony/horse should carry up to 15-20% of its own optimum body weight (including tack) though this may differ slightly from horse to horse.

We know that sometimes through lack of awareness, understanding, or training or through competitiveness, adrenaline and many other factors we may fall short of the above. As BDRC we will never walk on by, and if we have any concerns we will talk to you about them compassionately.

We may ask you to take action, exclude yourself or in certain circumstances refuse you the right to participate in our activities.

If we do approach you we won't have done so without thought and careful consideration, so in those circumstances we ask you listen to our concerns and the reason for it and use it as a moment for reflection and learning.

The decision of the Club Representatives on that activity is final.