

N·A·R·e·S



National Association of Re-enactment Societies

Guidance notes for equestrian displays,
use of cavalry and mounted units

Permission is given for member groups to copy and disseminate.

Definitions

- The term “group” is used here to mean any group, society or association.
- “Unit Commander” refers to the person responsible for and in charge of a formed body of mounted personnel. It also refers to whoever is put in charge of an unformed (for instance a living history scenario) body of mounted personnel.
- “Equitation Organiser” means the person responsible to the group organising committee for the organisation and safety of horses at an event (May be called the Cavalry Co-ordinator or Master of Horse).
- “Drill” refers to manoeuvres executed at the event as practiced in the period being re-created.

Group Responsibilities

The Group is responsible for all re-enactors taking part in an event in which the Group is the coordinating body. They are treated under current legislation as unpaid employees or voluntary workers. At such an event this means that the Group is responsible for all personnel acting on its behalf within the notified specified boundaries of the event, whether on the field, or elsewhere. This has repercussions on insurance, accreditation and safety procedures; in that all the re-enactors taking part must be placed under Group control and must adhere to these safety and accreditation procedures.

Commanders Responsibilities

Group Organisers and/or Unit Commanders are responsible for the health and safety, training, discipline, drill and conduct of all members of their unit. In accrediting a member of their unit they are certifying that the person has reached the standards laid out below and has read and understood the safety code of the Group.

Chain of Command

The chain of command in any organisation cascades down from the Commander or organiser through their staff, to the Unit Commanders and individuals. Thence the Unit Commander makes his own arrangements for internal command and control. If a disciplinary offence occurs then in the first instance this must be dealt with by the Unit Commander, then by the Group (or Army or Brigade Commander if appropriate). Regardless, if a matter of safety is involved then the Field Commander, the Group equitation organiser or the Group Safety Officer may intervene directly by ordering the person causing the offence off the field, to be dealt with later by the Group’s disciplinary procedures. All riders, except mounted commanders should be a member of a properly constituted and recognised unit; this applies even for small groups with few horses as they will automatically become a “unit” for command, control, safety, discipline and insurance purposes.

Accreditations

It is very important not just for Command and Control purposes but also for safety reasons that proper training and accreditation is carried out. Accreditation of riders is in the first instance the responsibility of Commanders of Units. Riders must have achieved the minimum standards laid out below. The Equitation Organiser is responsible for maintaining the accreditation records for all Mounted Units, and is responsible for the accreditation of mounted units attending an event. Any rider observed not to be safe on the field would in the first instance be dealt with by the chain of command and thereafter if necessary by the disciplinary procedures (see above). The accreditation record is to be updated annually and thereafter amended as and when new members are recruited.

Riding Standards

It is vital that the highest standards of authenticity, riding and safety are maintained. This will ensure that those who may ride at a show are competent in everything they are wearing, using and riding. All riders are expected to train regularly and sufficiently. The riding standard is a level which every rider should achieve, and should be maintained through training. It is not a test but can be used as such where necessary. Unit Commanders should keep a record of training, including that undertaken at events. The standard test is in two parts:

Part One

This part is applicable to all members of a unit and the member shall:

- a. Produce their membership card for the Group, and demonstrate that he/she is fully aware of the responsibilities placed upon him/her by the groups rules vis a vis fellow members and the public.
- b. Parade for Uniform (or clothing specific to the period being re-created) and Kit Inspection by his/her Group Organiser or Unit Commander and demonstrate that it is up to the standard required by the Unit, and/or the Group.
- c. Demonstrate a thorough knowledge and understanding of the drill he/she will be required to perform and an understanding of the orders they may hear given in the language applicable to the Unit.
- d. Understand the Campsite safety procedures.

Part Two

Riders are to be able to:

- a. Walk, sitting trot, canter, gallop, with and without stirrups. Ride uphill and downhill.
- b. Ride safely with main and as appropriate, secondary weapon.
- c. Fit tack and adjust.
- d. Prepare horse/daily horse welfare, Rug feed and water, and tether and secure.
- e. Ride in formation/understand commands appropriate to the period and as used by the group.

After completing the basic competency assessment riders must demonstrate that they are competent in all actions, using any equipment that they may be required to as part of a specific display before the event (e.g. skill at arms, jumping, battlefield riding, etc.)

Riders should in theory and if possible in practice train on the horse they are to ride at the show on a regular basis and be thoroughly conversant with it before being seen in public. To turn up and ride at a show on a strange horse is not professional and a serious health and safety risk, but it is possible for a competent rider to produce a good performance on a horse with which they are not completely familiar. What is essential is that the rider/horse combination must be assessed to be both good and safe. If it was proved that prior to any given event little or no training had been undertaken by the rider on the horse that was being used at the event, any insurance for that event would most likely be declared null and void.

