



Information on restarting activity, for RDA Groups based at commercial riding schools

Restarting activity as an RDA Group after such a long time is an exciting but challenging opportunity. The information you need concerning legal requirements and protocols can be found on the My RDA website at: <https://www.myrda.org.uk/runningyourgroup/getting-started-after-lockdown/>

Equines

Once all the requirements have been met and the protocols put in place we then need to turn to the equines.

You will find the form to reassess equines at: www.myrda.org.uk/runningyourgroup/horses-and-rda/

The reasoning behind this is that most riding schools will not have been operating for 12 months. It is, therefore, like starting afresh at a new centre. We have a duty of care to our participants and volunteers, and a duty to consider equine welfare. The equines should be weighed, or the RDA calculation made, and condition scored. Then, based on the results, the carrying capacity should be calculated.

Please visit the following link to find and download the calculator:
www.myrda.org.uk/runningyourgroup/horses-and-rda/health-welfare/

Communication with the riding school

To ensure the restart goes as smoothly as possible it is essential to have good communication with the riding school (preferably just one person from the RDA Group).

We must explain to them what we are doing and why, show them the forms and discuss what we do.

Ensure they understand that the focus is totally equine welfare based, we are determined to take the greatest care possible of the horses they hire to us.

Reassure them that we are not doubting their knowledge, skills and abilities – but are working together to maintain a high standard of equine welfare.

Please feel free to contact your Regional Equine Advisor, RDA National Office (Emma Bayliss Projects Coordinator, Equine: ebayliss@rda.org.uk) or RDA National Equine Lead Doug Smith at riwm2@hotmail.com for further help and advice.