The guide for good animal welfare practice for the keeping, care, training and use of horses - factsheet

Turnout – shelter and pasture

It is recommended that all horses should be given daily access to paddock or pasture, where possible together with other horses, in order to fulfil their need for free movement and social contact.

Sufficient shelter should be available all year round: in the summer to provide the horses with shade from the heat of the sun and protect them against flying insects; in winter to protect them against wet, windy and cold conditions.



Tethering on pasture is not recommended. It restricts the free movement of the horse and it does not allow for social contact with other horses. There is a risk that tethered horses will become entangled in their tether and injure themselves.

Paddock maintenance, shelter and fencing

- Paddocks and pastures should be well drained to avoid muddy conditions as much as possible.
- Paddocks and pastures should be kept clear of dangerous objects and regularly checked for poisonous plants.
- Fences should be clearly visible to the horses, be well maintained, and of an appropriate type and height to prevent horses from escaping.
- The shelter should be large enough to comfortably provide protection to all horses at the same time.

The use of hobbles should be discouraged.

Photos are used in this factsheet to illustrate some conditions. They should not be considered to illustrate the only solution to the conditions described