Weapon Safety Drills

If a horse becomes uncontrollable then the rider must ensure that his weapons are in a position so that they cannot cause injury to himself, the horse another re-enactor or the public. If this means dropping a weapon then it should be dropped flat - a weapon should never be thrown as it may bounce and cause injury. Thereafter the horse must be brought under control as quickly as possible and away from the public. An effective way is to ride in circles until the horse gets tired. Carbines must be clipped to the appropriate shoulder strap. Unit Commanders must ensure that all safety equipment, such as saddlery and tack is of a good standard and is well maintained. Their Group cannot be held to be liable for any claim where a failure of such equipment through negligence, unsatisfactory construction or the use of unsuitable materials is to blame for injury.

Weapon and Equipment Safety

All edged weapons used must be maintained in a clean and safe condition. Points and edges should be blunted and burrs removed, unless the weapon is used for a specific skills demonstration. Unit Commanders are to inspect weapons before any event or re-enactment. Edged weapons must be secured in a sheath or scabbard suitable for the weapon in question. Swords and Sabres may only

be drawn on the command of an Officer or NCO and all equipment must be fitted properly to ensure safety both for the rider and the horse. No member of a unit may become involved in a melee or any combat unless they have been granted a Combat Safety Accreditation. All riders using firearms must pass the necessary Infantry Accreditation Tests.

Cavalry/Infantry

All riders must be aware of the safety distance of firearms and must not attack a unit which is loaded. Hand to hand combat is not permitted except with the prior agreement of the units involved. Pre planned scenarios are permitted and indeed should be encouraged. Infantry units should also be encouraged to familiarise themselves with the horses as confidence on the field will minimise the risk of injuries sustained from horses. They should be encouraged to visit the horse lines and be shown the various methods of dealing with horses by members of the Mounted Units. Cavalry must take especial care to avoid infantrymen lying on the ground, as casualties, even if this ruins a preplanned script.

Cavalry/Artillery

All riders must acquaint themselves with the system that shows whether a gun is loaded, suffering a hangfire etc., and be aware of the safety distances of cannon. In particular they must be careful when attacking a gun team to be sure that the gun is safe.

Emergency Action Drills

When an accident occurs not of a minor nature e.g. horse down with broken leg or rider down with crushed ribs, then the Commander of the unit involved, which may be an Officer or NCO will designate personnel to dismount and assist, and a person to alert the emergency services. The Commander will arrange for loose horses to be caught and riderless horses to be led away. Personnel are not to congregate around the injured rider/horse. Other units are to avoid the area and not get involved with the accident procedure. Accidents and incidents are to be reported to the Group Safety Officer and a format is attached.

Public Safety

Whilst it is obvious that public safety at events must be a paramount concern, riders must remember that they have an enormous potential for causing injury. Horses must never be ridden at a fast pace at the crowd and only at the walk when moving through the crowd. Always observe the barriers and if faced by an obstacle or defile with the public present do not cross if there is likely to be a risk. Barriers at the edge of a battlefield should be 2m apart.

Horse Security

Whilst in the charge of the rider, that rider is responsible for the security of the horse. This is especially important during rest breaks and when horses are tethered in unit lines. It is recommended that unit arrangements are made for security using the normal chain of command.

Contractors/Owner Riders

Contractors and owner riders are responsible for the safety and well being of their own horses. This includes security, which must be carried out in consultation with the organisers/sponsors. Contractors should also be subject to a formal contract or agreement and suggested formats are attached, in the form of a full contract or an "order form".

Horse Welfare

Riders are responsible for the horse they are riding. They must be heedful of any problems that become apparent, such as lameness, and if necessary return the horse to the grooms for treatment. Riders must never put the horse in danger.

Risk Assessments

A risk assessment form needs to be completed for each event and if necessary amended for each day and/or performance. Factors such as weather can affect the state of the ground and need to be taken into account as they change. If necessary horses should be withdrawn from a show when it is thought that safety is becoming an issue. For obvious reasons the sponsor and the horse supplier must be made aware not only of the situation as it progresses but also of the risk beforehand. Formats for risk assessment forms are attached. Part 1 is a general summary covering the whole

event, Part 2 is a listing of further points to be considered and the Daily Risk assessment form notifies of changes that may occur on a day to day basis.

USE OF HORSES AT EVENTS

General

The use of horses at events adds a dimension that increases the attraction of the public to events by a significant factor. Therefore where it is possible and affordable sponsor's organisers and groups are going to use horses.

