

# Hoofing Around



**Autumn 2021**

**From your Chairman  
Claire Knight**



We are now well into autumn with the countryside around us looking stunning in its gold and red glory - how lucky we are to be able to enjoy this with our horses, dogs, friends or families.

We are enjoying a very busy and successful calendar of events which are now focused on the indoor arena at Kingfisher Equestrian Centre. There are plenty more clinics for all disciplines planned over the winter, so please check on the website or Facebook page to see what is going on; all dates are also included in this newsletter.

As always, we here at East Mendip celebrate every success of all our members, so if you have any news to share, please contact our Facebook page so that we can give you a mention.

I hope you all enjoy the newsletter, thank you to Alex and Jo Hobbs for putting it all together.

Stay safe everyone and see you all soon.

Claire and Gucci



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# Hoofing Around



## **Membership 2022** **Cathy Provenzano, Membership Secretary**

Well, what a weird old year is has been. I think most of us did not think we would see a repeat of 2020 with lockdown, pandemic restrictions etc, but we did. So, when the Government allowed us to open things up and hold clinics and organise events, camp etc, nobody thought things would go quite as well as they did for us as a Riding Club.

Our members took to attending everything that we organised with great enthusiasm, in fact with so much enthusiasm, that as I write this article in October, we are fully booked up until Christmas. Well, that is great of course, but it did mean that we had to take the totally unprecedented step of closing down memberships completely in August, as the committee felt that if we cannot offer clinic places to our current members, we cannot really justify taking on new members and not be able to offer them anything. We normally do have to close memberships at some point in the year, but not usually this early. That is a testament to how popular a Riding Club we have become. We ended our membership year, albeit early, with 88 members. This is very slightly down on the 92 we finished off with last year, but still good, nonetheless. Part of EMRC's popularity is the fact that we are a smaller, very inclusive and supportive Riding Club, and we want to try and preserve this.

One major change for the next membership year, as voted for at the AGM, is that we will no longer be offering Junior Memberships. Memberships will only be accepted by members who are at the age of 18 or over.

So on to 2022 then. Of course, none of us know what lies ahead, but our new membership year opens on 1st January 2022. Memberships will be on a first come, first served basis as per usual, so if you want to re-join for next year, be sure to get your membership form in quickly. We have attached a new membership form with this newsletter and please note we will now only accept membership fees paid via bank transfer. This is the usual bank account, but all the details are on the form – along with how you need to reference the payment so Debbie can match it up. We regret we are no longer accepting cheque payments.

We are at the end of another very successful membership year for EMRC, despite everything the pandemic has thrown at us. Let us look forward to a new membership year when we can hope the pandemic sits on the back burner and we find another new normal.

### **2022 Membership Fees**

Even if you are renewing your membership, we shall need a newly completed form, which must be clearly signed. This can be emailed to me at [membership@eastmendiprc.com](mailto:membership@eastmendiprc.com), or it can be sent to my home address of 87 Chandag Road, Keynsham, Bristol, BS31 1PS.

Payment is to be made via the bank to:

**NatWest, Frome**

**Account Number: 63700298**

**Account Name: East Mendip Riding Club**

**Sort Code: 60 08 31**

***Please ensure you put your name and 2022 on the reference.***

**£27 per Riding Member**

**£16 per Non-Riding Member**

**£50 for two members living at the same address.**

**Please note we will require both a signed form and payment, to renew your membership.**

Please get your renewal in as soon as possible, although please be aware, I will not be sending off any applications to British Riding Clubs until the 1st January 2022. **BRC will no longer be issuing a plastic membership card, instead you will receive a digital membership card. Therefore, please make sure I have your correct email address. Thank you.**



# Hoofing Around



## Collage from EMRC Summer Events!

### XC at Toomer with Kim Pitman, 10th July 2021



“Thank you Kim for a fab lesson,  
as always!”

“Started small and built up  
confidence, finishing with some  
bigger jumps, such a great day!”

### In Hand training with Karen Whiston, 31st July 2021



“The in hand clinic was beneficial  
not just to youngsters but also for  
building confidence with more  
established horses.”



### Birthday Party, 14th August 2021



“It was lovely to see so many of you and I think you will admit it was  
lovely to get together for a social gathering without the horses!

Thank you all for your continued support to the club because without  
you, it wouldn't be the success it is today.

Looking forward to the Christmas Meal and Awards Evening!

Jo and the Committee

### XC at Mendip Plains with Kat Riley, 21st August 2021

“Thanks for everyone's support  
as well as Kat's encouragement!”

“Big thanks, I was a bit terrified  
but so glad I came!”





# CLASS OF 2021

## EMRC CAMP



For anyone interested in Camp 2022, drop us a message on Facebook and we can add you to the messenger group.



