

UNWANTED HORSES IRELAND'S VIEWS AND EXPERIENCES

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Horses in Ireland

- Tradition of horse ownership in Ireland in (urban/rural areas)
- Horse breeding
- Horse racing
- Showjumping
- Wide rural reach and sizeable economic impact



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Horses numbers

- Approximately 250,000 horses in Ireland
- Majority of Owners are responsible



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Background

- Economic boom - "Celtic Tiger" period in Ireland from mid-1990s to the mid-2000s, rapid economic growth
- Downturn in the economy 2008/2009
- Oversupply of horses in Ireland
- Horse meat controversy – 2013
- Reduced outlets for horses



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Measures Taken to Improve Horse Situation in Ireland

Legislative

- ❖ Control of Horses Act 1996
- ❖ Equine ID/Premises Legislation
- ❖ Equine Welfare

Non Statutory

- ❖ FAWAC Guideline booklets
- ❖ Urban/Traveller Horse Projects

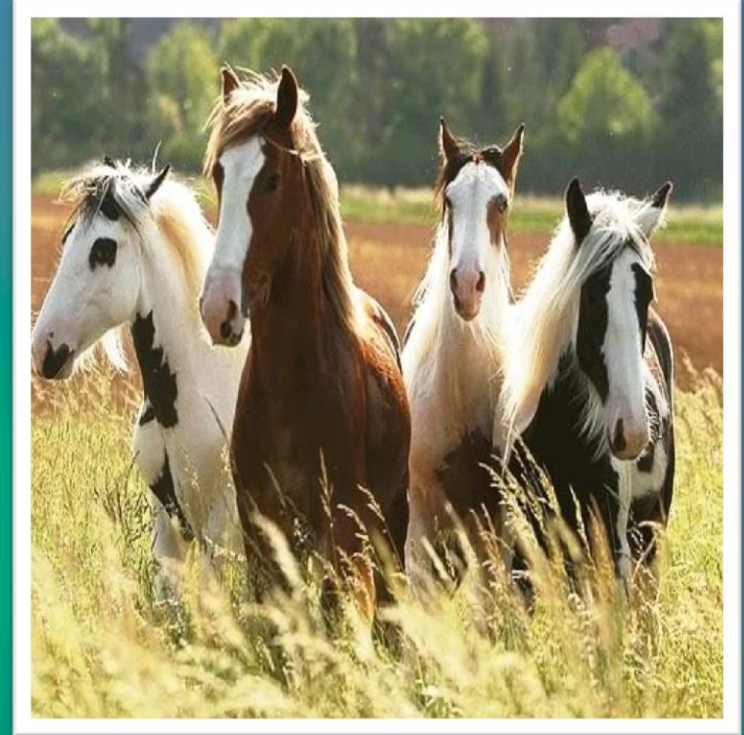


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Control of Horses Act

Act introduced to address problems caused by stray and wandering horses and dangers posed to the public from horses kept in unsuitable conditions

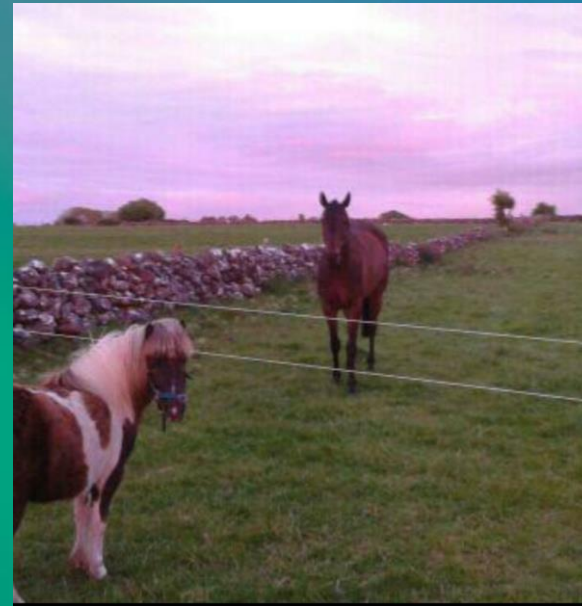


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CONTROL OF HORSES ACT 1996

- Gives powers to local authorities for designation, via byelaws, of control areas in which horses cannot be kept without a licence.



