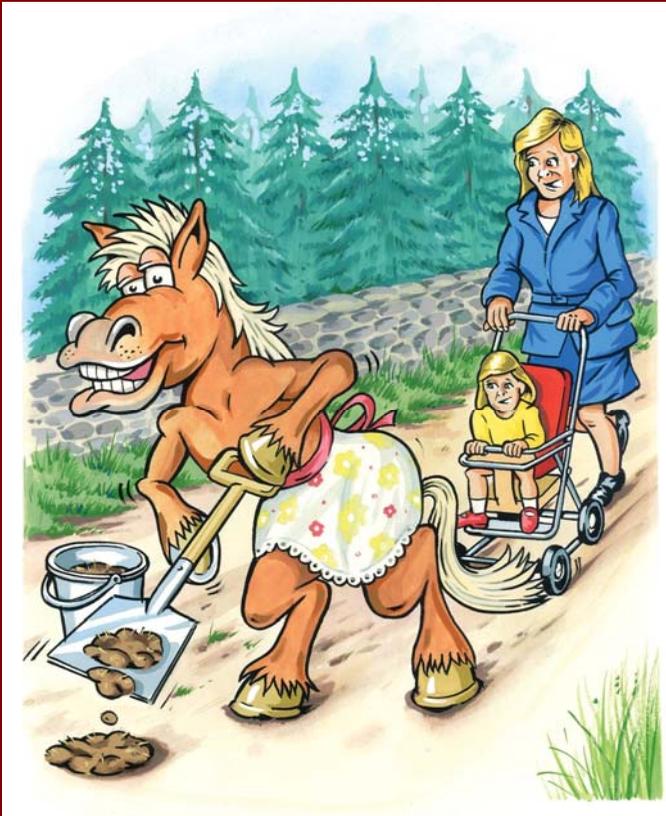


Dung Guidance



This guidance applies to Scotland only.

Overview

This booklet contains BHS Scotland advice on responsible dung management whilst riding in the countryside.

Since the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 horse riders and carriage drivers have a right of responsible access to many more paths and tracks than before.

Although no legislation requires riders or carriage drivers to pick up their horse's dung, often having a "dung strategy" is a sensible move that could preserve your rights of access to certain areas in the future.

Hygiene

- Horse dung is mainly digested grass.
- Horse dung is good for biodiversity and is useful in a compost bin in small amounts.
- Horse dung is biodegradable.
- Unlike dog faeces, horse dung from a healthy horse presents no threat to human health.
- It's different for dogs. Under the Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003 it is an offence if a person does not immediately remove their dog's faeces from any public open space. This includes rider or drivers who take their dog with them and includes paths, tracks, the beach etc.

Some interesting facts

- Horses usually dung within a short distance of the start of the ride.
- Some horses never dung when exercised.
- Some horses will automatically stop, some will slow down, others will dung at any speed and the rider may be unaware.

Dung and public roads

There is no legislation to oblige riders and carriage drivers to clean up their horse's dung from public roads, but:

- If a rider is on a road and their horse has dropped outside someone's driveway, and it is safe to do so, it would be courteous to dismount and kick the dung into the gutter (but only if the road is clear and your horse is amenable)
- Carriage drivers could carry a bucket and shovel with them to lift and remove dung and take it home, where it is safe to do so.
- It would be courteous for riding schools and livery yards that regularly use public roads close by their yard to do a regular "poo run" to clear dung from these roads.

Dung and paths, tracks and other off-road routes

If your horse dungs on a multi-use path, especially on a path used by cyclists, wheelchairs or prams, it is courteous and responsible to:

- position your horse at the side of the path if you can before it starts, or
- dismount and kick it to the side. Please only kick the dung though, and not the path surface too.

As above for roads, it would be courteous to riding schools and livery yards to do a regular "poo run" to clear dung from local paths.

Car parks

Never clean out your horsebox or trailer in a car park, lay by or onto a path. If your horse dungs whilst tied up outside your vehicle please pick it up and take it home with you.

Further information

This leaflet applies to Scotland only. For more information contact:

Helene Mauchlen
Development Officer for Scotland
BHS Scotland
Woodburn Farm
Crieff PH7 3RG

Tel 01764 656334
Mob 07808 141077
Email h.mauchlen@bhs.org.uk

For more information about equestrian access, welfare, safety, training and tourism, please go to our website:

www.bhsscotland.org.uk

For information about the position in England & Wales please contact:

Access & Rights of Way Department
The British Horse Society
Abbey Park, Stareton
Kenilworth
Warwickshire CV8 2XZ

Tel 01926 707814
Email access@bhs.org.uk

www.bhs.org.uk

For more information about the position in Ireland, please contact:

Off-road riding development officer
Heather Hoffman
BHS Ireland

Tel 028 4277 2422
Email h.hoffman@bhs.org.uk

www.bhsireland.com