It is natural that for financial reasons sponsors and organisers will expect the horses they hire to give not only to the maximum effect but also the maximum use. This attitude can lead to overuse of the horses to the detriment of their welfare and to health and safety issues which affect the riders and the public. In addition such overuse leads to a denigration of the standards of re-enactment which we strive to achieve. Money must not be the driving force where horse use is concerned.

When groups directly hire in horses themselves this is less of a concern, but overuse of horses still can occur unless properly controlled by the group's equitation organiser.

Training

Every group should ensure that their equestrian training produces a standard that:

- ensures safety of the public and the safety of the riders.
- ensures that the horses are properly allocated and ridden to a standard that protects their well-being.
- produces an historically correct interpretation of the drill and tactics of the day (as reasonably possible).

The above is not always achieved, for a variety of reasons. Good horsemanship is a level of equitation that can only be achieved by study and constant practice. Unless this is achievable then groups should not put performances on in front of the public.

Should an incident occur involving horses where negligence is found to be the cause, then it is likely that not only will the rider be deemed to be at fault but also the unit commander, the group's executive and the sponsor/organiser of the event. This would have serious insurance implications. (i.e. show organiser, the societies concerned, individuals, providers of horses be they private or commercial).

Standards

The minimum standards recommended are shown above, which applies equally to groups using few horses and owner riders. It is the responsibility of the unit commanders and hence the groups using horses to ensure that these guidelines are followed and understood by the riders. All riders should invest a considerable amount of time, effort and money into maintaining and improving their horsemanship. It is not enough simply to buy all of the equipment.

It is the responsibility of the contractors and the owner riders to ensure that the horses brought to an event are suitable for that event, that they are trained to a standard commensurate with the work to be done and are in a fit condition. For instance it is not acceptable to bring to an event where explosives are to be used a horse that has not been trained with explosives.

It is the responsibility of the group equestrian organiser and/or unit commanders to ensure that the riders in the unit are able to safely handle the horses allocated, to ensure that the horses are not overworked and that they are properly cared for whilst in their charge.

Tack

Riders should endeavour to purchase and use tack that is historically correct for the period they are portraying within the limitations of what is safe, humane and available. (There is nothing worse than seeing rubber grip reins and fluffy nosebands used at a re-enactment event). However it is essential

that saddles fit correctly and that horses are not over or under bitted. If in doubt riders should seek the advice of a trained saddler/instructor or where hired, the contractor who should be aware of the horse's limitations. All riders should practice with their tack beforehand.

Horse Usage and Care

It is not good practice for one set of horses to be used by more than one group and/or riders at an event. Inevitably the welfare of the horse suffers and the lines of responsibility become blurred. Horses must not be overused at events as this leads to:

- Sponsors/organisers requiring groups to perform battles and shows that are beyond the capabilities of the units and the horses. This can lead to exhaustion and early signs of disease and even death amongst the horses.
- Bad planning in the use of horses for the various tasks to be undertaken, in that horses may be allocated for battles and drills consecutively without rest. This problem is exacerbated where battles and drills are programmed too close to each other in time without leaving room for a proper handover or tack change, and for rest. In addition the standard of the show itself will suffer as the cavalry units will not be ready or properly practiced for the show.

Ideally horses should not be used for more than 4 hours in a day. This time should include:

- a period for fitting and adjusting tack. This must be done in consultation with the horse provider to ensure that horses are not over or under bitted and that saddles fit.
- drills to include familiarisation between the horse and rider and time to move riders between horses as appropriate.
- One or two 40 minute maximum battles/shows or three 30 minute shows.

Between the drills and the battles/shows there should be at least 1 hours rest and between battles/shows at least 1 hours rest. If funds do not allow such time planning then the event must be downsized to reach this goal.

These timings can be adjusted (for instance one drill session in the morning and a longer battle or show later). The group organiser is responsible for ensuring that the horses are not overworked and if appropriate should liaise with the contractor accordingly.

The maximum use of the horse is dependent upon a number of factors. These include fitness, condition, age, temperature, weather and whether the horses are shod (unshod horses cannot do the same amount or type of work as shod horses). The guidance given above must therefore be modified dependent upon which of these factors apply. The horse contractor/owner rider is the final arbiter of what can or cannot be done within these parameters.