# Hoofing Around



## EMRC Camp at Stockland Lovell, 24th - 26th September 2021 "Simply amazing" - Debbie Pickford

The experience started in the week running up to camp this year with Kim ringing me asking if I would consider going into the bigger group doing 80cm +, I like my comfort zone of around 70cm! with some reassurances from Kim saying she wouldn't push me if I genuinely didn't want to, I agreed to give it a go. I am so glad I did.

**Friday** we arrived at lunchtime, settled Bandit into his stable and unpacked everything before heading out for a little hack and leg stretch around the stunning countryside before taking on our first bout of show jumping with Charlotte Wake. The jumps looked pretty big to me but that said, we had a blast and by the end of the session were confidently popping over 80/85 and a couple of 90cm. In the evening we were treated to a Pilates session with Ali Meek, this definitely helped stretch out the muscles.

**Saturday** Muck out and feed before breakfast, 2 sessions of riding to get through today, first up a pole work session with Charlotte. This really does make you work and get your horse thinking although Bandit does sometimes get a little keen and doesn't understand why 'jump poles' have to be trotted over. After lunch came XC with Kim Pitman. Time to get the huge brave knickers on. Bandit did not put a



foot wrong, he gave me such a confidence giving session and yes we were jumping proper big jumps in my opinion. There were just 2 I couldn't get the nerve to have a go at, Trakehner and the brush arrowhead. That said, I am so proud of myself for giving everything else a go. More food and evening routine done with Bandit, who did get an extra handful and some carrots. Evening fun in the form of a quiz. Well I have never laughed so much, it was great with everyone together just having a blast.



**Sunday** saw us up early, horses done and breakfast sorted before starting to pack away and getting ready for the last session, show jumping with Kim Pitman. Another fab session, although I think we were both starting to feel a little tired. After everything packed away came the awards. This year awarded by the instructors. Huge congratulations go to Jodie Bennett, Julie Hotchkiss, Claire Knight, Linda Price and Sarah Clarke for gaining the awards this year.



In conclusion I would like to encourage everyone to give Camp a go. You don't have to jump, there are flatwork options and also hacking options. It is a fantastic social event which for me is really important, just being around people with the same interests. Give it a go you won't be disappointed.



6 years ago I signed up to take part in the Wobbleberry Challenge and after our achievements at Camp this year I finally feel confident enough to think about giving it a go next year. Completing a ODE at 80cm. This is mainly due to the support and the encouragement of all of you at the riding club.

Thank you xx

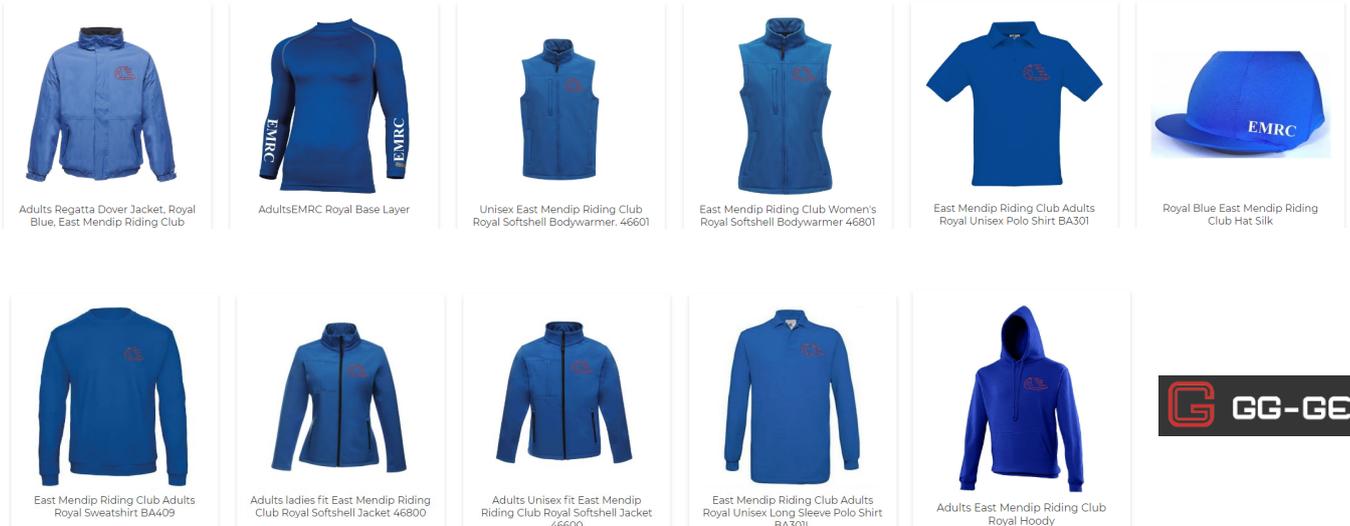


# Hoofing Around



## EMRC Merchandise

Fancy being adorned in EMRC gear?  
Visit [www.ggear.co.uk](http://www.ggear.co.uk) for purchasing any of these lovely items!



