



All about the PONIES

Pony Club Camp is the BEST time of the year, but your pony will need careful preparation, so he remains well throughout and you get the most out of camp. Most importantly the ponies need to be fit!!

FEED AND STABLING - When at camp, your pony will be in a stable all the time when he is not being ridden. We do not have turnout available. If your pony usually lives out in a field, he will need acclimatising to being stable kept. This needs to be done gradually in the lead up to camp so that he can be stabled comfortably for the duration.

If your pony normally has a lot of grass in his diet this will also need to be addressed as he will need to live off hay or haylage during camp. Ponies can become very ill and are prone to colic if you suddenly bring them in from living 24/7 in the field eating grass and quickly change to being stable kept and eating hay/haylage.

The best thing to do is bring your pony in for longer periods daily and introduce hay in the lead up to camp.

Hard feed/concentrates should also be introduced gradually if you intend to use this during camp.

If the weather is hot it is a good idea to feed him electrolytes to replace salts he has lost when he sweats.

HEALTH AND FITNESS - You will ride twice most days, so it is important that your pony is fit enough to manage this. Fitness needs to be built up gradually in the lead up to camp.

If your pony wears shoes it is ideal if he has been shod a week or so before camp begins.

As you need your pony to be comfortable and not sore anywhere a back/saddle check is always a good idea.

It is also a good idea to have a vet or equine dentist check and maintain his teeth.

SAFETY

It is important that your tack fits well and is in good order so check for weak stitching or worn/weak areas well in advance.

Children's feet grow quickly so check that you can still fit a finger each side of their foot when it is in the stirrup to reduce the risk of feet getting stuck in stirrups. We advise the use of safety stirrups if possible.

Ponies should be **vaccinated** for camp so please make sure this is done well in advance