

Gipping Riding Society

Equine Welfare Policy

Gipping Riding Society (GRS) aims to place welfare as the primary consideration when riding, training and caring for equines. At all times the welfare of the horse must be paramount.

Gipping Riding Society will operate within the British Equestrian Federation's guidance (www.bef.co.uk) and that of British Riding Clubs (www.bhs.org.uk)

Gipping Riding Society will promote:

- training appropriate to horses' physical capabilities.
- training at the level of horses' maturity.
- an appropriate use of artificial aids.
- horses and riders being fit, competent and in good health and condition when involved in club activities.
- horses not being overworked at club activities
- education of good horse management; including feeding, hoof care and appropriate, well fitting tack
- horses being transported safely and with good welfare being maintained.
- good horse welfare at club events by avoiding inappropriate surfaces, extreme weather, compromised site safety etc
- every club member, visiting rider and coach accepting their responsibility to uphold the highest levels of equine welfare.
- and publish the current policy on the club website www.gippingridingsociety.com

This policy will be promoted through:

- items in the monthly Chairman's Chat.
- being a membership requirement.
- using Accredited Coaches
- guest speakers.
- Risk Assessments
- being a requirement for all club activities
- opportunities to share good practice.
- discussion in GRS Committee Meetings, at least four times a year.

Concerns about equine welfare should be brought to the attention of the Club Chair – Alison Nicholson, or any member of the GRS Committee:

Policy Review

The Gipping Riding Society's Equine Welfare Policy will be reviewed every two years, or in the following circumstances:

- Changes in guidance or legislation
- As required by the British Horse Society or British Riding Clubs
- As a result of a significant change or event

Members will be informed of the outcome of the review at the AGM.

Policy written - July 2025

Signed by - Alison Nicholson (Chair)

To be reviewed – July 2027