

# Equestrian Security



**POLICE  
SCOTLAND**

Keeping people safe

**POILEAS ALBA**



# Equestrian Security

Improved road networks mean that criminals are now better able to travel from throughout the UK to rural communities in the North East to commit crime.

By taking some simple steps you can better protect your home, property and the environment around you. In many cases security measures cost little but can reduce the opportunities for criminals to commit offences against your property.

Take a minute to stand back and look at your home or farm. If you were a thief what would you steal and how?

## Stables/Paddocks

Doors should be of substantial construction and secured with a multi point locking system. Hinges and padlock mounts should be of a reverse-folding type, covering the bolt heads and preventing them from being removed.

Windows should be fitted with solid bars on the inside, and window dressings should be used to prevent thieves from seeing the inside.

Consider installing CCTV and security lighting which send alerts to your mobile device. CCTV is available for remote locations where there is no Wi-Fi or power. Cameras can be battery operated and send alerts via the 4G network.

Gates should be locked and gate hinges should be welded or reversed to prevent them from being lifted off.

All fences and hedges surrounding the area should be kept in a good state of repair.

Any tools, ladders and wheelbarrows should be secured at the end of the day. The opportunist thief will often use any tools lying about to force entry. Thieves will use wheelbarrows to remove heavy equipment across fields to their vehicles.

## Horseboxes

Photograph your horsebox and record any security markings, serial and model numbers. They should always be secured using a wheel clamp and hitch lock and consider a heavy-duty chain to secure them to a building or post. They should ideally be secured within a locked building.

Fit an insurance approved tracking device to your horsebox so it can be traced if stolen. If your trailer or horsebox is parked on the driveway, always close any gates at night or when you are not using it. If you don't have gates, a vehicle bollard will provide an extra visible deterrent.

## Saddlery & Tack

Consider marking all saddles and portable equipment with a DNA forensic marking kit such as SelectaDNA. [www.selectadna.co.uk/dna-asset-marking/dnaequestrian](http://www.selectadna.co.uk/dna-asset-marking/dnaequestrian)

Forensic marking is a deterrent to thieves and enables your equipment to be returned should it be recovered by Police.

If buying used equipment from an unknown seller, consider using a UV light to check if the equipment has previously been security marked.

Don't leave any tack in a horsebox overnight – store it away safely and be especially careful at events and shows. Check that you have adequate cover under your insurance for theft for your tack.

## Horses

All horses, ponies and donkeys must have a horse passport. In Scotland, it is the responsibility of the keeper to apply for a horse passport. Make sure your horse passport is up to date.

Microchipping your horse is compulsory and aids accurate identification as it provides a permanent link between the horse and its passport. Microchipping will also help recover and identify stolen and abandoned horses and assist with welfare cases. Using prominent signs which state that the animals are permanently tagged and identifiable is an important deterrent.

Within Scotland the movement or transport of Equidae is permitted when accompanied by a ScotEquine card. The ScotEquine card does not replace a passport; it is a robust ID card (containing statutory information) which can accompany a horse when it is being transported as an alternative to the paper passport.

A horse cannot be bought or sold with only a ScotEquine card so before purchasing any horse make sure all the documentation is present and do your research.

Take lots of photographs of your horse including any unusual markings which would help the Police with identification.

Your local police crime prevention officer can offer advice, ensuring that the most appropriate preventive measures are adopted.

*For further advice on a range of security measures and recommended products visit -*

[www.securedbydesign.com](http://www.securedbydesign.com)



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