



Rutland Polo Club

Pony Welfare Newsletter

Welcome to the latest issue of our pony welfare newsletter from:

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If you have any questions please contact the Jos on **07803 906639** or use the following email address:
itsjos@hotmail.com



Dear Rutland Polo Club Members,

I am very happy to introduce myself as your new club welfare officer. I currently work as a specialist equine veterinary surgeon for both the University of Nottingham Vet School and Oakham Veterinary Hospital and have been qualified and working in equine practice since 2000. I have been playing polo since September 2013 and now have a mini string of 2 ponies! I very much welcome the opportunity to work with you all to make sure pony welfare at Rutland Polo Club is of the utmost priority. If you have any concerns please feel free to speak to me directly (07803 906639 or email meitsjos@hotmail.com)

Firstly, just a reminder of the duty of Club Welfare officers:

We are authorised by the HPA (Chief Welfare officer Mr. David Morley, david@polopermits.co.uk tel: 07836 636100) and have a duty to check the following:

- Vaccination and general health status of the ponies
- Aged ponies
- Ponies are tied up sensibly at lorries, trailers and pony lines
- Headcollars are not left hanging
- Horseboxes for ventilation and partitions - <http://www.hpa-polo.co.uk/ponies/transport/>
- Blood in the mouth or on flanks
- Turnout of umpire ponies
- That ponies do not travel in studs
- Ponies are watered after polo
- Tack and studs
- Use of tongue ties
- Use of muzzles

We can also submit reports for:

- Excessive use of the whip or spurs
- Dangerous riding
- Any abuse of ponies on or off the ground
- Any use of non-registered vets or farriers

I would urge all Patrons and their Grooms as well as referring to the rules and regulations blue book to also read the HPA pony welfare guidelines booklet which is written in both English and Spanish.



HPA Polo - Pony Welfare - <http://www.hpa-polo.co.uk/ponies/welfare/>

Secondly, in the last newsletter, you were alerted to the updated information regarding the new passport application form and third party insurance - <http://www.hpa-polo.co.uk/ponies/passports/>

Ponies that have passports registered with a DEFRA approved passport issuing organisation (PIO) within Europe, provided the passport complies with the current regulations **WILL NOT** require a new HPA Passport

BUT these passports must be registered with the HPA so that owners that are members of the HPA are entitled to the HPA third party insurance cover (previously known as over-stamp)

I would also like to alert you to the fact that all HPA passports that were sent out PRIOR to 18th November 2014 **WITHOUT** a number with the prefix 826052HPA***** are **no longer valid.**

Finally, I am off to the HPA Welfare meeting in Ascot on April 5th 2016 and will report back any relevant updates after this. I also look forward to putting some names to faces at the AGM on April 10th 2016 at the Falcom Hotel, Uppingham - visit the club website for details. <http://www.rutlandpoloclub.co.uk/>

Best Wishes for a fun and safe season for ponies and players,

Jos Habershon-Butcher - BVetMed CertEM(IntMed) DipECEIM MRCVS