



Application for a licence under the **Riding Establishments Act 1963**

Riding establishments are where the operator(s) is/are carrying on the business of keeping horses for either or both of the following purposes:

- the purpose of their being let out on hire for riding; or
- the purpose of their being used in providing, in return for payment, instruction in riding.

Veterinary Surgeon's Report: Moray Council as licensing authority cannot proceed to a decision on a licence application without first receiving a satisfactory report from a veterinary surgeon dated no earlier than within the period of twelve months immediately preceding the application date and preferably within the preceding three months. The authority would normally instruct a vet of its choosing to visit and report back to the authority. In order to speed the process, the authority is giving applicants the opportunity to instead provide their own report at the time of application for the licence. The vet inspection and report should be an independent assessment of the operation and the vet is not present to act as a representative of or advocate for the applicant.

Important Note: The applicant is responsible for all expenses. The report must contain sufficient information to enable the authority to determine the people, premises and animals are all suitable for the keeping of a riding establishment. That includes a description of the condition of the premises and of the horses. In particular the report must confirm matters set out below. If the licensing authority at any time considers the report supplied by the applicant to not be sufficient to justify the grant of a licence then the authority may – at its own absolute discretion:

- ask the applicant seek further information / clarification at the applicant's own expense; and/or
- instruct a vet of the authority's choosing to visit and report **at the applicant's expense** i.e. the expense will be recharged by the authority in accordance with the normal procedure and/or
- refuse the application;

Specific Matters for the Vet to Consider

1. Whether applicant appears to the vet to be suitable and qualified, either by experience in the management of horses or by being the holder of an approved certificate or by employing in the management of the riding establishment a person(s) so qualified;
2. That paramount consideration is given to the condition of horses and that they are being, and will be, maintained in good health, and in all respects physically fit and that, in the case of a horse kept for the purpose of its being let out on hire for riding or a horse kept for the purpose of its being used in providing instruction in riding, the horse will be suitable for the purpose for which it is kept;
3. That the feet of all animals are properly trimmed and that, if shod, their shoes are properly fitted and in good condition;
4. That there will be available at all times, accommodation for horses suitable as respects construction, size, number of occupants, lighting, ventilation, drainage and cleanliness and that these requirements be complied with not only in the case of new buildings but also in the case of buildings converted for use as stabling;

5. That in the case of horses maintained at grass there will be available for them at all times during which they are so maintained adequate pasture and shelter and water and that supplementary feeds will be provided as and when required;
6. That horses will be adequately supplied with suitable food, drink and (except in the case of horses maintained at grass, so long as they are so maintained) bedding material, and will be adequately exercised, groomed and rested and visited at suitable intervals;
7. That all reasonable precautions will be taken to prevent and control the spread among horses of infectious or contagious diseases and that veterinary first aid equipment and medicines shall be provided and maintained in the premises;
8. That appropriate steps will be taken for the protection and extrication of horses in case of fire and, in particular, that the name, address and telephone number of the licence holder or some other responsible person will be kept displayed in a prominent position on the outside of the premises and that instructions as to action to be taken in the event of fire, with particular regard to the extrication of horses, will be kept displayed in a prominent position on the outside of the premises;
9. That adequate accommodation will be provided for forage, bedding, stable equipment and saddlery.

Licence Conditions

The vet's report shall include an assessment that the applicant will be able to comply with the following conditions that apply to every riding establishment licence:

- (a) a horse found on inspection of the premises by an authorised officer to be in need of veterinary attention shall not be returned to work until the holder of the licence has obtained at his own expense and has lodged with the local authority a veterinary certificate that the horse is fit for work;
- (b) no horse will be let out on hire for riding or used for providing instruction in riding without supervision by a responsible person of the age of 16 years or over unless (in the case of a horse let out for hire for riding) the holder of the licence is satisfied that the hirer of the horse is competent to ride without supervision;
- (c) the carrying on of the business of a riding establishment shall at no time be left in the charge of any person under 16 years of age;
- (d) the licence holder shall hold a current insurance policy which insures him against liability for any injury sustained by those who hire a horse from him for riding and those who use a horse in the course of receiving from him, in return for payment, instruction in riding and arising out of the hire or use of a horse as aforesaid and which also insures such persons in respect of any liability which may be incurred by them in respect of injury to any person caused by, or arising out of, the hire or use of a horse as aforesaid;
- (e) a register shall be kept by the licence holder of all horses in his possession aged three years and under and usually kept on the premises which shall be available for inspection by an authorised officer at all reasonable times.

Important Note on Licence Conditions: The vet's report shall specify such conditions as may be suitable for the licensing authority to attach to the licence that would appear necessary or expedient in the particular case to securing all the objectives specified above.



Vet Report and Certification

Licence under the Riding Establishment Act 1963

MC Reference		Applicant Name	
Vet Name			
Qualification			
Date of Visit			
Inspection Report Continue on separate sheet if necessary – describe premises, condition and suitability and animals present, their condition and suitability			
Number of Horses			
Tick <input type="checkbox"/>	I have inspected the premises having regard to the matters set out above and certify that it is suitable for the proposed use		
Tick <input type="checkbox"/>	I have inspected the animals present and certify that having regard to the matters set out above they are well looked after and healthy and suitable for the proposed use		
Tick <input type="checkbox"/>	I certify that I see no reason why the applicant will not be able to comply with the licence conditions set out above		
Tick <input type="checkbox"/>	I would suggest the following additional conditions as necessary and expedient to secure the objectives set out above:		
Date and Time			

Signed	
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