



CORONA VIRUS LIVERY UPDATE

HORSE EXERCISE – EFFECTIVE FROM 27TH MARCH TO 27TH APRIL

This is a **very controversial subject** and opinions differ wildly. So, I am going to be blunt, straight to the point & opinionated. If we collectively cannot come to an agreement that is fair, workable and protects staff health & safety we will operate an outright ban on all forms of equine exercise by liveries and effectively close access for all but DIY's. There are a lot of yards that are already operating an outright ban and we are trying to work a **very limited package** of access for liveries to allow **essential exercise**.

Firstly, I must point out that travelling to exercise a horse is **NOT CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL BY THE AUTHORITIES**. In some areas, police are stopping vehicles and asking the reason for travel – **you may be fined** if you are travelling to exercise/visit your horse unless you are the primary/only care giver and the purpose of your journey is to give care not to exercise. Just letting you know!

Secondly, I must point out that almost all horses are absolutely fine with a period of time off with daily turnout. A nice holiday for most! Slightly inconvenient to bring back into work, but in my opinion (said I was going to be opinionated) that is a tiny, miniscule inconvenience compared to the issues our country faces.

What is Essential Exercise?

You might consider exercise essential for these reason (let me know if you have others not listed here):

1. Your horse is very fit, and you feel you must have time to reduce fitness to protect your horse from potential medical complications.
2. Your horse is old or has a medical condition e.g. arthritis, that means that no exercise would potentially cause medical complications or significant detriment to health or quality of life.
3. Your horse is a crazy nut and without work it may become unmanageable or difficult to manage.
4. Your horse is currently in rehabilitation that cannot be delayed.

Is it essential for YOU to exercise the horse?

As we must all make efforts to reduce unnecessary travel, if you feel your horse fits any of these categories, please ask yourself if it's possible/practical for GBEC staff to do this for you? We may be able to:

1. Lunge or loose school
2. Ride in the school

Exercise anyway?

If your horse doesn't exactly fit the above categories, but you are anxious to keep them in light work, at the moment we can still offer exercise options (apart from hacking). As staff do not have to travel specially to perform this service, we can offer it without impact on the travel situation. I think DIY's coming for care giving and those that can walk to the yard do also have this advantage? Please note if your horse is already in a regular exercise program we will continue as normal for the time being (Blue, Bart etc).

EVERYONE

In order to maintain social distancing and avoid peak times for riding, if you want to carry out any exercise of your horse, you must apply for an exercise slot which would be ½ or 1 hour. For full/part liveries you can turn up a little before your slot and stay for only the necessary time to tack up/untack/wash down (we're talking 15 mins each side really). We will allow maximum of 2 exercise slots at the same time.

If you would like to be included on the rota to exercise your horse, please fill out this QUESTIONNAIRE. Please note: if any time we have pressure from any authority, we will have to stop all equine exercise (bear in mind, unless you are in the indoor people can see you riding/exercising your horse and we have to the follow government instructions, maintain insurance & BHS approval).

If you are going to stay away for the duration, no need to respond – we'll see you on the other side 😊