Veterinary care should be available as required and the sponsor/organiser should provide a contact list of local vets available to the group equestrian organiser who can contact them beforehand to ensure their suitability to treat equine related incidents. Contractors, Owner Riders and Units should bring horse first aid kits. Horse screens should be obtained by Units or Groups and brought in case of a serious injury or death of a horse on the field; these can be made easily and cheaply and are essential should a horse die on the field in front of the public (see attachment). Horses which have been in recent contact with infected animals must not be brought to events; where doubt exists veterinary advice should be obtained. Unit Commanders should walk the battlefield or show area to ensure that the ground is suitable for the deployment of horses, and that bad areas, such as holes) are marked off or made "off limits".

Owner Riders must bring their Horse Passports with them to prove not only ownership but also that the horse's vaccinations are up to date.

Horse Lines and Grazing

Sufficient space must be allocated by the sponsor/organiser to allow the horses to properly graze whilst resting. A rule of thumb is to allow 1/6 acre/horse/weekend. If grass is sparse then hay should be provided, but any particular requirements of either the contractor or the owner/rider will remain the responsibility of those persons. Sponsors/Organisers, Unit Commanders and Riders must be aware of what plants and trees are poisonous, and grazing containing these must be avoided or cleared of such weeds. Ragwort is a perfect example of a prevalent weed, deadly poisonous to horses but which is allowed to flourish. Grass must not be cut and left on the ground as this can cause colic. When horses are paddocked for longer than a few hours the paddock is spoiled by dung. Regiments

must clear this dung as often as is necessary but at least twice daily in the early morning and evening. The dung should either be placed in receptacles if these are provided by the sponsor, or scattered along hedge or tree lines. Sufficient space should be allowed between contractor's horse paddocks to ensure that horses are unable to make contact. A double fence is recommended, the distance between to be at least 10 yards.

Hard standing or good solid ground should be provided for the transporting vehicles adjacent to the paddocks. Whilst the contractor is responsible for security in terms of electric fencing, etc., it is incumbent upon the sponsor/organiser to provide a suitable area. Water needs to be immediately available, either from troughs or taps. Where hosepipes are required these should be provided by the sponsor/organiser, unless otherwise agreed well beforehand.

Horse lines in camp should be of such a size to allow the public to visit without danger from restive horses that may kick or bite. The cavalry unit setting up the horse line is responsible for health and safety at the horse line.

Public Interaction

Arrangements must be made to ensure that the public are not put at risk when horses are moved between locations within a showground or the event area. It is recommended that dedicated secure horse pathways be put in place, with crossing points controlled by stewards. Where re-enactors are marching to or from the field care should be taken to minimise any risk to the public and to other re-enactors. There should always be a fence between horses and the public whatever they are doing, including that at the edge of the field/show area.

Where possible, the public should not be allowed near to the horse paddocks. Where electric fencing is used suitable signs should be mounted to warn of the electrified fence.

A list of questions that have been asked by the public and a suggested response is attached.

Disclaimer

NAReS guidance notes are based on what is believed to be current good practice. They are not intended to be exhaustive in their content and are open to revision.

These notes are intended for guidance only and should not be construed as being mandatory, or applying to all circumstances which may arise. They are designed to work in conjunction with any member groups' own rules, regulations or recommendations.

NAReS cannot be held responsible for the actions of other official bodies, or for the imposition or effect of any legislation/regulation of which it was unaware at the date of issue of this guidance note.

Annexes:

1. Equestrian Risk Assessment Form Part 1
2. Equestrian Risk Assessment Form Part 2
3. Daily Risk Assessment Report Form
4. Order Form for the Supply of Horses
5. Contract of Horse Hire
6. Equestrian Incident Report Form
7. To Make a Horse Screen
8. Frequently Asked Questions – A Guide

Annex 1 - Equestrian risk assessment form part 1

To be completed for each location where equestrian displays are to occur

Date of assessment:

Name of Assessor

1)

2)

Name and address of location being assessed

Emergency contact details of client

FIRST AID

Names of Group first aiders present

Location of Group first aid kit

Location of Group Equestrian First Aid Kit

Location of nearest A&E unit

Contact details of emergency vet

Location of Group Emergency Screen

PADDOCK

- Sketch of layout

Type of surface

Gradient

Is the area free from hazards?

Is the area fenced safely? Describe the nature of fencing in the area

Are support vehicles (e.g. horseboxes/trailers) parked safely?

Is the area easily accessible to the public?

DISPLAY AREA

Sketch of layout, showing route from paddock area to display area. If horses are to wait before entering arena, show waiting area.

Type of surface

Is the area free from hazards?

Is the area fenced safely? Describe the nature of fencing in the area

HAZARD	CONTROL MEASURE	LIKELIHOOD & SEVERITY	CONTROLLED RISK FACTOR

OTHER MEASURES REQUIRED (PPE, Training etc.)