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## Volunteer Reward Scheme



Thank you to those who have volunteered at events already, we couldn't run these sessions without your help!

If Debbie has emailed you with your voucher, please remember to claim it by the end of December 2021.

If you are volunteering at a clinic between October and December, you can use your reward between January and end of March 2022.



# Hoofing Around

**Polite Reminder**  
All horses must have had  
a flu vaccine within the  
last 12 months to attend  
clinics at Kingfisher

## Training Clinics 2022

### Terms and Conditions for Clinics – Please Read

Each session is an hour long and a cost of **£22** per rider unless indicated otherwise. We will endeavor to make sure there are no more than four in a class. All training clinics are held at Kingfisher Equestrian, BA7 7PS.

**Please pay when the ties email goes out and if you cancel five days or less before the clinic, you will still have to pay unless we can find someone else to take your place.**

### To book a Clinic

To book Charlotte's Poles for Dressage or Gill Longhurst's Flatwork sessions please email Julie [Juliebookings@eastmendiprc.com](mailto:Juliebookings@eastmendiprc.com)

To book Show Jumping, Jane Read's Flatwork sessions or the Guest Instructor sessions, please email Karen [Karenbookings@eastmendiprc.com](mailto:Karenbookings@eastmendiprc.com)

### Payment

Please arrange payments directly into the bank. **Please do not bring cash to the clinic or send a cheque.**

NatWest, Frome, **Sort Code: 60 08 31, Account Number: 63700298.**

Please put your name and the clinic date on the reference. If you are not able to change the reference, please email Debbie to let her know you have paid.

**Can we please ask that you do not pay for any booked clinics until the times email goes out. It is very difficult to keep track of early payments with so many transactions going through the bank.**

**Please note payment should be made BEFORE the clinic and not after!**

### HELPERS

If you do not wish to attend a clinic but are happy to help, please let Julie or Karen know. We appreciate all help and don't forget our Rewards Scheme!

We can now offer refreshments again!!! It is £1 per person, for as many drinks as you like, so remember to bring your EMRC insulated mug with you!





# Hoofing Around



## 2022 Training Clinics

All clinics will be held in the indoor school at Kingfisher Equestrian, Hornblotton, BA7 7PS.

Please clear up your mess before leaving the venue, taking all your rubbish and poo home.

### Clinic Dates:

Flatwork with **Gill Longhurst** (book with Julie Dawson)

Sunday 9th January 2022  
Sunday 6th February 2022  
Saturday 5th March 2022  
Sunday 3rd April 2022



Flatwork with **Jane Read** (book with Karen Abrey)

Saturday 22nd January 2022  
Saturday 19th February 2022

Flatwork with **Guest Instructors** (book with Karen Abrey)

Sunday 20th March 2022 with John Hansen (£25 per rider)  
Saturday 23rd April 2022 with Ed Hobbs (£25 per rider)



Poles for Dressage with **Charlotte Wake** (book with Julie Dawson)

Saturday 15th January 2022  
Saturday 12th February 2022 (with Ellie Maguire, £22 per rider)  
Sunday 13th March 2022  
Saturday 9th April 2022 - this will be Quadrille. We need 4 per session for Quadrille, so we may be able to do a poles session after depending on numbers, please let Julie know what you want to do when booking.

Show Jumping with **Kim Pitman** (book with Karen Abrey)

Sunday 30th January 2022  
Sunday 27th February 2022  
Saturday 26th March 2022 - Gridwork  
Saturday 30th April 2022 - May be Arena XC (TBC)



### Hostess

We usually like two helpers for each session - especially for Show Jumping, so if you can help on any of the above dates, please email the organiser.



# Hoofing Around



## E-Riders Riding Club League

What an amazing few months! The EMRC E-Riders Team have pulled out all the stops and claimed 3rd place in the Riding Club Summer League receiving a gorgeous sash and rosette! This ran from March - August and as we enter the winter league, running from September to February, we are currently 1st place on the league table. This is an amazing achievement for such a small team, competing against clubs much bigger than us from across the country. Big thanks to Ella Hooper for instigating an EMRC E-Riders Team, and to her and Mell Stamp for their encouragement and advice to new team members along the way. Lets see if we can keep the top spot!

