Hi,

One of the best things about working within the RDA community has always been the knowledge that great things are happening all the time, across the UK to support so many people. So, as we enter ever more strange and unsettling times, it is sad that so much has had to stop happening across our own network and beyond. I am very conscious of the many people who are having to forego their regular “horse fix” – whether as a rider, a driver or a volunteer – and how disappointing this will be; and for some of our participants it will be hard to understand and accept what is happening. I am also conscious of the RDA groups that have to care for horses and ponies and the very real concern that this situation creates around that. Please be assured that my thoughts are with you and the team is doing everything it can to help.

However, it is also the time to stress that RDA is, and remains, an optimistic and hopeful organisation. I have been encouraged by the messages from volunteers, groups and participants offering support and practical ideas to get through this. Whether it is about fundraising, caring for horses or ideas for participants stuck at home, RDA people are being creative and proactive. Above all, RDA is a community of people supporting each other and, it is good to see this in action all over the UK. Please keep in touch with us - and each other - and please keep sharing those positive ideas and stories – it is this kind of optimistic spirit that has driven RDA for more than 50 years and will help us through this crisis.

With so many restrictions in place for all of us, it has never been more true that “It’s what you can do that counts”. Rest assured that the RDA UK team is doing everything we can to support you and we will remain in regular contact.

So, we will get through this together. It may well change some of the ways that we do things for a long time, but it won’t stop the spirit of this organisation.

With best wishes



Ed Bracher
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