RDA UK Update 1 July

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**Direct phone line for group support**

From today, to help groups with queries during lockdown and as they get started with RDA activities; there is a new way to access support from National Office if you need it. There will now be someone to take your calls every weekday from 10.00 - 1.00 and 2.00 - 4.00 on a dedicated phone line: **07599 236 036**. If it goes to voicemail during this time, please leave a message and someone will get back to you. You can also email [groupssupport@rda.org.uk](mailto:groupssupport@rda.org.uk) any time.

From 20 July we will be processing group orders again; you can place orders via <http://grouporders.rda.org.uk/>.

**Alternative activities**

For those groups who want to get up and running again but where riding or driving isn’t possible yet, our working group is busy looking into alternative activities that you may be able to offer instead.

The first is called “Quiet Corner” – a chance for participants to safely return and spend time with their favourite pony whilst being able to maintain social distancing. The guidance, which can be adapted to suit your group, along with the example session risk assessment can be found at [www.myrda.org.uk/runningyourgroup/getting-started-after-lockdown/](http://www.myrda.org.uk/runningyourgroup/getting-started-after-lockdown/)

If you have your own ideas for alternative activities that you would like to share, please email Jo Hayward at [jhayward@rda.org.uk](mailto:jhayward@rda.org.uk).

**Riding school license inspections**

We have been informed by the BEF that some Local Authorities are extending riding school licenses for up to three months, because they are unable to carry out inspections at the moment due to a backlog of work. Apparently, it is a mixed picture across the UK, so the advice for riding schools is if you should be having an inspection in the coming weeks, contact your Local Authority, discuss the situation with them and put in an application for the license to be extended until such time as an inspection can take place.

**Easing of lockdown off the UK mainland**

Restrictions have been easing at a different rate for some of our groups. Congratulations to our groups on Guernsey and the Isle of Man, which can reopen without any restrictions (while maintaining good hygiene practices and staying vigilant). On Jersey, 1m social distancing is in place, with some contact with those outside of their household allowed, so they too are ahead of the rest of the UK.