ANNUAL HEALTH CHECK POLICY
FOR RDA GROUP OWNED/LONG TERM LOANED EQUINES
(this will become Policy from 01/01/2021)

Introduction

RDA is a voluntary organisation and acknowledges that volunteers are vital to its past, ongoing and future success. RDA relies on the dedication and commitment of volunteers in order to make the organisation thrive and provide regular and active sessions for individuals with a disability. Equines also play a vital role in RDA and must be handled with awareness and consideration at all times. The health and wellbeing of all our equines is vital to the delivery of a positive experience to all our participants.

Background

RDA requires Vet checks to ensure that all equines owned by, or long-term loaned to RDA Groups are healthy during their time with their group and to ensure that any health issue with an equine can be dealt with proactively. This will allow RDA to provide the highest possible standard of service to our participants and will reassure people who loan/donate equines that we take their welfare seriously.

Policy Principles:

1. The health and wellbeing of any equine owned/long-term loaned by an RDA group supersedes any demands of volunteers or participants.

2. Each RDA Group which owns, or has an equine on a long term loan agreement, shall keep a register, with a record of annual checks and any other reports from the Vet.

3. Each equine owned by, or long term loaned to an RDA group shall be subject to an annual health check. This can include a check of an equine's condition when a Vet visits to administer a flu vaccine or any other routine visit to the group.

4. The minimum requirement for a check is the equivalent of a Stage 1 vetting* with the addition of the horse being walked and trotted on a firm, flat surface to check that the equine shows regularity, suppleness and shows no sign of pain when moving. The importance of keeping up with vaccinations and the RDA Free Vaccine Scheme should be discussed if not already in use.

5. The Annual Health Check Policy is accompanied by an Annual Health Check Form which can be used by the Vet during the examination.

6. The group **must** follow guidance from the Vet to provide the best care for their equines, even if this means taking them out of work on a temporary or permanent basis.

*Stage 1 vetting - This is a through external examination of the animal at rest using visual observation, palpation and manipulation to detect clinically apparent signs of injury, disease or physical abnormality. It includes an examination of the teeth, a thorough examination of the equines eyes as well as a listen to the heart & lungs for any abnormalities.

ANNUAL HEALTH CHECK FORM

Name:	Group Name:	Date:

Microchip Present Yes/No Microchip Number:	Age:	Height:	Mare / Gelding

Identified from Passport? Yes/No	Weight: kgs	Current carrying weight (inc tack): st/kgs

Examination   *mandatory requirement as per Annual Health Check Policy*   Body Condition Score: 0   1   2   3   4   5

	Checked as normal ✔	Notes
General Condition*		
Temperature*		
Heart*		
Lungs*		
Eyes*		
Skin/Coat* Visual assessment		
Movement* Walk/Trot on flat firm surface in hand		
Worming Discuss any worming treatment if not already in place	Circle as appropriate	Targeted/Routine dosing Assessed/treated for: Tapeworm/Redworm/Round worms/Other Next worming event due:
Foot care	Circle as appropriate	Shod/Unshod Last seen by farrier: Next due:
Teeth	Circle as appropriate	Last dental examination: Seen by: Vet/BAEDT Next due:
Vaccinations Discuss RDA Free Vaccine Scheme	Flu/Tet vaccinations meets RDA requirements: Yes ☐ No ☐	Any other concerns?
Does the carrying weight of the equine need to be adjusted for a medical reason?		

Is the equine fit for work?	Vet Stamp:
Yes/No/Reassessment needed	
Date of next health check:	Vet Signature: