**Horse and Rider Combination Assessment Form**

This form is to be used in association with our RDA Weight Chart and Guidelines. In line with the guidelines, an RDA horse/pony’s maximum weight carrying capacity is generally no more than 16.7% of the horse’s body weight. Please take into consideration the points overleaf before coming to a conclusion.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date: |  | Venue: |  |
| Group Name: |  | Region Name: |  |
| Rider Name |  | Horse Name:  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of Assessor: |  |
| Role in RDA UK: |  |
| Rider Companion Name: (if present) |  |
| Role/Relationship to rider: |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Rider weight incl tack (kgs) |  |
| Horse’s Height (hh) |  |
| Horse weight – (kgs) |  |
| Max. Carrying weight of horse(16.7% of horses body weight) |  |
| Horse Body Condition Score | 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 3.5 4 4.5 5 |
| Does the horse have any medical or orthopaedic condition?  | …………………………………………………………………………………….……………………………………………………………………………………. |
| Is the horse receiving any Non-Steroid Anti Inflammatory Drugs? (NSAIDS) |  Yes No |
| Additional Notes:  |
| **Current riding weight % of horse body weight** |  |
| Is the combination deemed as suitable? | Yes No |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Assessor  | Rider/Group Representative |
| Signed: |  | Signed: |  |
| Print Name: |  | Print Name: |  |

**Guidance Notes to accompany Horse and Rider Combination Assessment Form**

To ensure that we are maintaining a healthy and happy workforce of horses, RDA has provided our weight carrying guidance for a number of years. This guidance works out the maximum carrying weight an equine should carry; this is 16.7 % of their totally body weight. It may be necessary to reduce this percentage further, for example in:

* Horses that are of a condition score of 1-2 or 4-5 (i.e. underweight or overweight)
* Horses with an underlying medical or orthopaedic condition
* Horse with a conformational defect
* Horses showing signs of ageing
* Horses that may have been out of work for a long period of time and need time to regain fitness.
* Riders that are unbalanced or riding on one side more than the other.

**Assessing an Equine**

* The Maximum Carrying Weight of an equine is the maximum Total Weight (Load) it should carry. This includes the Riding Weight of the Rider plus additional tack weight.
* Each equine is different – its **Maximum Carrying Weight must be assessed by a knowledgeable person and agreed with its owner/registered keeper**.
* Maximum Carrying Weight is assessed on breed, conformation, body condition score. fitness and age, not just height.
* Powerful short coupled equines with strong bone will carry more than lighter boned or long backed animals of the same height.
* An equine which is old or “soft” and overweight or has a low body condition score can carry less weight than a similar animal that is well muscled (fit) and in good general condition.

Donkeys – The recommended maximum carrying weight for a “fit” donkey is \* 8st (51kg). (This includes Riding Weight of Rider plus Tack).

**A Rough Guide to Calculating the Load an Equine is Capable of Carrying**

If you don’t have scales large enough to stand an equine on, you can work out the body weight of the equine by using the following calculation:

Weight in kgs = Girth2 (cms) x length (cms)

 11880

Next divide total body weight by 6 for max. carrying weight in kgs.

*(Length = point of shoulder to point of buttock)*

**This will give you the maximum weight carrying capacity which works out to be at 16.7% of the equine’s body weight**. (This is before taking into consideration the guidance below)

**Assessing Horse & Rider Combination**

* Riders of the same scale weight may have different riding weights.
* For example, if you have an unbalanced rider with low core stability, they will ride heavier – therefore you need to make an addition to their “scale” weight. (see below for example)
* Any tall rider on too small a pony unbalances it and adds to its load.