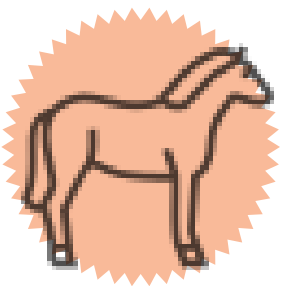


back to basics #EXTRA *Looking for Livery*

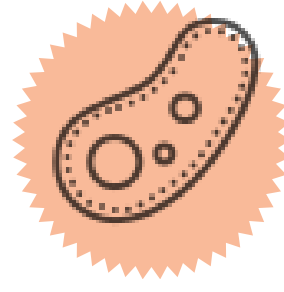
If you're looking for livery, it is important to understand how yards differ in terms of the services they provide, and the prices they charge, and to know what you should be looking for as a horse owner.



Equine Welfare

The most important aspect of any yard

The level of care provided to equines on a yard should be of prime importance. There are expectations related to animal welfare laws and legislation. The responsibility of providing a safe and secure yard, and considerate management and care falls to a yard owner, even for DIY liveries. The yard owner, and their staff, should have suitable experience and knowledge in all aspects of equine management. You should be confident that they are able to provide your horse with the provisions and care it requires.



Biosecurity

Protecting all equines on the yard

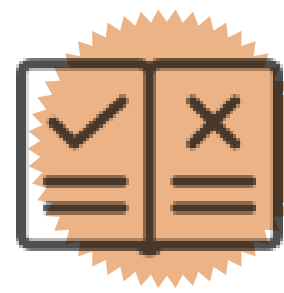
Biosecurity policies are now commonplace on many livery yards. Having processes such as isolation for new arrivals, good cleaning practices, worming programmes, rules for equine movements and an awareness of how infectious disease spreads shows that a yard is actively trying to protect the equines in their care from coming into contact with infectious diseases such as Strangles, Influenza or EHV.



Health and Safety

Keeping horses and human safe

Yards should have a health and safety policy, as well as emergency procedures, first aid kits, and equipment such as fire extinguishers. Yards should also be kept neat and tidy, and well maintained. Yards may also have specific rules in place to ensure the safety of those on the yard- both equines and people.



Yard Rules

Find yard that suits your needs

It is important to find out as much as possible about any potential yard. You should ask about the day-to-day routine, their policies, any specific restrictions they may have- such as winter turnout- or any rules that may not suit your needs. You should also check their rules on visitors and service providers which may include a requirement for relevant insurances to be held.



Client Information

Requirements for business purposes

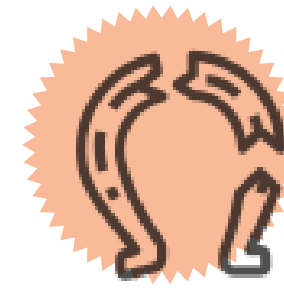
For their business records, it is common for yards to request references, or certain details from horse owners. This could be personal details, next of kin, proof of ID or a copy of your insurance documents. Yards are also required to hold your Horses Passport (a legal requirement for anything more than pure DIY)



Livery Contracts

Knowing the arrangement

Having a written livery contract is just common sense and benefits both sides. A verbal agreement is acceptable but is hard to prove one side or the other in the event of a dispute. Written contracts make clear responsibilities and expectations for both parties, and gives written proof of what has been agreed. This should also include details the owner and the horse, the agreed fees, billing and payment terms, notice periods, and any important rules the yard may have. There should be two copies- one for you, and one for the yard.



Insurance

Making sure everyone is covered

Regardless of livery type, all yards should have professional liability insurance, and Care, Custody and Control (CCC) cover. The latter covers injury or death of a horse under their care, where they may be liable, and you should ensure their policy covers the value of your own horse. It is good practice that a yard ensures all clients hold their own insurance for their horses. This provides cover for any damage, injury or loss that they may cause to the premises, people or other horses on the yard.