You don't have to be a seasoned Dressage Diva, just up for a bit of fun, there is no pressure. You can enter at whatever level you like, starting at Intro (just walk and trot) moving all the way through the levels. We have a group chat on Messenger, so if you fancy joining in, pop a message on the Facebook page and we'll let you know how to set yourself up on the E-Riders website and start entering! You don't even need an arena, just a flat-ish bit of field marked out and a friend to video you (and they can call the test for you too so you don't even have to remember it!) Everyone gets 1 point just for entering, a sweetie and your test sheet in the post. If you are placed 1st-10th, additional points too and a pretty rosette! They all add up to league points. No need to dress up or plait, just BD legal tack, wear gloves and film in landscape. You can practice/film as many times as you like and then just submit your best one by the end of the month. Simple!!

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## British Show Jumping Whip Ruling (effective 1st January 2020)

For those planning to go show jumping, remember the changes to the whip rule for British Show Jumping.



*"WHIP—102.9*

*No rider may carry, use or permit to be used a whip other than as detailed below, in the arena, the collecting ring or anywhere, on, or in the immediate vicinity of the showground. Only one whip may be carried and no substitute of a whip may be carried. A whip, if carried, must be held in the hand by the handle at the top. Also see rule 103.1.4.2 Excessive use of the whip.*

- 1. The maximum length of the 'whip' is 70cm and must be no less than 45cm.*
- 2. There must be no 'binding' within 17cm of the end of the 'pad'.*
- 3. The minimum diameter for the 'shaft' is 1cm and the 'shaft' should run through the entirety of the whip.*
- 4. The overall weight of the 'whip' must not exceed 160g and the weight should be evenly distributed throughout the full length of the 'whip'.*
- 5. The 'pad' must be smooth, with no protrusion or raised surface, and be made of shock absorbing material throughout its circumference such that it gives a compression factor of at least 6mm. There is to be no wording, advertising or personalisation of any kind on the 'pad'."*

## BRC Rule Updates

With the winter season well underway and the new year approaching make sure you keep up-to-date with the current BRC rules. You can find the current BRC Handbook and new changes for 2022 [here](#).



# Hoofing Around

**BETA Summer of Safety**  
June - September 2021



Over the summer BETA ran webinars and produced information guides on safety for horse and rider.

These are available on their website ([www.beta-uk.org](http://www.beta-uk.org)) or via their Facebook page:

## Hi-Visibility

Helping you make sure your hi-viz is up to standard

## Quarantine

Why and how to use quarantine on yards

## Riding Hats

Find out more about the correct fit, safety standards and quality marks

## Forage Essentials

From field to feed room

## Feed supplements

What are they and why you should be feeding them?

## Equine leg protection

Choosing the best for your horse

## Rider Safety

## Guide to Bras

The perfect fit - finding the right support for female horse riders

## Safety on and around the yard

## Feed Room Safety

## Hoof care

## Riding and Road Safety

Keeping safe when hacking

## Bio-Security

What it means in practice

## Riding on the roads

Your rights and responsibilities

## Tack Care

How to care for it, how to inspect it, when to replace it?

## Feed Safety

## Body Protectors

Correct labels, what to look for in a correctly fitting body protector and examples of badly fitting body protectors

## Horse health and your vet

## Equine Parasite Control



# Hoofing Around



## BETA Temperature guide to rugging a horse

Is it too hot to rug? Is it too cold to leave them without rugs? Here's a handy guide from BETA:

### Temperature guide to rugging a horse

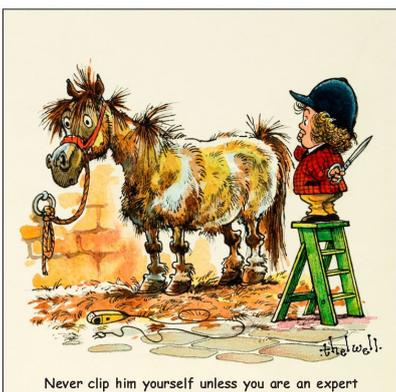


Just like us, our horses feel the cold differently. Horses that are regularly stabled or clipped will be more vulnerable to chills than those that are used to living out and may easily overheat if wearing too many clothes.

Before putting a rug (or a heavier one) on your horse, consider all the many variables: Stable management routine, level of work, access to forage, feeding regime and the type and condition of the horse. Remember rugging less can also help in weight management especially of good-doers who need to lose weight over winter.

The weather itself should also be considered – is it just cold or cold, wet and windy? The wind chill factor can make a real difference on whether horses are warm enough in a lower weight rug.

