

Information sheet No. 4



Don't sit back and say, "It will never happen to my horse", because it may!

Be aware when:

- Corner mangers are removed from frames.
- Buckets are removed from holders.
- Rugs are removed.
- Rugs are replaced wrongly.
- Kick bolts are undone.
- Horses are let out of stables.
- Horses are caught and shut in stables.
- Horses are 'uneasy' for no apparent reason.

Take steps to protect your horse:

- Check dock/sheath areas daily.
- Get to know your horse's general behaviour in/out of the stable.
- Know your horse's normal temperature.
- Unexplained lethargy.
- Off food - having eliminated usual reasons.
- Horse becomes wary of you/anyone behind them.
- Sudden change of behaviour/on the defence.
- Check muzzle for soreness/red spots.
- Check for signs of rope burns around neck and legs.
- Speak to your Crime Prevention Officer about stable security and take their advice.
- Have your horse freezebranded and purchase a sign to display stating your home/stable has been security marked. Patches can also be purchased to sew onto your rugs.
- Lock all stable equipment (forks, brooms, shovels) away as they could be used as a weapon.
- Lock all wheelbarrows away so they cannot be used to carry away your equipment.
- Never leave baling twine around as it could be used to restrain your horse.
- Never leave headcollars on at night as it makes horses easy to catch and handle by strangers.
- If your field is secure (gates/fencing) and your horse is easy to catch, do not leave a headcollar on.
- Make sure your paddock gate is chained and padlocked.
- Reverse the top hinge on the gate to make it impossible to lift off.

- Post and rail is better than barbed/plain wire. Wire is easily cut.
- Purchase a grill for the top door if your horse does not like to be shut in completely. The grill can be taken down during the day. If your stable has door connectors, a grill will deter anyone from climbing over to bypass the alarm. Make sure the lower door is not too low, also allowing a bypass.
- Check your horse several times daily, but not at the same time everyday. If your horse(s) is at grass during the day, make sure you get them in before it gets dark, as inspecting them for injuries is difficult without daylight or electric light.
- If you stable on a DIY yard, start a night time check on a rota with other owners. Carry a torch and never go alone. A simple and cheap alarm to install can be run from a 12v battery, but remember it has to be heard. So if there is a house nearby, get to know the residents. Give them your telephone number in case of emergencies or anyone suspicious hanging around.
- Be aware of your surroundings so you quickly notice if things are wrong or missing.
- Purchase a hitchlock, wheel clamp and letters for the roof for your trailer/horsebox showing your postcode.

If you notice anyone or a vehicle around your stable or area acting suspiciously, take note of the registration number and colour, and description of the person. **INFORM THE POLICE!**