

## Annual Health Check Guidelines

### Introduction

RDA is a voluntary organisation and acknowledges that volunteers are vital to its current and future success. Equines, donkeys, mules play a vital role in RDA and must be always handled with awareness and consideration. The health and wellbeing of all our equines is vital to the delivery of a positive experience to all our participants.

### Background

Veterinary checks are imperative to ensure that all equines, donkeys, mules used by RDA groups are healthy during their time and to ensure that any health issue can be dealt with proactively. This will ensure the RDA provide the highest possible standard of service to our participants and will reassure people who loan/donate equines, donkeys, mules that we take the welfare seriously. However, equines who receive annual Riding School Licence checks are exempt from this, as this makes up part of the annual check.

### Guiding Principles:

- The health, welfare and wellbeing of any equine, donkeys, mules owned/long-term loaned by an RDA group supersedes any demands of volunteers, coaches or participants.
- Each RDA Group who owns, or has an equine, donkey or mule on a long term loan agreement, shall keep a record, which includes annual checks and any other reports from the Vet.
- The minimum requirement for an annual check is the equivalent of a Stage 2 vetting with the addition of the horse being walked and trotted on a firm, flat surface to check that the equine shows regularity, suppleness and shows no sign of pain when moving.
- The Annual Health Check Policy is accompanied by an Annual Health Check Form which can be used by the Vet during the examination.
- The group **must** follow guidance from the Veterinary surgeon or professional to provide the best care for their equines, even if this means taking them out of work on a temporary or permanent basis.

## Annual Health Check Form

Equine Details:			
Name:		Age:	
Height:		Sex:	
Colour:		Breed/type:	
Microchip Number:		Passport Number:	
Weight (kgs):		Carrying weight (with tack) st/kgs:	

Body Condition:	0	1	2	3	4	5
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	Checked as normal ✓	Notes
General Condition*		
Temperature*		
Heart*		
Lungs*		
Eyes*		
Skin/Coat* Visual assessment		
Movement* Walk/Trot on flat firm surface in hand		

<b>Worming/Targeted Worm Count</b>  Targeted/Routine Dosing- Circle as appropriate  Discuss any worming treatment if not already in place	Assessed/treated for:  Tapeworm/Redworm/Roundworms/Other  Next worming event due:
<b>Foot Care</b>  Shod/Unshod- Circle as appropriate	Last seen by farrier:  Next due:
<b>Teeth</b>  Vet/BAEDT- Circle as appropriate	Last dental examination:  Next due:

<b>Vaccinations</b> RDA Free Vaccine Scheme	Flu/Tet vaccinations meets RDA requirements: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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Any concerns?

Does the carrying weight of the equine need to be adjusted?

<b>Is the equine fit for work?</b>	Date of next health check: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Reassessment needed <input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>Person Completing Check:</b>	
Name:	
Date:	