Temperature	Stabled/ Clipped	Stabled/ Unclipped	Turned out/ Unclipped	Turned out/ Clipped
<b>15 degrees and warmer</b>	Zero fill	Nothing	Nothing	Nothing
<b>10 to 15 degrees</b>	Light weight (100g) or zero fill	Nothing or zero fill	Nothing	Nothing or light weight (100g) or zero fill if wet & windy
<b>5 to 10 degrees</b>	Medium weight (250g)	Light weight (150g)	Nothing or light weight (100g)	Light weight (150g) plus neck cover
<b>Zero to 4 degrees</b>	Heavy weight (300g)	Medium weight (200g)	Nothing or light/medium weight (150-250g)	Medium weight (200g) with neck cover
<b>-10 to zero degrees</b>	Heavy weight (300-400g) with neck cover	Medium weight (200-300g) with liner	Light or medium weight (150-300g) with neck cover	Heavy weight (300-400g) with neck cover plus liner
<b>-10 degrees or colder</b>	Heavyweight (300-500g) with neck cover plus liner	Medium or heavy weight (300-400g) with neck cover	Heavy weight (300-500g) with neck cover	Heavy weight (300-500g) plus liner and/or under blanket and hood





# Hoofing Around



## How to Exercise Your Horse Safely In Cold Weather

### ◆ Warming up

We know that muscles take longer to warm up in cold weather and arthritic joints may ache and need more time to loosen up. To accommodate this and reduce the risk of soft tissue injury, aim to double your warm-up time. If you usually spend 10 minutes in walk before moving onto trot and then 5 minutes of trot before cantering, try upping the walk part to 15-20 minutes and the trot part to 5-10 minutes before you canter.



### ◆ Cooling off

If your horse tends to sweat when ridden then it's probably a good idea to give them a clip. Clipping not only helps to reduce the amount the horse sweats but also means they cool off quicker after exercise. A sweaty horse can get quite cold if they have a long coat which takes time to dry. Always ensure your horse is completely cool and dry before rugging and turning out.

### ◆ Energy intake

Exercising in cold weather uses more energy. Glycogen (stored glucose used for energy) is used up 5 times faster in cold weather and once used up the body starts to convert fat for energy. Great for horses who need to lose weight, but for those who find it harder to keep condition, you'll need to ensure that they get an adequate number of calories to fuel their work. It's estimated that for each degree below 0°C the average air temperature falls, the energy intake should be increased by 1%. If not, body weight will drop due to the increased energy required to keep warm, and that's just at rest. Add in exercise and you can see how quickly a horse in hard work loses condition.



### ◆ Dehydration

We generally associate dehydration with hot weather but horses can become dehydrated in the winter when water troughs are frozen or water is cold and unpalatable. Ideally aim to keep water buckets warmed to encourage your horse to drink freely and break ice in field troughs at least once a day. Putting a football or similar in the trough can help stop it freezing over and the horse soon learns to bob for a drink!



### ◆ Injury risk

Another problem common to both hot and cold conditions is the potential for hard, uneven going to result in concussion injuries. On grass or surfaces with 'give' in them, the horse's foot will slide slightly as it impacts the ground which helps dissipate the impact shock reducing concussion. When the surface doesn't give, the full force of the limb contacting the ground is transmitted up through the foot and leg which can lead to concussion related injuries such as bruising of the foot or strained ligaments / tendons. Aim to limit the amount and intensity of work on ground or arenas that are frozen and where possible wait until later in the day when the surface has thawed.



Exercising in deep snow is great for resistance training and the cold temperature can help reduce inflammation in joints and tendons (it's also great fun!) but beware hidden ice underneath and the potential for snow to get packed in the feet.



# Hoofing Around



## What does the term mud fever mean and how you do treat it? Advice from World Horse Welfare

### What is mud fever?

The term can be used to refer to a wide range of skin conditions, properly known as pastern dermatitis. It can be caused by a variety of bacteria, which thrive in muddy, wet conditions. The infection can stay dormant in the horse's skin and only become active when the surface is compromised, usually by prolonged exposure to wet conditions.

If a horse does get mud fever, the signs you may see are quite distinctive and include matted area of skin containing crusty scabs, with lesions beneath. There is often a thick discharge between the skin and the overlying scab.

You may also notice heat and swelling, with the horse reacting to pressure or flexion of the affected limb. Eventually, hair loss can leave inflamed, raw-looking skin which may split open at the back of the leg in severe cases, creating the horizontal fissures characteristic of cracked heels.

### Prevention

Try to prevent your paddock from getting badly churned up, as the bacteria are transmitted in the soil. If it's possible, changing the point at which you enter the field and moving water troughs regularly can be helpful. You could also cover particularly muddy areas with straw or sand.

Prevention is better than cure, but treating mud fever at the earliest possible sign should mean any infection will clear up quickly and easily. It's important to remain vigilant and check your horse's legs daily.

