

Advice on mane & tail plaiting



Horsewatch and Police regularly receive calls and reports of horses and ponies with plaits in their mane or tail. Plaits have always thought to have been a way of 'marking' horses for theft. But there are NO REPORTS in the UK of any horses/ponies being stolen/or attempts being made to steal them after beng plaited.

Some plaits are actually 'wind tangles' and occur naturally in longer manes.

Surrey Horsewatch investigated 'plaits' and this is what they discovered:

After studying the various reported cases of plaiting, we found that 2 things stood out:

- Several weeks would pass with no reports, then suddenly it was found that dozens of reports came in within a few days of each other, then die down to nothing again for several weeks.
- Having studied the dates of when the plaiting takes place it was discovered that they fitted in with White Witchcraft Festival dates. So one of our members contacted a friend who lives in Somerset and who is a White Witch and put this to her. This was her reply:

" The first festival is Imbolc on Feb 2nd, Spring Equinox on 20th March, Beltane 30th May, Summer Solstice 21st June. Lughnasadh 31st July – the latter 2 are masculine festivals and generally honor gods rather than goddesses. The next big festivals on the Pagan Wheel are Samhain 31st October and Winter Solstice on Dec 21st.

There may also be other dates when the plaiting happens that are personal to a particular 'witch'. Full moons may also be used if she is performing a particular piece of magic.

I understand that it's worrying for you but I honestly think that horses are very special to these people and that they would do anything to protect them.

When asked 'Why don't they just ASK!?' – she replied that it weakens the spell if they speak about it, so I know it's very, very worrying but if it is this reason, then their intentions are never ever malicious. "

If you are still worried, please do not hesitate to contact your local Police and Horsewatch. If possible move your horse/pony to a different field/location and step up your security just in case.