

# VERDERERS' GRAZING SCHEME PONY WELFARE PROGRAMME

Serial Number  
(To be entered by VGS Administrator)

## APPLICATION

Name of owner:

Address:

Details of pony:

Passport/Verderers' List Number: .....

Mare/Gelding (delete as appropriate) Name .....

Colour: .....

Year of birth: .....Haunt .....

**Certificate by applicant:** I wish to enter the pony listed above in the Verderers' Grazing Scheme Pony Welfare Programme. I have read the rules of the Programme and confirm that the pony has been legally depastured this year and for the previous 2 years. The pony is 18 years old or older. By signing this agreement I agree to ensure that the pony does not return to the Forest. **(Note. Any abuse of the Welfare Programme, or return of this pony to the Forest or adjacent commons, will automatically result in permanent exclusion from the VGS)**

**Signed** .....

**Date** .....

**Certificate by Agister:** I have seen the pony and confirm the above details. A photo has been taken and will be passed to the VGS manager for attachment to the application.

Name of Agister .....

Signature .....

Date .....

## Confirmation by VGS Administrator

Application approved/rejected.

Payment/amount .....

Signed ..... Date

Verderers' Grazing Scheme Administrator

## **VERDERERS' GRAZING SCHEME PONY WELFARE PROGRAMME**

1. The Verderers' Grazing Scheme Pony Welfare Programme is intended to encourage commoners to remove older ponies from the Forest by providing a one off payment. This is in addition to the annual VGS payment which will also be made, if the pony is eligible and has qualified that year. The reason for introducing this programme is that depastured ponies over the age of 18 years find it difficult to survive without intervention and increasingly require additional assistance; their welfare suffers and they make additional work for the Agisters and their owners. Removing older ponies makes way for younger, fitter stock. The welfare programme will be open to commoners who are members of the VGS.

### **Administration.**

2. The VGS Administrator will administer the programme on behalf of the Verderers of the New Forest. The programme will be available to those commoners who are members of the VGS, and will be reviewed annually.

3. Applicants are required to complete a standard application form available from the VGS Administrator/Agister. The commoner must then get the form countersigned by his/her Agister who is required to take a photograph of the pony and confirm that it matches the details on the passport/registration document and is eligible for inclusion (see 6c to 6g below). On completion, the form should be forwarded to the VGS Administrator who will log the details and attach a copy of the photo taken by the Agister. This will then be retained on file.

4. To ensure compliance with the terms of the programme and to ensure that animals which have been entered in the programme do not return to the Forest, a database of all ponies entered in the programme will be maintained by the VGS Administrator.

### **Rules**

5. The proposed rules of the programme are as follows:

- a) A payment will be made to commoners who remove ponies aged 18 or over permanently from the Forest under the terms of the Welfare Programme.
- b) Payment levels will be reviewed annually. For VGS year 2013/14 commoners will receive £150.00 for each animal accepted for the Programme.
- c) Applicants must be signed up members of the VGS.
- d) To be eligible for payment a pony must have been legally depastured that year, and for the previous 2 years.
- e) Ponies entered in the programme must have a valid passport or be included on the Verderers' Identity List.
- f) Ponies may be entered in the Welfare Programme at any time except that a pony removed from the Forest by an Agister, or ordered off by an Agister, because it is in poor condition, will not be eligible that year.
- g) Applications for the programme must be supported by a signature from an Agister confirming to the best of his knowledge that the pony has been legally depastured that year and for the previous 2 years. The form is to be filled in by the commoner giving full details of the pony that they wish to take off and submitted to the VGS Administrator, for confirmation and approval.
- h) Once a pony has been removed from the forest under the terms of this programme, it must not be turned out again.
- i) There is no stipulation as to the disposal of the animal except that it must not be returned to the Forest. If the pony is sold, it will remain the responsibility of the original owner to ensure compliance with this rule, and he/she will be held liable for any breach of this condition and may be permanently excluded from the VGS for any abuse of the programme including return of the animal to the Forest.
- j) Once approved, payment will be forwarded to the owner without delay. The pony will also qualify for the annual VGS payment if it has completed the necessary qualifying period on the Forest in that year.

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