



Hurston Dressage and Eventing

Horse Welfare Policy

At Hurston Dressage and Eventing (HDE), horse welfare is at the heart of all we do. We pride ourselves on providing a safe environment for horses to thrive in, whether they're happy hackers, or high-level competition horses. It is important to us that all horses are allowed to be exactly that: horses. In all respects, horse welfare must come first. HDE will endeavour, at all times, to prioritise the welfare of each and every horse in our care and cater to each horse's individual needs. HDE adopts the BEF Charter for the Horse.

Routine

- Our horses are kept in a strict routine with regard to feeding, turnout and stabled time
- This routine will vary according to the time of year – horses are turned out overnight in the summer months, and are stabled overnight during winter
- All horses in our care must be in the same routine, as this helps to keep them settled and stress-free
- Horses are herd animals, and whilst we do not provide group turnout, we ensure that horses can touch one another when in the field
- Our routine does not change on bank holidays, including Christmas and/or Boxing Day

Turnout

- It is important to us that horses have access to turnout all year round
- Horses are turned out for a minimum of six hours a day in the winter, and eighteen hours a day in the summer
- Summer and winter grazing is provided accordingly, and every effort is made to provide good grass throughout the year
- However, if weather conditions prevent the growing of good grass (i.e. drought), hay may be fed in the fields
- In case of adverse weather conditions and turnout is not possible, all horses will be put on the horse walker for 30 mins, twice a day
- Water troughs in fields are cleaned and topped up as dictated by the needs of the horse

Forage, Watering and Feeding

- Horses in our care are provided with ad-lib, high quality forage, which is topped up throughout the day by our staff when stabled
- Clean water is provided at all times
- Horses are fed according to condition, type, size, workload and temperament
- All feed sourced and provided by HDE is of a high quality, although owners are free to source their own feeds should they wish
- Feeding times are kept at regular intervals, as dictated by the needs of the horse

Stable and Paddock Hygiene

- Horses within the care of HDE are mucked out thoroughly once a day, and skipped out at least once a day, if not more frequently
- All wet bedding is removed daily

- Bedding provided is high quality, dust extracted chopped straw, at least two new bales per week of which are added to beds throughout the winter
- Paddocks are cleaned at least once a week, if not more frequently

Grooming and Rug Changes

- Horses in the care of HDE are thoroughly groomed and checked for heat, swelling and signs of lameness, illness and/or injury at least once per day
- Owners are notified immediately if there is any sign of heat, swelling, illness, lameness and/or injury
- Feet are picked out at least twice per day
- Rugs are changed at least twice daily Veterinary and Farriery Appointments
- HDE staff will liaise with vets and farriers according to the needs of the horse
- Horses within our care will be fully vaccinated against 'flu as a minimum, and tetanus is advised
- Passports are left in the care of HDE, but can be requested by owners should the need arise (for example, travelling off site with the horse)
- If HDE staff believe that any horse within their care is in need of urgent veterinary or farriery treatment, they will contact the owner of the horse immediately, and reserve the right to book an appointment with the necessary professional at the owner's expense

Horses in Work

- HDE adopts the FEI Code of Conduct for Horse Welfare for all working horses
- Staff and clients of HDE must not use any training methods that are abusive and/or cause fear to the horse, or which the horse has not been prepared for
- Owners are encouraged to ensure that tack is fitted correctly at all times