



Equine welfare

British Horse Council 27 June 2025 Kim Ayling

Updating the Scottish Code of Practice



Sector-led update

Creation of 6 working group - ~40 individuals from over 25 organisations involved

Aimed at those responsible for the care and keeping of horses, ponies and donkey

Sector-led – vital that the breadth of Scotland's equine sector will have an opportunity to review and feed-in comments or queries

Co-design with Scottish Government

Working alongside SG to ensure we are harmonised in our approach and will meet any required timescales/deadlines

Discussions around how the codes may be used in addition to aim

On-going opportunities to collaborate

Look at how we can disseminate key messages from within the code in an accessible and shareable format

Current progress and time-frame



September 24 - Working groups formed

October 24 – February 25 -Working group meetings

March 25 – All first drafts submitted

March - June 2025

– Formatting and initial review of all drafts

July – August 25 –
Formatted drafts circulated out to sector and feedback worked through

September – Final draft circulated for "red flags"

October 25 – Hand over to SG and work together on next steps

Complete by end of 2025

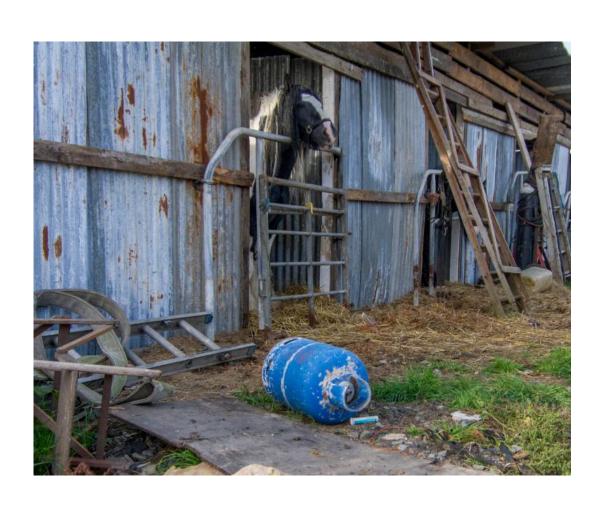
Scotland – FPN consultation



- Consultation on the use of fixed penalty notices for animal health offences – deadline May 2025
- BHC response supported proportionate use of FPNs, highlighting need for:
 - appropriate guidance and training for enforcement agencies
 - electronic data collection
 - scale of harm to be further consulted on for equines

Update: opportunities in England





- June 2025: Second Ministerial roundtable/working groups for companion and non-companion animals
- Animal Welfare Strategy being developed and expected Q4 2025
 - Enforcement expected to be a key theme
- Legislative time constrained EU reset

Progress in Europe





- SPS agreement EU-UK
- The European Commission has published its call for evidence on revision of the EU Animal Welfare legislation
- Welfare during transport:
 - Commission's proposed text is currently being discussed and amended by European Parliament & Council
 - Over 3, 000 amendments in EP
 - Progress expected to be slow