



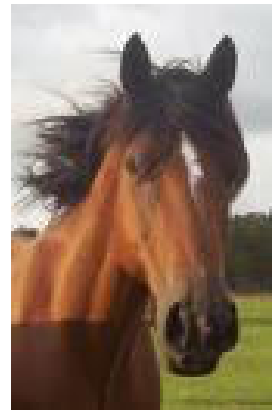
FACT SHEET - HORSES

Keeping horses and ponies is a huge subject and before undertaking to keep one for the first time, it is advisable to read up on it and to gain practical experience at a reputable riding school. Horses need a great deal of your time and commitment and rely on you to keep them healthy and safe.

The basics are:-

Things to consider before owning a horse

- Can I afford it? - feed bills, bedding, veterinary bills, regular farrier bills, tack, rugs and other equipment.
- Have I got adequate stabling and grazing?, or,
- Can I rent adequate stabling and grazing or afford livery fees?
- Have I the time and commitment?
- Have I somewhere safe to ride?
- Do I have the knowledge to feed correctly?
- What will happen when I go on holiday?
- Have I learnt enough about looking after and handling horses?
- Do I know enough about signs of ill health and when to call the vet?
- What type of horse do I want and what do I want to do with it? - hacking and/or competitions.



Horses will need

- To have their feet regularly trimmed or shod by a registered farrier
- The companionship of other horses
- Free access to fresh water
- A well balanced diet including specialist cereal based feeds, hay/haylage, and supplements, fed according to work being done, time of year, access to grazing, type of horse, etc. (an important subject that you will need to research and gain some practical experience with)
- Adequate grazing with access to a field shelter or stable giving somewhere to shelter from the wind and rain and shade from sun
- A regular worming and vaccination programme
- Secure fencing and gates
- Extra care during the winter months

Remember - learn as much as you can and you and your horse or pony will have a great time together for many years

This is intended as a quick guide only. Further information should be obtained before embarking on keeping this type of pet.