



Fireworks

It is worth thinking in advance this year about fireworks as with the current COVID restrictions, we may see more home firework displays rather than larger displays. This may bring with it more challenges and risks to horse owners.

What should I do during the firework period?

The BHS provides this handy checklist advising what to do:

- Look at local newspapers and local shops' notice boards and listen to the local radio station to find out where the displays will be in your area.
- Wherever possible, tell neighbours and local firework display organisers that there are horses nearby, so they can ensure fireworks are set off in the opposite direction and well away from them.
- Decide whether to stable your horse or leave it in the field. It is sensible to keep your horse in its familiar environment, in its normal routine, with any companions to make it feel secure as long as it is not close to the firework display area.
- If stabled, check thoroughly for anything that could cause potential injury, such as protruding nails and string. Ensure the haynet is secured so that your horse can't get caught up if they startle.
- If your horse is to stay in the field, check the fencing is secure and not broken and there are no foreign objects lying around.
- Ensure that you, or someone experienced, stays with your horse if you know that fireworks are being set off.
- If it is absolutely necessary for you to leave your horse in the care of another person during a firework display, then be sure to leave clear instructions and contact details for both you and your vet should any problems arise.
- If you know your horse will be stressed, talk to your vet about sedation, or perhaps consider moving your horse for the night.
- Playing music on a radio positioned outside the stable can often mask sudden noise, distract attention and be soothing. It is a good idea to get your horse used to the radio before the firework display.
- Try to remain calm yourself and keep positive, as horses will sense unease in a person and this may make things worse if the horse is startled.
- It may seem common sense but be aware of your own safety; a startled horse can be dangerous.
- Whatever you do – don't risk riding when you think fireworks might be set off.
- Check if there will be a bonfire near your yard. If there is, make sure you have an emergency fire procedure in place. If you have any doubts, talk to your local fire safety officer.
- Make sure that you have adequate third party liability insurance. If your horse is frightened and escapes, causing an accident, then you could be held liable for compensation.
- If your horse really panics during firework displays and some are planned locally to you it may be necessary to sedate them for their own safety. It is better to talk to your vet in advance to plan this.

What are the laws regarding fireworks near horses?

There are no laws regarding individuals setting light to fireworks on their property for their entertainment. However larger public displays require a permit. It is illegal to set off fireworks by a private individual between 11pm and 7am except on certain nights of the year including New Year's Eve.

It is an offence to cause unnecessary suffering to any domestic animal, so fireworks deliberately lit to stress an animal would be a police matter.

If you do have issues with fireworks please report the incident to the British Horse Society.

What should I do if my horse gets a burn from a firework/lantern/fire?

Please ring us as soon as possible

What do I do if I suspect my horse has eaten part of a firework?

Please ring us as soon as possible.

Warm Welcome

We would like to welcome two new members to the family at Summerleaze. Some of you may already have had the opportunity to speak to them or meet them as part of our nursing and office team.



First we have Emelie Real RVN Ctlls who is likely to be a familiar face to many as she has been part of Coombefield for the last 12 years. Emelie is a Registered Veterinary Nurse and will be assisting our vets with cases in the practice and on the road. Emelie has a certificate in teaching in the life long learning sector so is able to teach veterinary nursing. She has really missed both the farm and equine work so is very much looking forward to working at Summerleaze. Emelie has had horses since she was ten and is now enjoying having done a full circle and being a "pony club mum".



We also welcome Melanie Bailey who will be assisting our vets and working in reception. Mel is also currently due to qualify as a TCAP equine physiotherapist this March (wishing her every luck with her finals). Mel has been involved with the elite thoroughbred bloodstock for the majority of her career based in the UK, Europe and Australia. As a lecturer, she specialised in equine reproduction and behaviour. She is also a published fiction and non fiction author, co-authoring The Horse from Conception to Maturity with Dr P D Rosedale and contributing to Understanding Nervousness in the Horse and Rider as well as several specialist magazines. A sometime triathlete and aspiring ultra-runner, Mel also has her own Highland ponies.

Calendar for 2021

We would like to thank everyone who kindly entered images for our 2021 calendar. We were thrilled with the high calibre of images put forward. And thank you very much to all those who voted each month for their favourite images, as we would have had an impossible task selecting through them. Over the next month or so we will be having the calendars printed so do look out for when they are available to purchase.