

Advice on loaning your horse



Loaning your Horse

Never loan a horse without a written agreement. This might be your only proof in the event that the horse is sold on. Take nothing for granted, even with friends. Be businesslike. Putting your horse out on loan or lease can seem an ideal solution if circumstances prevent you from looking after it, but what if you do not want to sell.

It is ESSENTIAL that written agreement is drawn up that will protect the interests of the owner, borrower and horse and should always be undertaken, even if the owner and borrower know each other well.

To protect you, it should be dated and signed by both parties and a witness. The criminals out there will fool you into giving your Horse up for loan and then they will be sold from under your nose.

Before answering an advert offering to take horses on loan, watch the ads for a few months. Does the same ad keep appearing - sometimes with different names? Be suspicious.

If answering an advert, ignore those advertisers that only list a mobile number. Look for a landline number and phone that one. Use the mobile number, only after you've made initial contact. Also try to confirm the number using directory enquiries.

- Always "vet" the prospective loanee. Ask for their address. Be very suspicious if they refuse or make excuses.
- Ask to see utility bills or other proof of residence.
- Try to make contact with their local tack shops and feed merchants to see if they know the Loanee.
- Let prospective loanees spend time with your horse and watch how they handle him.
- If possible, don't let the loanee collect the horse, but deliver him yourself.
- Ensure the horse is freezemarked and/or microchipped