OTHER POINTS of RELEVANCE

Appraisers signature

Print Name

Date

Annex 2- Equestrian risk assessment part 2

Perceived Risk	Action	Likelihood/ Consequence	Responsibility
Public Areas - injuries to public	Nil	N/A	Sponsor/ Organiser
Injury to public from weapons if riders lose control	Crowd barriers to be erected 2m apart. Designated persons only allowed between ropes. Adequate marshals to be present. All riders to be aware of risks/rules. Anyone breaking rules to be removed from field	Low - could result in minor injury	Sponsor to arrange ropes & marshals
Injury to public from horse if rider falls or loses control	All riders to be properly trained and tested in accordance with Group Safety rules. Barriers and marshals as above.	Low - could result in injury to individual	As above. Training responsibility of Group
Injury to riders or public from loose horse	Grooms and ancillary ground crew to be position at strategic points to catch and collect horses if riders fall.	Very low - possibility of crush injuries to individuals or small groups	Group
Minor incidents on field to riders and horses	Qualified first aiders to be available for rider injuries. Grooms to deal with equestrian injuries.	Medium - could result in a serious injury if not recognised.	Sponsor/ Group
First Aiders/Grooms unable to gain access to field because of size of crowd	Collection ring to be included in the design of the arena. Access limited to authorised personnel only.	High - could result in delayed response to injury.	Sponsor
Major incident on field	Immediate emergency action drill to be initiated (see safety code). Emergency services called.	Low	Sponsor
Riders becoming dehydrated	Water carriers to operate from collecting area	Low	Group

Inappropriate weapons on field	All riders tested as per Group instructions. Unit commanders to check weapons	Medium - could result in injuries from sharp points/edges and burrs	Group
Incident due to over intrusive press	Riders warned not to give impromptu combat demonstrations. These to be done under Regimental arrangements	Medium	Group

Annex 3 – Daily risk assessment report form

To be completed for each day where equestrian displays are to occur

Date of assessment:

Name of Assessor

1)

2)

Name and address of location being assessed

Any variations from the plan detailed in the Event Risk Assessment are to be detailed here

Overnight weather:

State of ground at beginning of day:

Current Weather/Forecast

Likely effect on ground:

Ground reviewed at (time): am/pm

Mobile phone contact no for:

Group Equitation Organiser:

Horse owner/contractor:

Emergency Vets:

Form Completed by..... Date.....

Annex 4 – Order form for the supply of horses for historical re-enactment events

(i) 'The Supplier' _____
[Name & address] _____

_____ is required & requested to supply to 'The Hirer' being that unit of _____ known as 'The Cavalry' _____ [state number or specific 'named' animals] of Horse(s) for the purposes of a Historical Re-enactment event and battle(s) at [state location, with address]

_____ ('The Event') for a total payment of £ _____

Which sum is inclusive of Value Added Tax (if any) comprising horse hire and supply of grooms & staff and transport of horses as referred to in the standard terms & conditions annexed hereto such payment to be made [on the satisfactory completion of the requirements of this Order form & upon presentation of an invoice for the payment of the same/within one month of the presentation to The Hirer of an invoice detailing all services & changes] [delete option not applicable]

(ii) Delivery & staff attendance: The Supplier will cause the Horse(s) to be delivered to the Event on _____ [date] by _____ [state time] in good condition & fit for purpose and use for historical battles & re-enactment and attended by _____ [state number] of suitably qualified & trained groom(s) ("The Supplier's Staff") and for the removal of the Horse(s) from the Event on _____ [date] by _____ [state time]

(iii) In accepting this Order both the Hirer & the Supplier agree to abide by the standard terms & conditions of this Order as annexed hereto as a Contract governed by English Law.

Signed:-

Duly Authorised Officer
For and on behalf of _____

Address:

- 1) The cost of such horse transport and The Supplier's Staff and all other costs expenses and risks of the Supplier are included in the above stated global payment sum.
- 2) Named Horses. In most circumstances the Horse(s) supplied will be at the discretion of the Supplier (subject to the 'fit for purposes' requirement of this Order) in order to fulfil the Hirer's criteria for The Event. However, where it has been arranged between the Supplier and the Hirer that certain 'named' specific horse will be supplied, it is expected that the Supplier will fill this requirement. If a 'named' horse becomes unavailable through illness, injury or infirmity the Supplier will notify the Hirer immediately in order to agree a mutually satisfactory suitable alternative.
- 3) Fit for Purpose. The Supplier warrants that any Horse(s) supplied to the Hirer for the purposes of the Event can be safely ridden by the Hirer's Members in the presence of members of the public at The Event and its environs and the Hirer's Members and that the Horse(s) are of a suitable disposition with no known vices which would preclude close contact with the Hirer's members. The Horse(s) will be in close contact with Infantry, are used to the accoutrements of the period for which they are being hired and will be used in full battle re-enactments which will include the discharge of firearms and other loud bangs and noises including artillery and pyrotechnical effects. In all circumstances the Horse(s) will be sound in sight, wind and limb and physically fit and in condition to undertake without strain the ordinary work which it will be required to undertake when in the re-enacting environment.
- 4) Unsatisfactory Horse(s).
Where Horse(s) are supplied as mounts that do not comply with the requirements of this Contract Order the Supplier will be required to replace the said Horse(s) so there is no detriment to the completion of this contract. Where such replacement cannot be achieved a pro rata adjustment will be made to the payment along with a percentage adjustment to the mileage and Supplier's staff costings.
- 5) Turnout. The Horse(s) hired to the Hirer by the Supplier will be produced and groomed to a satisfactory standard upon disembarkation from their transport to the Event or as soon after as is practicable and for the duration of the Hiring Period by The Supplier's Staff so that no aspersions are cast on the horse husbandry of the Supplier or the Hirer.
- 6) Insurances and Injury Risks.
 - a) Whilst under the care, custody and control of The Hirer or its members then the Hirer's Public Liability Insurances will cover the horse(s) supplied
 - b) Whilst under the care, custody and control of The Supplier or the Supplier's Staff then the Supplier's Public Liability Insurances will cover the horse(s) supplied
 - c) The Transportation to and from the Event is the responsibility of the Supplier and the Hirer takes no responsibility with regard to any incident accident or injury howsoever caused during these times
 - d) The Supplier shall either insure the horse(s) against risk of injury or damage to the animals themselves or decide to take and bear its own risk (at its option) but the Hirer shall not be responsible for any damage or injury caused to the horse(s) and for the Supplier's Staff and for the Supplier's vehicles for the duration of The Event how so ever or by whoever caused.
- 7) Cancellation or changes to the Essence of the Contract.

In all normal circumstances if the Supplier cannot supply the required number of Horse(s) on the dates stated and of the type appropriate for The Event, the Supplier must give notice of this in writing at least 6 weeks before the start of the Hire period so that attempts can be made to arrange an alternative Supplier (and appropriate adjustments made to the Payment).

- 8) Horse Accommodation
 - a) The Hirer undertakes to provide the Supplier with an area suitable for a paddock (or paddocks) with access to fresh water. The Supplier will be responsible for fodder and fencing arrangements.
 - b) Whilst the Hirer will use their reasonable and commercially sensible endeavours to ensure the accommodation for the Horse(s) is safe and commodious it is the responsibility of the Supplier (acting by the 'Supplier's Staff) to assess this accommodation for its suitability and efficiency as the Hirer takes no responsibility for injury damage or illness caused to the horse(s) directly or indirectly whilst at rest before and after periods of their use by the Hirer for the purposes hereof or for any horse(s) held in the paddock during any performances/re-enactments by the Hirer on any day whilst at The Event
 - c) When the horse(s) are not being used by the Hirer the safety care and supervision of the horse(s) shall be the responsibility of the Supplier. The Supplier will be responsible for the maintenance and cleanliness of the area(s) used as paddock(s) for the horse(s) at all times during the period of hire and will ensure that such areas are left in a clean and tidy state before leaving The Event at the end of the hire period
- 9) Hirer's use of horses. The Hirer will use its reasonable and commercially sensible endeavours to ensure the Horse(s) are ridden by competent riders who have passed their Cavalry Trade Tests and that the horse(s) are (within the limits of historical re-enacting and battles and/or The Event) not placed in excessive danger or risk.
- 10) Data Protection. Both parties agree to the information contained in this Order being stored in a computer by either or both parties and/or a data retrieval system to assist the easier administration of this contract.

Annex 5 – Contract of horse hire

This contract is between: _____ Known as the Contractor.

And: _____ Known as the Hirer.

The Contractor will supply: _____ Number of horses for the purpose of re-enactment.

On the: _____ to _____ inclusive.