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CONTROL OF HORSES ACT 1996

31 Local Authorities LAs
(County/Councils) in Ireland

DAFM contributes towards
expenses incurred by LAs in
operation of the Act



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Horse seizures

- The number of horses being seized nationally under the Control of Horses Act continues to decline



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Year	Number of horses seized
2011	2936
2012	2969
2013	4700
2014	4,923
2015	1500
2016	2128
2017 (Jan to date)	878



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Equine Identification

- Equine identification is important for traceability and for animal health and welfare and in the preservation of the integrity of the food-chain.



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New Horse ID Regulations

- New revised Regulations on Equine ID enacted in 2016 (Statutory Instrument No. 62 of 2016), replaces earlier national legislation
- Strengthens powers in relation to the seizure and detention of horses.



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Equine Premises Registration

- All premises where an equine is kept on a full or part time basis must be registered with DAFM
- Statutory Instruments No. 113 of 2014



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Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013

- Ireland places a huge importance on the issue of animal welfare
- Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013 replaces a wide range of Acts relating to animal health and welfare dating back over a century
- Strengthens national animal welfare including equine welfare



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Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013

- Specific requirement on animal keepers to care for animals
- Extension of authorised officer powers to some NGO welfare organisations
- Authorised officers have powers to intervene before welfare situations are exacerbated
- Increased penalties – summary conviction up to €5,000 and on indictment €250,000 and/or imprisonment up to 5 years.



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FAWAC

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**Farm Animal
Welfare Advisory
Council**



A forum for representative groups to meet and reach consensus on the various challenges relating to animal welfare on farms.



Has been instrumental in promoting animal welfare in a practical way



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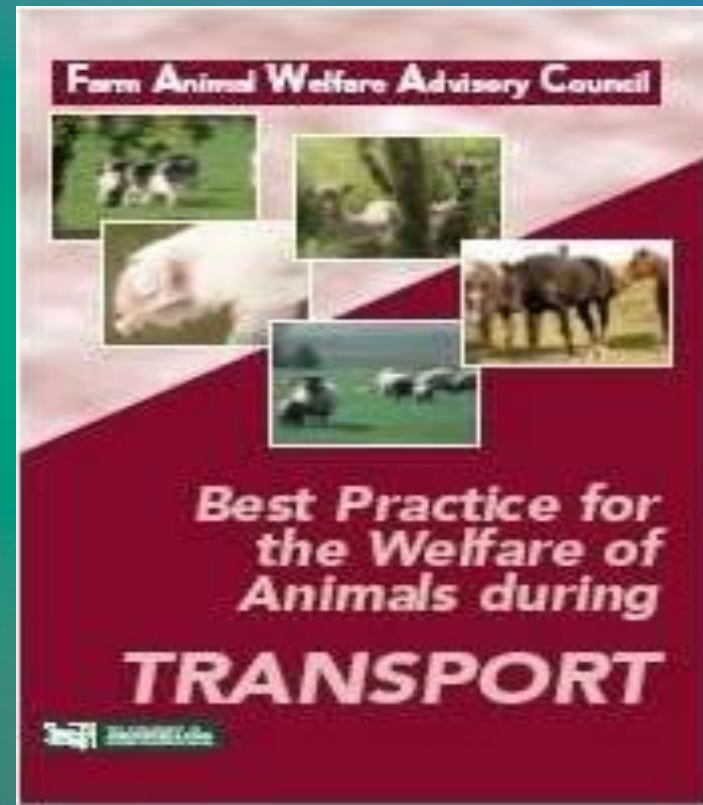
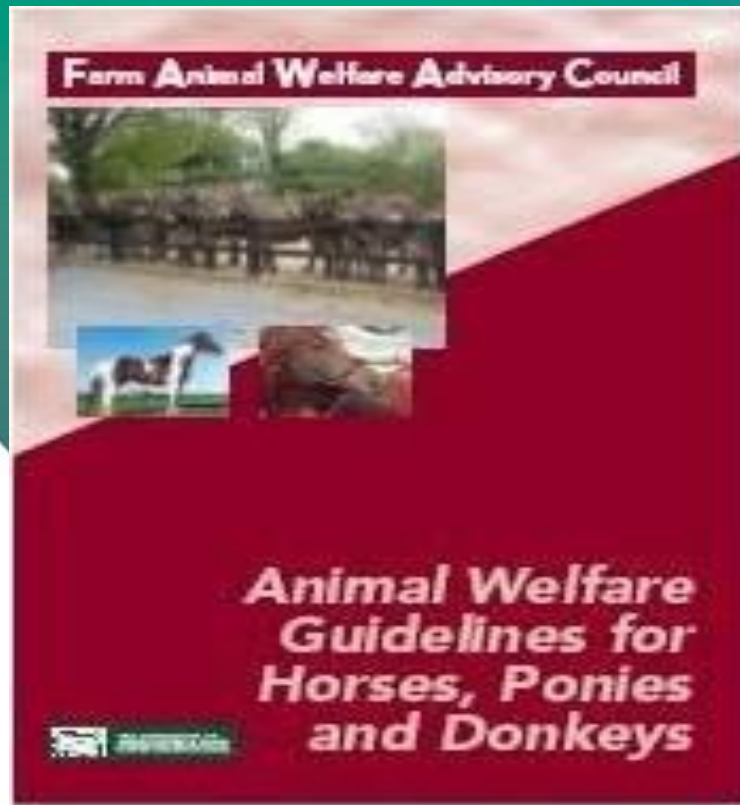
- FAWAC advises horse owners to adhere to the legal requirement on equine identification
 - If a horse is not identified within this time-frame it could lead to a significant cost to the owner in the future, as unidentified horses are automatically and irrevocably excluded from slaughter for human consumption.



