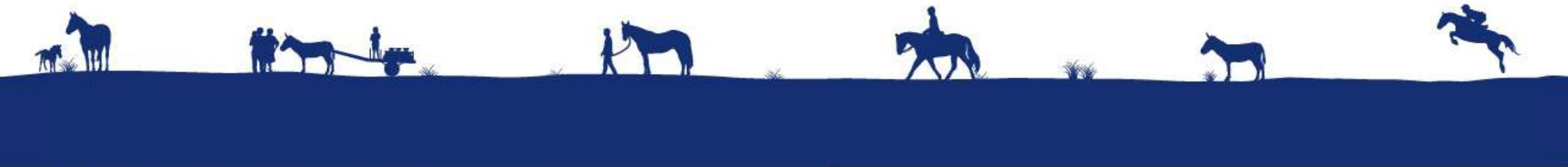


Equine welfare

British Horse Council 30th June 2023

Roly Owers



NEWC survey: equine keepers

- Both surveys ran over Dec 22 – Jan 23
- Over 8, 000 people responded
- Many owners are prioritising caring for their horses over caring for themselves
- 90% said they have experienced increases in horse related costs, such as feed
- While most reported they are able to meet the basic needs of their horses, many owners are having to reduce their routine preventative healthcare practices



NEWC survey: equine welfare establishments

- 36 respondents from across the UK
- All organisations are concerned with the rising cost of living
 - Over 55% saying they are extremely concerned
- Almost all organisations report increases in costs related to general maintenance and equine-related costs
- Fewer than 20% have recovered fully from Covid-19
- The majority are not cutting back on the care of their equines, making savings in other areas such as cheaper forage
- Both surveys are on NEWC's website
- Next steps – the surveys will be repeated this autumn/winter



Kept Animals Bill

- UK Government has dropped the Kept Animals Bill
 - Ban on live exports to slaughter
 - Livestock worrying
- UK Government committed to bringing forward the measures separately as single-issue bills before the end of this Parliament
 - This could be via Private Members Bills or Government Bills
- Relevance
 - While no equine has been declared as being exported to slaughter, there is good reason to believe UK equines are ending their lives in slaughterhouses abroad
 - A ban would make this trade illegal
 - Livestock worrying measures include giving greater powers to police to investigate and would include attacks on the road



Enforcement roundtable

- Parliamentary event held in April 2023
- Objective: to discuss the recommendations of APGAW's report *"Improving the Effectiveness of Animal Welfare Enforcement"*
- Strong attendance – including police, local authorities, animal welfare organisations and vets
- General agreement with a regional approach using shared resources & the need for a dedicated animal welfare officer
- Next steps: APGAW working group to pull together a more detailed plan for the way forward

