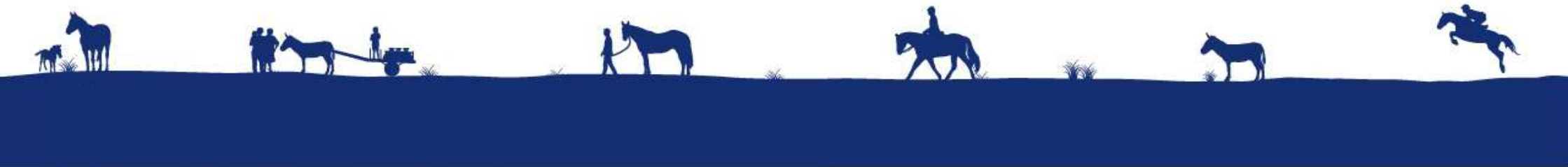


Equine welfare

British Horse Council

Wednesday 8th December 2023

Roly Owers MRCVS



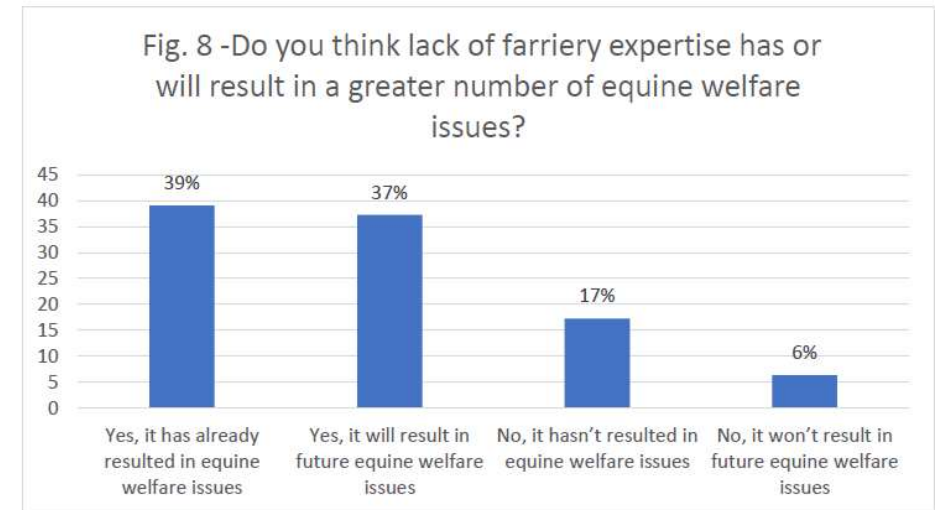
NEWC: farrier survey

- Survey conducted at BFBA Focus 2023
- To establish trends within the UK based farrier population regarding current issues and the future of farriery
- 115 people responded:
 - 96% from England
 - 57% Farrier Registration Council registered farriers
 - 51% practicing less than 15 years



Farrier survey: results

- 71% concerned over the current state of farriery
- 65% concerned about the future of farriery
- Areas of concern include:
 - Lack of apprentices
 - Impact of barefoot trimming
 - 66% negatively impacted by cost of living
- Majority (>75%) felt lack of farriery expertise is or will be an equine welfare issue
- 97% support accreditation and regulation of barefoot trimmers
- Further research is needed: www.newc.co.uk

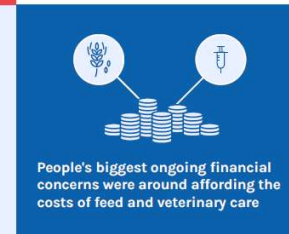
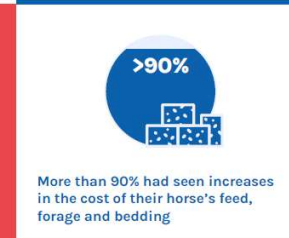
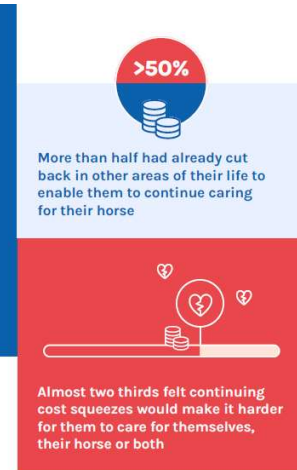
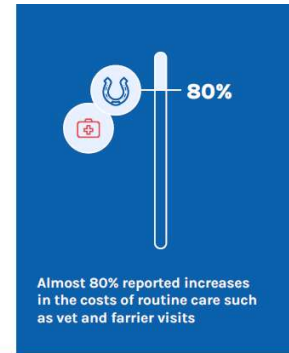


NEWC: cost of living

- Initial results of 2022 survey presented at this June's meeting
- Redwings led on detailed analysis of owner survey: results to be published by end of 2023
- 2023/24 surveys will be launched Jan 24
 - Owner survey
 - Rescue centres and sanctuaries



The National Equine Welfare Council (NEWC) has been a united voice on equine welfare matters for over three decades. Member organisations from across the equine sector have seen for themselves how sharply horse care costs have risen in recent months. In December 2022 and January 2023, a small group of members, conducted a survey on behalf of NEWC. Over 8,000 respondents contributed from across the whole of the UK. The findings are freely available [here](#).



Animal Welfare (Live Exports) Bill

- Welcome the Animal Welfare (Live Exports) Bill
 - 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
- Appropriate control measures will need to be introduced and a multi-agency approach taken
- Digitised equine ID and improved traceability are fundamental BUT:
 - This trade is generally non-compliant across the board
 - There are simple measures that can be immediately introduced once the Bill becomes law
- Single-issue Bill and does not include the livestock worrying measures proposed in the Kept Animals Bill. 2nd reading: Mon 18 Dec