The Event name and venue being:

GOVERNING LAW

The parties to a contract have the right to decide which legal system should apply to that contract. It is the intention that this contract shall be construed according to English Law. All articles and words that flow from it shall also be so construed.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF HIRE	3. Horses to be used in displays, that can be safely ridden by the Hirer's members in the
-------------------------------------	---

<p>PAYMENT</p> <p>The Hirer, promises to pay the Contractor the sum of</p> <p>£ _____ inclusive of Value Added</p> <p>Tax, upon the satisfactory completion of the following terms and conditions of the hire of horse.</p> <p>FORM OF PAYMENT</p> <p>Unless otherwise arranged with the Contractor, the Hirer will make payment in full within a period, no longer than one calendar month from receipt of a dated invoice from the Contractor fully detailing all services and charges incurred thereof.</p> <p>FIT FOR PURPOSE</p> <p>The Contractor undertakes to supply the said number of horses at the said venue. The horses will be fit for purpose of re-enactment as listed below. Namely</p> <p>clause:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>of the said list.</p> <p>LIST OF DEFINITIONS RELATING TO THE TERM: FIT FOR PURPOSE</p> <p>1. Horses to be used in a Living History environment.</p>	<p>presence of</p> <p>members of the public and the Hirer's members,</p> <p>that are of a calm disposition, with no vices which</p> <p>would preclude close contact with the Hirer's</p> <p>members.</p> <p>4. Horses to be used in displays that include the use of the discharge of firearms and loud bangs and</p> <p>to fulfil the same criteria found in clause 3.</p> <p>5. Horses to be used in full battle re-enactment, which include the discharge of firearms and loud bangs. That can be safely ridden by the Hirer's</p> <p>members, without any undue risk.</p> <p>6. Horses which will close to contact with infantry.</p> <p>7. Horses that are used to the accoutrements of the</p> <p>period for which they are being hired.</p> <p>In all circumstances, the animals supplied will be expected to be sound in sight, wind and limb and physically fit and in condition to undertake without strain the ordinary work which it may be required of when in a re-enactment environment taking into account the above clauses.</p>
---	---

<p>that are not to be ridden. Are of a calm disposition, with no vices which would preclude close contact and handling by the Hirer's members and members of the public.</p> <p>2. Horses to be used in a Living History environment, that can be safely ridden by the Hirer's members, that are of a calm disposition with no vices which would preclude close contact and handling by the Hirer's members.</p>	<p>HORSES SUPPLIED NOT FULLFILLING THE CRITERIA OF FIT FOR PURPOSE</p> <p>Where mounts are supplied that do not comply with the requirements of this contract within its understanding of fit for purpose, the Contractor will be required to replace the said mount or mounts, so there is no detriment to the completion of the contract. Where this cannot be achieved, a pro rata adjustment will be made to the said fee, along with a percentage adjustment to the mileage and groom part of the equation which went to make up the original fee.</p>
--	--

<p>NAMED HORSES SUPPLIED</p> <p>In most circumstances, the horse supplied is at the discretion of the Contractor so that he can fulfil the criteria of the Hirer at the event. However, where it has been arranged between the Contractor and the Hirer that certain 'named' horses will be supplied, it is expected that the Contractor will fulfil the requirement. If a 'named' horse becomes unavailable through injury, illness or infirmity the contractor will notify the Hirer immediately in order to agree a suitable alternative.</p> <p>INSURANCE</p> <p>(a) Whilst under the care, custody and control of an agent, servant or employee of the Hirer then the Hirer's public liability insurance will cover the animals supplied.</p> <p>(b) Whilst under the care, custody and control of an agent, servant or employee of the</p>	<p>TURNOUT</p> <p>The animals supplied by the Contractor, upon disembarkation, or soon after and for the duration of the event, will be produced and groomed to a standard that does not cast aspersions on the horse husbandry of the Contractor or Hirer. Whilst it will be expected by the Hirer that the Contractor will supply Grooms for this purpose, the Contractor can expect that the general sweat and grime of a days riding will be dealt with by the Hirer, overseen by the Contractor.</p> <p>CANCELLATION OR CHANGES TO THE ESSENCE OF THE CONTRACT</p> <p>In all normal circumstances if the Contractor cannot supply the said number of horses, to the type stated elsewhere, on the dates stated, the Contractor must give notice of this in writing one month before the event so that attempts can be made to arrange an alternative Contractor.</p>
--	---

Contractor then

the Contractor's public liability insurance will

cover the animals supplied.

- (c) The transportation to and from the venue is the responsibility of the Contractor, and the Hirer will take no responsibility with regard to any incident howsoever caused during these times.

VETERINARY AND FARRIERY COVER

The Contractor undertakes to arrange both Veterinary and Farriery cover for the duration of the event.

INJURY

The Hirer disclaims all responsibility for damage caused to the animals for the duration of the event howsoever caused.

HORSE ACCOMODATION

The Hirer undertakes to provide the Contractor with suitable stock proof paddocks, with access to fresh water and fodder for the duration of the event. In circumstances where there is an expedience, this may be extended for a period before and after the event after discussion between the Contractor and Hirer.