### How do you treat mud fever?

If your best efforts don't succeed and your horse does get mud fever, it's still really important to try to keep their legs dry. You'll need to wash the affected leg(s) with a warm, very dilute Hibiscrub solution—0.1% solution is recommended—and rinse it off fully with warm, clean water.

Make sure you do use warm water to wash the affected areas (never cold) and never put neat Hibiscrub directly on to your horse's skin. This can be challenging in horses with thick feathers so you may have to consider clipping them out to tackle the mud fever successfully.

Once your horse's legs are clean and dry, apply a thick barrier cream, ideally antibacterial, to the affected area. There are various creams available so speak to your vet about which one would be best for your horse. Remember: always test a small patch of skin with the cream for 24 hours first. You need to be sure your horse won't react to any of the ingredients.

If you can stable your horse at night, cover the layer of barrier cream (carefully and not too tightly) in cling film. Then apply a stable bandage over the top and ensure your horse has clean, dry bedding. Leave the cream, cling film and bandage in place overnight to help loosen the scabs. In the morning you can then gently pick the scabs away, removing as much as possible. Be careful when doing this as the area can be very sore and it's quite possible that your horse won't like it. Apply another thick layer of the barrier cream, without any cling film or bandage, before turning your horse out for the day. The barrier cream will help to prevent the infection getting worse and encourage healing where the scabs have come away.



*(Continued on the next page...)*

# Hoofing Around

## What does the term mud fever mean and how you do treat it? Advice from World Horse Welfare (Continued...)

Keep repeating this process until you've managed to remove all the scabs. At that stage, you can then leave the area clean, dry and exposed to the air overnight. It's best to continue using a barrier cream during turnout until the area has healed completely.

If you can't stable your horse overnight when trying to treat mud fever, you won't be able to use cling film and bandages to soften the scabs. If that's the case, you'll still need to wash and dry the area thoroughly on a regular basis. You should then gently remove any scabs you can and apply a fresh layer of barrier cream each time.

Make sure you don't reapply the barrier cream over the top without using a warm dilute Hibiscrub wash and removing the scabs. Doing that would simply create an environment the mud fever can thrive in.

If in doubt, please seek advice.



WorldHorseWelfare

### SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder)

SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder) affects around 1 in 20 people in the UK, and that's just those that have been diagnosed. Interestingly, men are twice as likely to have been diagnosed with SAD, but women are likelier to say they suffer more with low moods in Autumn and Winter than men. The disorder is still a topic of research and it's still under debate as to what causes it, but it is thought to be related to light and the fact that it is reduced during the winter months.

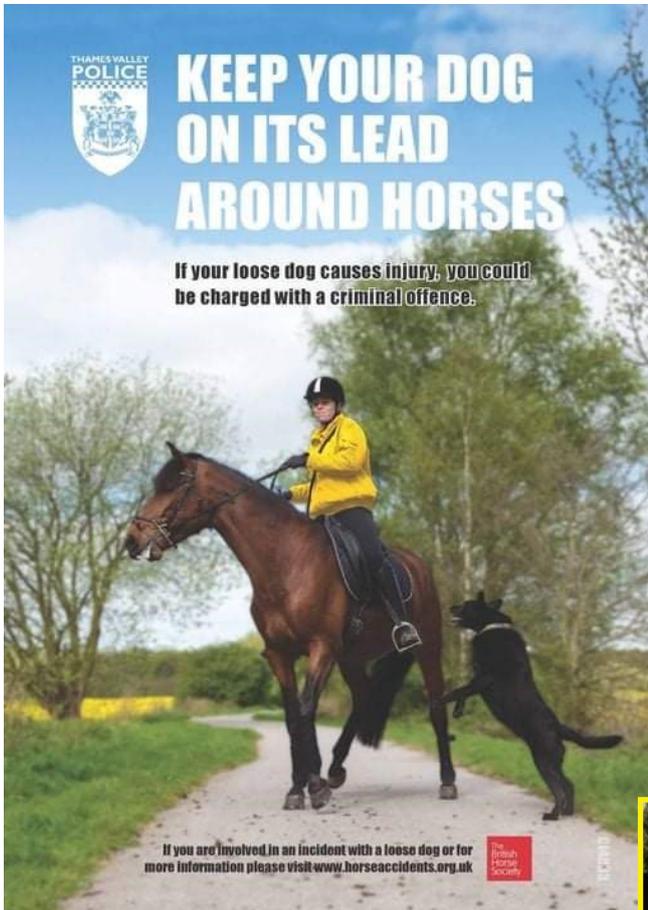
Symptoms of SAD:

- Persistent low mood
- Loss of interest in normal activities
- Irritability
- Feelings of guilt, despair & worthlessness
- Feeling lethargic during the day
- Sleeping for longer than usual
- Craving carbohydrates and gaining weight



If any of the above symptoms are having a significant impact on your day-to-day life, perhaps think about contacting a GP or getting some advice.

