

What is Horse Welfare?

Welcome

The welfare of horses and the safety of both horses and humans during their interactions are vital to the sustainability of horse use in sports and recreation. We are keen to understand the perspectives of equestrians on horse welfare, identifying what is important and areas where improvements are necessary. Your responses will help guide efforts to enhance horse welfare and safety in the equine industry.

Consent

Participation means that you will fill out an online questionnaire on what you think about different aspects of horse welfare. Participation in this research is voluntary, and responses will be anonymized. You can withdraw from this study at any time, before data analysis. If you wish to withdraw from this study please email victoria.lewis@hartpury.ac.uk before 1st April 2025.

The anonymous research data may be used as the basis for further research, articles, and presentations. All research data is stored securely at Hartpury University One Drive. If you have any questions or complaints about this research, please contact Victoria Lewis - victoria.lewis@hartpury.ac.uk.

This research is conducted on behalf of Hartpury University and Equerry Co.

Please indicate below whether you wish to participate. By clicking the 'I agree' button you indicate that you:

- Have read and understood the information above
- Are voluntarily participating in the research
- Are 18 years of age or older

Section 1

Consent Affirmation

1.If you do not want to participate in the research you can click the 'I do not agree' button.
Required to answer. Single choice.

I agree

I do not agree

Section 2

Who are you?

2.How old are you? Required to answer. Single choice.

Under 18

18-24

25-34

35-44

45-54

55-64

65-74

75 and older

3.What is your gender? Required to answer. Single choice.

Female

Male

Non-binary

Prefer not to say

4.If you wish to self-identify please state below: Required to answer. Single line text.

Enter your answer

5.Where are you located? Required to answer. Single choice.

UK or Ireland

Canada

USA

South Africa

Belgium

6.What is your highest level of education? Required to answer. Single choice.

Some high/secondary school

High school diploma/GCSE/CSE

AS/A Level/GCE/Matric

Some university or college

College diploma

Bachelor's degree

Master's degree

PhD

Professional certification

7.Do you have any formal equine education? Please check all that apply. Required to answer. Multiple choice.

University/Higher Education courses

Equine diploma or certificate

Equine veterinary medicine

Full coaching certificate (e.g. BHS, UKCC, ABRS, EQASA)

Rider level program/management courses

Pony Club

8.In what capacity are you primarily involved with horses? Required to answer. Single choice.

I own or work for a company/organisation that works directly with horses (e.g. riding school, private coach, livery yard, breeding/stud, training stable, welfare - primary sector)

I own or work for a company that produces horse-related products (e.g. tack, clothing, feed, stable supplies - secondary sector)

I own or work for a company that provides horse-related services (e.g. health, education, governance - tertiary sector)

I own or have access to one or more horses and ride competitively at a professional level (nationally or internationally)

I own or have access to one or more horses and ride competitively at an amateur level

I own or have access to one or more horses and ride recreationally and do not compete in official competitions

I own one or more horses that are not ridden

I do not own a horse and ride at a riding school

9. How many years have you been involved in the horse industry? Required to answer. Single choice.

0-5

6-10

11-20

21-30

30 years or more

10. Which disciplines are you involved with? Please check all that apply. Required to answer. Multiple choice.

Dressage

Jumping

Eventing

Endurance

Showing

Polo

Hunting

Riding Club

Western

Mounted Games

Vaulting

Trail Riding/Recreational

11.Are you affiliated with any horse organisations? Please list. Multi Line Text.

Enter your answer

12.How many hours a week do you spend directly with horses? Required to answer. Single choice.

☐

1-5

6-15

16-35

More than 35

Section 3

Equine Husbandry

13.A friend wants to stable her horse at a livery/boarding facility with welfare as a top priority. What advice would you give her? Multi Line Text.

Enter your answer

Section 4

Riding

14.A close acquaintance's daughter has just started riding. What should she know or be able to do to become a good rider and ensure horse welfare? Required to answer. Multi Line Text.

Enter your answer

Section 5

Back in Time

15.Thinking back to the start of your horse career: what do you wish you had known or been able to do then that you can do or know now? Required to answer. Multi Line Text.

Enter your answer

16. Would you do anything differently? Required to answer. Multi Line Text.

Enter your answer

Section 6

Interacting with Horses

17. What do you think everyone who interacts with horses should know or be able to do? Required to answer. Multi Line Text.

Enter your answer

18. Are there any current challenges you face in interacting with horses? Consider things you might be afraid to do or unsure how to approach. Perhaps you sometimes need some support or you are unsure who to turn to with questions or concerns. Required to answer. Multi Line Text.

Enter your answer

Section 7

Welfare and Training Practices

19. Do you think traditional horse training methods are appropriate, or are there other techniques that may improve horse welfare? Required to answer. Multi Line Text.

Enter your answer

20. Can we improve the welfare of horses in all areas of their lives? Where should we focus? Required to answer. Multi Line Text.

Enter your answer