Whilst the Hirer will do their utmost to make sure that the accommodation supplied is safe, it is the responsibility of the Contractor to assess the said accommodation for its efficiency as the

DATA PROTECTION

Both parties must be aware that the information written within this contract may be stored in a computer retrieval system to assist the easier administration of this contract.

Signed, for and on behalf of the Contractor:

Dated:

Signed, for and on behalf of the Hirer:

Hirer takes no responsibility for injury or illness caused to the animals, directly or indirectly whilst at rest before and after the performances, or for any animal or animals held in the paddock during the performance, on any day, whilst at the event.

When the horses are not being used by the Hirer the safety, care and supervision of the horses shall be the responsibility of the Contractor. The Contractor will be responsible for the maintenance and cleanliness of the area(s) used as a paddock at all times during the period of hire and will ensure that said areas are left in a clean and tidy state before leaving the site.

Dated:

Annex 6 – Equestrian incident report form

Please ensure that this form is completed in as much detail and as accurately as possible

All serious accidents must be reported immediately to

- the Group Safety Officer
- the First Aid Coordinator or their appointed representative
- the owner of the horse or their appointed representative

Name of Group:

Date of Incident:

Place of incident:

Proprietor of venue:

Was the person involved a group member?

Was the person involved a Member of the public?

Was a horse injured?

Name of person injured:

Address:

Was First Aid Required?

Has a Group First Aid form been completed?

Detail of injury:

Hospital treatment required:

Name of Horse:

Owner of Horse:

Address:

Detail of injury:

Veterinary treatment required:

Details of incident (and plan if possible):

Name and address of Witness (1):

Name and address of Witness (2):

Annex 7 – To make a horse screen

Materials Required:

Canvas (Tent or Rug) – this is usually sold 36” wide. You will need about 10 to 12 m. It can be bought off the web as ex tent canvas quite cheaply, or a good saddler will sell you some. Price about £60 for rug canvas but much cheaper off the net.

6 x wooden poles. Buy from B&Q or use broomstick handles. Cut a point on each to go into the Ground.

1 Mallet.

Construction

You need to find someone with a reasonable sewing machine. Saddleries that do rug repairs do have such and should not charge a lot for the service.

Stitch 6 long loops in the canvas equidistant along the canvas to hold the poles, so that they are a reasonably tight fit.

You can fit carrying straps if you wish and straps to hold it all together in a roll.





E

Annex 8 – Frequently asked questions

Does your horse bite?

Always wise to be safe. If you say no and a small child gets bitten then you are in deep poo. Be nice and say something like “not normally so be careful but he/she does like carrots/apples/etc.”

Isn't that bit cruel? (Refers to curb bit)

Biting is a complicated subject and different horses require different bits. The curb bit in the right hands is no different to any other.

Aren't those spurs cruel?

Spurs are required to move the horse forward and are not cruel at all if used properly and with training. They are there for a purpose and do not actually have to be used.

You dope your horses!

No – not necessary at all when the horse has been properly trained, this of course takes a lot of time and dedication.

I don't think that horses should be used like this!

Do not get drawn into this one. Just say that you understand that they may be entitled to their personal opinion but that you do not share it. Withdraw gracefully.

How do you train the horses for the bangs?

In much the same way as they used to. Bring them into it gently with a small bang, like a balloon, then a starting pistol and so on. It is useful to do it whilst they are feeding as they will then associate the bang with something nice.

Should not all the riders be men?

Nearly all riders in the period we are re-enacting would have been men but not exclusively. However nowadays it is felt that both sexes should be able to enjoy the hobby as long as the women try and put on a masculine image.

Aren't those swords/Lances dangerous?

Yes. Which is why we spend many hours training to use them safely and with proper instruction and assessments?

What size should the horses be?

Depending upon the period in question it is wise to give a general answer unless you are completely familiar with the mounts of the time. As a rule of thumb most Cavalry horses were not over 15.2HH. However the public will probably not know what a Hand is so it is best to point out a horse that is correct for your period.

When are you jousting (question comes up regardless of historical period)?

Explain that Jousting is not part of the historical period (unless of course it is). You may wish to explain the rudiments of Skill at Arms as an alternative.

What happens when you fall off?

"You bounce" – hopefully

Is that horse not too old/too young?

It is really important that you only use horses that look good and look the part. If a contractor brings something dubious do not use in front of the public. If welfare questions do arise then send the person to ask the Contractor or Owner Rider.

Remember history is not studied properly in school and they all learn it from American rubbish films, like Braveheart! Sadly some of our own groups and contractors do not help by being totally historically incorrect.