

E-mail from the petitioner 20-02-2012

Dear Rhodri,

Further to your email, we would like to update the Petitions Committee with the following report.

As an Equine Charity, when we first raised this petition back in the Autumn we were dreading the winter ahead because of the anticipated number of abandoned horses we envisaged along with that years foals. It was inevitable, not just through abandonment due to the current economic climate but due to the irresponsible over breeding by certain owners. The bottom had dropped out of the sales market and there were too many poor quality horses bred and unwanted.

Since before Christmas we have been inundated with calls for assistance with 'fly grazing' as the problem has now been called. Our Horse Hospital is, as a result, full. We have neither the space nor resources to take in any more equines. We have relied upon the good support of Bransby and Redwings to assist and they have taken in large groups.

The situation is not going to get any better unless drastic action is taken by implementing the microchipping laws which are already in place. More foals will no doubt be born in the months ahead adding to the ever growing numbers.

The concerns from the public who are worried not only for the welfare of these equines but for their own safety is understandable. When these horses get loose through inadequate fencing in search of food and wander on to the highways from unlit country lanes to A Roads it becomes even more serious. Not only is this putting human lives at risk but is it taking up the valuable time and resources of the Emergency Services and costing vast amounts from public funds.

The amount of damage caused is huge, one only has to look at the situation of the Woodland Trust alone. It is also costing the Equine Charities vast amounts not just for rounding up and transportation to their centres but veterinary treatment, feed and their care for life as the horses and ponies go into the various adoption schemes.

Something has to be done and soon. With the various bodies now working together the time is right for the existing laws to be implemented.

We would welcome the Petitions Committee to visit The Society for the Welfare of Horses and Ponies to see first hand our work and case histories and we would be extremely willing to present any evidence.

Chairman and Trustees
The Society for The Welfare of Horses and Ponies
Coxstone.
St. Maughans
Monmouth

Further e-mail received from the Petitioner 20-02-2012

Dear Rhodri,

Just to confirm that BBC1 Wales have made a programme dedicated to the problem of 'Fly Grazing' and Equine welfare.

. It includes an interview with Jenny MacGregor MBE and also a rescue of a five month old foal from Vale of Glamorgan. The programme is BBC Wales - Week In Week Out and will be transmitted at 10.30 p.m. tomorrow Tuesday 21st Feb.

Many thanks.

Sian