**Veterinary Decision Making for RDA Equines in an Emergency**

* It could be that a volunteer, a coach, family member or a participant comes across an emergency situation including an equine and everybody who is involved in the care of an equine should be aware of what to do.
* Produce a document agreed by your Trustees which outlines key information about each horse and any factors pertinent to its treatment and display it prominently. Keep a copy in your equine first aid kit.
* Share this information with your Veterinary Surgeon so they are aware of any factors which may influence their treatment.
* All Vets will provide emergency first aid (eg. stopping bleeding, alleviating pain) without consent but anything more (eg. stitching up the wound) requires consent from the ‘owner’
* Make it clear to everybody who can make decision and provide multiple options in case they cannot contact the primary person
* Update your document regularly as factors relating to your equines change.
* Vets cannot predict the future however they can give 2 types of prognosis which may aid in your decision making.
  + Prognosis for survival – Poor, moderate, good
  + Prognosis for return to current work level – Poor, moderate, good

**In an emergency situation:**

1. Do not approach an equine that is in pain or distress
2. **Call vet (insert Vets Name and contact details)**  – if you are unsure whether to call then call vets for advice or call one of the decision makers below if the situation is non-urgent
3. Get emergency bag from tack room (including headcollar and long line)
4. Call RDA decision makers to make them aware of the situation
5. If you have received training in first aid then proceed as long as there are **2 people present**

The following people can make decisions for our equines and should be contacted in the following order.

**RDA Decision Makers**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Contact Number** | **Role** | **Consent for routine treatment** | **Consent for emergency treatment** | **Consent for surgery** | **Consent for euthanasia** |
| EXAMPLE  Mr B | 0123456789 | Centre Manager | Yes | Yes | No | Yes |
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| **Name** | **Age** | **Owned/ loaned** | **Medical conditions** | **Current medications** | **Colic Surgery?** | **Other Surgery? (wound, joint flush etc.)** | **Insured?** | **Emergency treatment limit (total per condition)** | **Consent for treatment/euthanasia** |
| **EXAMPLE**  Parsnip | 6 | Owned | Arthritis  Equine Asthma  PPID | Bute 1g twice daily  Ventipulmin as required  1 prascend tablet once daily | Yes – limit £3k – prognosis for **survival** must be moderate or higher (Parsnip has a companion home if required) | Yes – limit £3k – prognosis for **survival** must be moderate or higher (Parsnip has a companion home if required) | No (£3k ringfenced funds from a donor) | £3k | RDA decision makers as above |
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**Transportation of Equines in an emergency**

The following people may be contacted to transport one of our equines in an emergency. Add their fee and payment method if applicable.



**Euthanasia of Equines**

**Example**

* Where possible equines should be euthanased in the back paddock next to the shed on the flat piece of grass
* They should be covered in a rug with stones used to weight them down until uplift is possible
* All gates should be closed and the No Entry sign put on the gate
* Where an equine cannot be moved and has to be euthanased elsewhere on the premises they should be covered well, any access points/stable doors closed and cones/signage put up to try to ensure other group premises users do not come across the equine

**Disposal of equines**

The following people may be contacted to dispose of our equines. Add their fee and payment method if applicable as well any requests regarding individual cremation, ashes etc.