



CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE FOR YOUR HORSE

There are a number of things that you can do to protect your horse. These will be applicable wherever you keep your horse whether that be on your own property, on a livery yard, or in a field and/or stables that you rent.

Legal Requirements:

Microchips

- It is a legal requirement to have your horse microchipped and registered on the national equine database (www.equineregister.co.uk).
- Your vet will implant a microchip or can check if your horse already has a chip (these are normally in the crest muscle of the neck, but can move).
- An existing chip can be picked up by most microchip scanners.

Passports

- The law states that all horses must have a passport issued by an authorised authority.
- You must have your horse's passport with you every time you transport your horse, even if it is only for a short distance. Ensure it is up to date, including change of ownership, change of address, etc.
- Your horse's passport will show basic information on colour, sex, height plus markings such as socks, blaze, etc.
- Keep a photocopy of your passport at home in a safe place in case you lose the original or if it is stolen so that you have all the relevant details to contact the society that issued it to you.

Additional Security Measures

- Freeze brand – this is a visible deterrent.
A unique number is branded onto your horse either on his withers or on shoulder, which is permanent. A number of companies offer this service and some offer a discount if you are in a Horse Watch scheme. Discounts on a sliding scale are also available if more than one horse is branded at the same time so it is worth considering getting together with friends or other people if you are on a yard. Some companies offer a discount on the horse's insurance if they are freeze marked.
- Postcode branded onto hoof – visible deterrent.
Branding irons are used to put a postcode or other identifying mark into the horse's horn of the hoof. This needs to be regularly re-done as the foot grows and is trimmed by the farrier.
- Become a member of your local Horse Watch or Rural Watch group so you are aware of incidents in your area and receive up to date crime prevention advice. Most groups operate free of charge and have discounted security items for sale to help you, including gate signs showing you are a member of a horse watch scheme.
- Do not leave head collars / halters on gates or around the stable yard, keep locked away when not in use with buckets.
- Regularly check on your horses, preferably twice a day.
- Download a 'Record Form' (on this website) and complete, with photos of your horse. Either print off and keep in a safe place or file on your computer so you can print it off at any time.