

Horse Insurance

Horse insurance is something which we are regularly asked about, and often, not until it is likely that an insurance claim is going to be submitted. Below we hope to explain the differences between the main types of cover available and what happens when you make a claim. Please note that there may be some differences between the small print for the same type of cover from insurance company to insurance company, so for any specific queries we would advise you to contact the company directly.

Veterinary Fees

Covers the cost of veterinary treatment for injury or illness up to a set limit per illness or injury. Often there is a choice of what limit of cover and we would advise that you take the highest level available; this is usually around £4000 to £6000, as lesser levels will not always be sufficient in situations where your horse may require, for example, colic surgery with a lot of intensive aftercare. Some insurance companies will have a fixed excess per condition and others may have a variable excess which is decided by a percentage of the total claim. Often the client can choose between several fixed excesses which obviously impacts on the overall price of your policy.

As a general rule, insurance companies will cover any condition for one year and following this, will exclude on condition when the policy is renewed.

Third Party Liability

Pays legal costs and compensation if you are found legally liable for accident, injury or death to a third party, or damage to a third party's property. For example, if your horse causes a road traffic accident following breaking out of its field.

Mortality

Pays the sum insured or market value of the horse if the horse dies or has to be put down. This type of cover is subject to a lot of conditions from the insurance company. A few important points to note are that if death or euthanasia is due to a condition which has began more than 12 months ago or if you do not inform the insurance company of the decision to put down the horse before this occurs, they will not pay out. Obviously, with regard to the latter, if the horse is in too much pain and has to be put down immediately, for example, having broken a leg then prior notice is of course not necessary. We would urge you strongly to read the small print on this type of cover as it can be confusing.

Permanent Loss of Use

If an illness or injury permanently prevents your horse participating in any one of the insured activities, the insurance company will pay a percentage of your horse's market value. The horse will be freeze branded to identify it as a 'loss of use' horse.