# U Hoofing Around U



### British Horse Society Advice

It seems that there has been an increase in the number of dogs out of control around horses, if you have had a problem or been chased, please, please, please log it! They can use statistics to get support around this but only if they know it is happening!

<https://www.bhs.org.uk/our-work/safety/report-an-incident/report-an-incident?fbclid=IwAR1oaDnyaastwtU2FxWyDxi4ivNv3Aa9WiMb8XMDZxoEOogwptTta35bRB4>

### Friends of EMRC Hacking Group

We know lots of our members love their hacking and aren't competitive, therefore we have set up a 'Friends of EMRC Hacking Group' on Facebook messenger. This is a friendly group chat to share hacking routes and an opportunity to meet up with others. Any arrangements made will not be covered by EMRC or BRC, it is just a group chat where people have formed friendships through the club! Drop a message on Facebook if you would like to be added.

Don't be a dark horse

The British Horse Society

Hi-viz is vital for helping to keep you and your horse safe when you're out and about.

Whatever the time or season, make sure you stand out from the crowd.

**Be seen, be safe.**

[horseaccidents.org.uk](http://horseaccidents.org.uk)

# Hoofing Around

## British Horse Society Advice Colic Warning

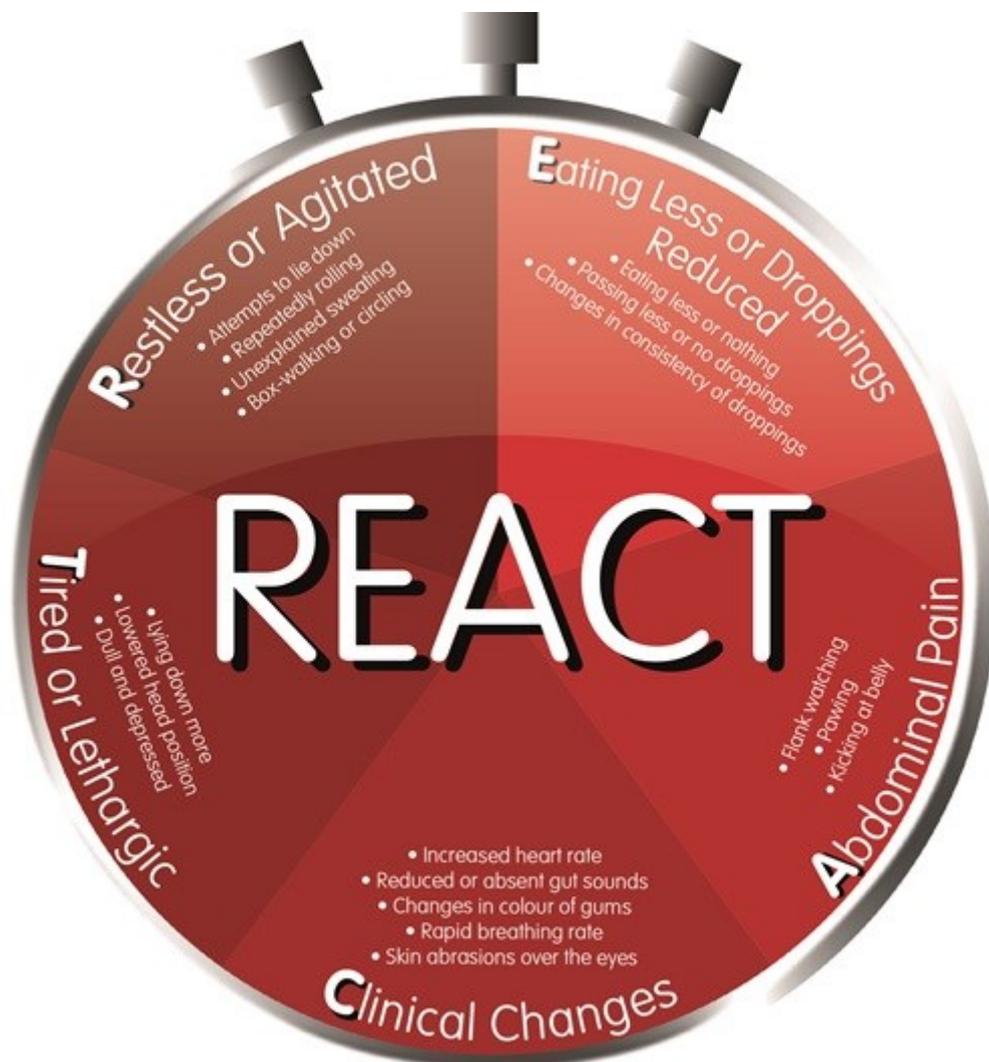
At this time of year many horses may see a change in their routine, as they start to be stabled for longer and with this experience a change in daily exercise and diet. All of which can increase the risk of colic.