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FAWAC publishes guideline books



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Funding to Animal Welfare Organisations

- DAFM funds animal welfare organisations to assist work in animal welfare
- Funding of €2.5m paid to 137 organisations in 2017
- 40 of these work with equines



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Animal welfare bodies

- ISPCA *Irish society for prevention of cruelty to animals*
- DSPCA *Dublin society for prevention of cruelty to animals*
- IHWT *Irish Horse Welfare Trust*
- HHO *Hungry Horse Outside*
- DSI *Donkey Sanctuary Ireland*



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ISPCA Equine Rescue Centre

- ISPCA opened a dedicated rescue centre for equines in Cork in June 2007
- Facility accommodates rescued and neglected horses



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The Donkey Sanctuary DSI

- The DSI - animal welfare charity protects donkeys
 - DAFM provided funding of €120,000 in 2016
 - Currently cares for @1,800 donkeys.
 - Over 500 of these are cared for in private homes
- Remainder at DSI premises in Cork



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Other Measures Aimed at Improving Horse welfare

- Stallion Castration Initiative
- Urban Horse Projects
 - Fettercairn
 - Cherry Orchard
 - Clondalkin Equine Club CEC



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Stallion Castration Initiative

- Assistance has been made available to Welfare Organisations rescuing horses to introduce initiatives that facilitate the micro chipping, passporting and castration of stallions at a reduced price to owners.



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Fettercairn & Cherryorchard Projects

Set up in 1999 and 2000 – Dublin based

Centres for youth training, education and development and including the acquisition of skills valued in employment.

- Some former members of projects have used it as a stepping stone into employment in the racing industry.



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Urban Horse Project

- Animal Welfare Conference in 2014
- One of the messages from Conference was the attachment that urban horse owners, particularly the younger population and Traveller Community have for horses.



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Urban Horse Project

Funding was allocated for horse projects to support the development of facilities for the Urban/Traveller horse population and to address the issue of the care and welfare of horses



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Urban Horse Project

- DAFM works with Local Authorities in developing projects
- build on the experience/skills within these communities, particularly the traveller community

- One problem for urban and traveller horse owners is a difficulty in accessing land

success of the projects is for innovative solutions to assist horse owners in accessing land.



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Urban/Traveller Horse Projects

- The Irish Horse Welfare Trust (IHWT) is a key player in supporting these projects particularly in providing education supports and much needed Horse Care and Equine ID clinics.



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Limerick Equine Programme

- Limerick Equine Education and Therapeutic Programme.
- Educating and advocating for responsible horse ownership and compliance with local control of horses bye-laws



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Leitrim Project

- Leitrim Pony-Riding and Animal Welfare Project
- Managed by Leitrim County Council
- Work with urban and traveller groups
- Pony-Riding & Handling
- Stable Management



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Clondalkin Equine Club

- Clondalkin Equine Club established in 2012 by horse owners in the local Community
- Interested in acknowledging the urban horse culture and fostering responsible horse ownership



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Clondalkin Equine Club CEC



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Surplus of Unwanted Horses

DAFM supports and encourages all efforts towards re-homing of horses

- DAFM supports Local Authorities and animal welfare organisations in efforts towards the cost of re-homing of horses



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Re-homed Horses



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Horses Re-homed Abroad

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- To the United Kingdom



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Horses Rehomed Abroad



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Supply vs Demand



- The over-supply has significantly eased.
- Supply of horses is coming more into line with demand
- Numbers of unwanted horses reduced considerably



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Any Questions



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Thank You



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