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ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS WHEN LOOKING FOR A NEW YARD

The livery industry is competitive, and many horse owners do not realise it is completely unregulated. Whilst there are legal obligations for any business regarding insurance, taxes and H&S, anybody at all - regardless of experience, competence, or knowledge of equines - can open a livery yard.

Whilst investigating the packages and the services or facilities available, it is also important to ensure you are placing your equine in the care of a yard that is run professionally, legally and with the competence you would expect for the care of your equine, and not just basing your decision on cost or facilities. It is important for horse owners to

understand the important questions they must ask when contacting a potential yard. Any good yard should be able to show you evidence to prove they run a professional and competent yard. You should expect them to hold a professional insurance policy, and to include care, custody and control (CCC) insurance if they offer services. You should also be able to request details of any qualifications, experience or training claimed to be held by the yard owner or their staff. You would expect there to be a good level of knowledge in horse management, welfare, and basic veterinary care at the very least. You should request a copy of their livery contract. This will indicate their expectations of the arrangements, payments

and terms of notice and are designed to protect both parties. Horse owners are often deterred by yards they feel have too many rules or a lengthy contract. However, it is important to understand why these are in place, and that the job of a responsible yard owner is to ensure the horses in their care are in an established routine, and that all on the yard act appropriately. They should be able to explain their H&S policy to demonstrate a responsible attitude towards the safety of all on the yard, and be able to advise on biosecurity practices, and what steps they take to prevent infectious disease from new arrivals or cross-contamination. After all, welfare of the equines should be of primary importance on the yard.

Ensure you question any points you feel are important and raise any queries that may crop up during a viewing. Whilst yards may not have all the information, their responses will indicate their competence in these areas.

The ABRs+ has put these considerations at the forefront



SINCE 1954, THE ABRs+ HAS BEEN THE ONLY ASSOCIATION DEDICATED TO REPRESENTING EQUESTRIAN ESTABLISHMENTS. THE ABRs+ CERTIFIED AND APPROVED SCHEMES FOR RIDING ESTABLISHMENTS, LIVERY YARDS AND EQUESTRIAN CENTRES OFFER A HALLMARK OF QUALITY, PROMOTE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND PROVIDE SUPPORT FROM A TRUSTED ASSOCIATION.

for horse owners with their new Certified or Approved Livery Yard scheme and an emphasis on the education for horse owners as to what makes a 'good yard'. This gives horse owners peace of mind that the member yards have already been appropriately verified for such competences and documentation.

By taking the additional steps to research and scrutinize any yards you are considering, you are more likely to find a professionally run yard with the competence to provide livery services you would expect. This is proven to lead to a much longer home for your equine and happy liveries!

An extended guide to 'Finding Livery' can be found on the ABRs+ website
www.abrs-info.org/guides