**BE AWARE:** Research has shown that nearly 50% of all colic cases had a recent change in management

To ease our horses into a change in routine and help reduce the risk of colic, it is beneficial to:

- \* Make any changes gradually over a period of 10 - 14 days – increase stable time gradually and avoid suddenly stabling your horse for long periods of time
- \* Give your horse daily turnout and if this is not possible, make sure they are exercised or turned out in a safe arena daily
- \* Provide a constant supply of clean, fresh drinking water
- \* Feed a high forage, low concentrate diet to encourage a healthy movement of food through the gut. If concentrate feeds are needed, feed them little and often.

To learn more visit: <https://www.bhs.org.uk/our-work/welfare/our-campaigns/react>





# Hoofing Around



## Driving in Winter

It's easy to forget how dangerous driving in winter can be, so here's some tips to help keep you safe on the road this winter...



### Be prepared

De-icer and scraper, Torch,  
Hi-Viz, Warm clothes,  
Food, Drink, Fuel, Jump  
leads, Phone, Money  
And for your horse; Hay,  
Water, Rug

### Inspect your vehicle

Tyres, Battery, Windscreen  
Wipers, Fluid levels, Lights,  
Exhaust, Defrosters

### Check the conditions

Weather information,  
Changing conditions,  
Closed Roads

### Drive carefully

Avoid sudden and sharp  
movements, Slow down,  
Allow extra space for  
increased stopping  
distances

### Be mindful of hazards

Black ice, Fog, Heavy rain

### Know when to stop

Stay safe

# Hoofing Around



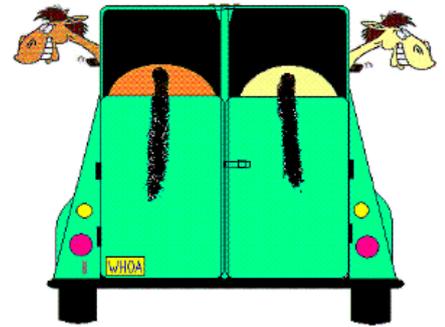
## Top tips for looking after your horsebox in winter

During the winter it is likely you've parked up your horsebox for the winter months knowing you won't be using it that much until the weather starts to perk up again. Not making sure you keep an eye on your horsebox can really backfire when you come to opening those doors to find rusted locks, cracked and deflated tyres and batteries that are on their last leg or completely dead. Here are a few ways you can make sure your horsebox is maintained during the winter months.

### Parking your vehicle during the winter

If you're able, make sure to take your horsebox for a quick drive every now and then, this will make sure that your horsebox is working and gets everything warmed up and ticking over. However, if you can't manage this, then here are some things you can do to maintain the horsebox over the winter.

- Don't leave the handbrake on and chock the wheels to stop it moving.
- Pop some WD-40 around the battery and under the horsebox bonnet.
- Make sure there is no food in cupboards or the fridge!
- Clean the horsebox thoroughly, make sure you've got the mud from under the wheel arches.
- Get lock oil and lubricate all the locks, this will make sure they don't seize.
- If you can remove the wheel and pop the horsebox on blocks, this can help stop the tyres cracking.
- Clean the lights every now and then.
- You can buy a charger for the battery to save it from mover charging.
- Make sure that the anti-freeze levels are where they should be.
- Check any carpeting inside to avoid it getting damp or moist.
- The AA recommend that you leave the tank full as less water will get in and it stops condensation.



### What to do when you're going to use your horsebox after winter

Before you use your horsebox after the weather has started to warm up, make sure you check these things.

- Get your horsebox serviced – this is always a good idea as a precaution.
- Check your tyres; pressure, any cracks and replace if necessary.
- If the fuel tank wasn't left full, check that it hasn't be contaminated and hasn't turned.
- Make sure your brakes are working properly – this is important as cold weather can freeze them.
- Check your water, oil, windscreen washer and brake levels.
- Tighten anything that was loosen previously!
- Give your horsebox a clean.

It is always worth researching as much as you can if you are going to be putting your horsebox in a field or storing it during the winter. These are just some things you can do to care for your horsebox during the winter, but it is not an exhaustive list.

Alternatively, keep attending EMRC clinics throughout winter and you will have no issues with it being stood up!!!