

| Challenge Award: To Breed or Not to Breed (Breeding Part One) | | |
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| Learning Outcomes. Participants will: | Activities | Resources |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I am aware of issues in relation to irresponsible breeding I can list various situations where it would not be suitable to breed from a mare I can list considerations to make before deciding to breed from a horse I know what type of facilities are required for a mare and foal I can list the costs involved with breeding | <p>Possible starter or wrap-up activities (approx. 10 mins)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Horse Welfare website and ‘Need to Breed’ leaflet BHS Healthcare and Education clinics https://www.bhs.org.uk/our-work/welfare/our-campaigns/healthcare-and-education-clinics Video clips on YouTube demonstrating issues in relation to indiscriminate breeding https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UQ-Fm_472A Images of conformation faults – there are a number of images in the BHS Complete Horsemanship Volume 3. Alternative images should be accessible online. Images of different types of |
| | <p>In what situations would you not breed (for example; bad temperament, poor conformation, unsound, unknown breeding)? In which situation might you want to breed (for example; good temperament, conformation, and bloodlines along with a good competition record)? Discuss. Alternatively, you could have a pre-written list (you could use post-it notes for individual situations) and ask the group to sort them into a ‘yes’ ‘maybe’ ‘no’ pile. Throughout the course, come back to the list and see if any ‘maybes’ are changed to ‘no’s’ – encourage discussion.</p> | |
| | <p>Watch the YouTube clip from World Horse Welfare ‘Need to Breed’ and discuss. Has anyone had an experience, or come across any horses requiring assistance or referral to a welfare organisation? Do you think the situation bears any relationship to irresponsible breeding? Has anyone known of a horse with soundness or health issues which could be related to its breeding?</p> | |
| | <p>Talk about the work the BHS does through healthcare and education clinics. The role of the British Horse Society is to improve welfare through education. Working collaboratively with fellow welfare charities across the UK to reach out to vulnerable owners and communities who may not normally seek regular healthcare for their horses and/or are known to be breeding indiscriminately. Clinics offer a health check by a vet, castration, passporting, microchipping, dental checks, worming, and hoof care at a reduced cost, as well as education, advice, and support on a huge range of issues. More information and short clip available via link on the right.</p> | |
| | <p>Possible main activities</p> | |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I know where to go for advice before breeding from a mare | <p>Have a list of conditions that are not suitable to breed with, for example; sweet itch, chronic heritable lameness, laminitis, sarcoid near the udder or open sarcoid, sweet itch, equine asthma, or any serious conformation fault. These could be on cards, along with conditions that would not affect the decision to breed, for example; splints and windgalls (unless linked to poor conformation) and wall eye (although horses with a wall eye cannot be included in some stud books). The group can then put the cards into different piles – ‘Breed’ and ‘Not to Breed’. (You could have a third pile requiring further discussion, with conditions such as spavins).</p> <p>Once the group has separated these into piles, they can each be discussed.</p> <p>In a real situation where someone is considering breeding with a horse with any of the conditions listed, we would recommend these are always discussed with a vet.</p> <p>A good discussion could follow the exercise above to formulate the type of questions you should be asking your vet if you were considering breeding from your mare. It is also useful to consider and discuss which vets to go to for advice – your own vet may be familiar with your mare and situation, a vet with specialist breeding experience may be useful where a mare is difficult to get into foal, and vets with experience dealing with sports horses will be most informed about the best conformation for a given discipline.</p> <p>There are several conditions in horses which may or may not be heritable, ask your vet for up-to-date information in this area. There are some conditions a vet can test for before breeding.</p> | <p>fencing - there are a number of images in the BHS Complete Horsemanship Volume 1. Alternative images should be accessible online.</p> <p>BHS also has advice on fencing available from: https://www.bhs.org.uk/advice-and-information/horse-care/pasture-management/fencing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Images of fixtures and fittings in stables- there are a number of images in the BHS Complete Horsemanship Volume 2. Alternative images should be accessible online. <p>BHS also has advice on Stable Management and Safety available from: https://www.bhs.org.uk/advice-and-information/horse-care/stable-management-</p> |
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| | <p>Optional practical session:</p> <p>Deliver a practical session looking at the conformation of horses available on the yard. If you deliver theory only sessions, you could take pictures or videos to look at (have permission from horse owners) and discuss.</p> <p>Provide images of conformation faults, particularly those where you would avoid breeding from that horse, for example; parrot mouth, deviations in limbs.</p> <hr/> <p>Ask the group to list the considerations that need to be made before making a decision to breed from a mare, for example; age, maiden mare, barren mare, vulval conformation.</p> <p>Discuss breeding from a mare that is out of work due to injury.</p> <p>Look at a mare or a few mares on the yard (or provide photos/case studies) and assess their suitability (may need to do some research beforehand of each horse's breeding and history).</p> <p>Discuss the professional help available and where they could get advice from.</p> <hr/> <p>Discuss the facilities required if intending to breed.</p> <p>Have photos of different types of fencing, to include tornado fencing, sheep wire, two rail and three rail post and rail, electric tape, wire, and barbed wire. Explain which are suitable and which are not suitable. Go through the general features required in a field and then look at field nearby and assess its suitability.</p> <p>Have photos of stables, discuss potential hazards to a foal (fixtures and fittings). Go through the requirements of a suitable stable – look at stables on the yard and assess their suitability.</p> <p>Discuss suitable company for a mare and foal to be turned out with.</p> | <p>and-safety</p> |
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| | <p>Look into a variety of costs – it would be useful to have some examples of costs in your area.</p> <p>Discuss the costs that need to be investigated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss procedures required to get a mare in foal and how much these cost? • Discuss diseases which can affect the mare and vaccination programmes which are available for example; EHV, Strangles, Equine influenza. • Look into and discuss costs of reproduction packages, and what's included. Research/ask vets for price lists, and compare, paying attention to what is and is not included in the package. • Discuss stud fees, look at various stud cards and stud directories. Have a list of terms such as NFFR, No Foal No Fee, 50% if not in foal, and explain what these mean. <p>Participants can then go away and do some research and fill in the costs table in their booklet. This can then be discussed at the next session.</p> | |
| <p>Possible wrap up activities (approx. 10 mins)</p> | | |
| <p>Recap on what has been covered in the session, ask for views and comments from participants and any questions.</p> | | |
| <p>Based on topics discussed talk about the time commitments involved with breeding and which options would suit individuals.</p> | | |
| <p>Things to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch any video clips to be used during sessions in full before use to ensure they are suitable | | |