



DIY LIVERY - yard visit checklist

- Make sure that you **arrive on time** and **suitably dressed**.
- You'll want to visit all areas of the yard so ensure you **bring a warm coat** and **wellies**.
Even if you leave your jacket in the car it's always worth bringing as exposed sites can be cold even on a warm day.
- Don't forget a **pen** so you can complete this checklist and add any notes.
- If you want to take photos **always ask permission**.
Don't be offended if they refuse. This may be to protect the security of the horses and tack on the yard.

Stables

Things to look for	✓
Are they large and airy?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do the stables look big enough for your horse to turn around and lie down?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are they well drained and ventilated?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do they look clean and well kept?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the area around the stables well swept?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is there enough space to groom your horse?	<input type="checkbox"/>
If a horse is the stable during your visit, does it look to have enough hay?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the hay and haylage storage area look clean and regularly maintained?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is there safe feed storage?	<input type="checkbox"/>

Things to ask

Which stable will your horse be in?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are you allowed to buy in your own forage, bedding and feed?	<input type="checkbox"/>

TIP: If you have to buy from the yard, check the quality on offer before you move your horse there.

Notes

Paddocks

TIP - Look at the fields that would be used for your horse.

Don't just look at the first field on the yard as this may not be used for your horse.

Things to look for

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| Are the paddocks of sufficient size for the number of horses? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are the fences solid and horse friendly? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are they free from barbed wire, chicken mesh or other unsuitable materials? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are they free from dock leaves, thistles, ragwort and other plants that demonstrate poor field management? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do the fields have electric fences? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are the gates big enough with good fastenings? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do they look well maintained? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Is the grass in good condition for the time of year? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do the fields have a good supply of fresh water? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| If there are horses in the fields, do they look content? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do the paths to the fields look safe and well kept? | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Things to ask

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| Are mares and geldings separated? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| How big are the groups of horses? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| How often the horses are turned out and are there a restriction on number of hours/day? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Is the summer and winter turn-out routine different? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Is there an option to do night turnout in summer? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Can a field be sectioned off in summer to restrict grass? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| What is the poo picking regime? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| What is the paddock, regime, i.e. rotation and harrowing etc. to smooth after winter, what do they use for fertilizer (is it nitrogen-free?) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| What is the maintenance protocol?
<i>For instance, if your horse was to break a fence, would you have to pay?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Is there a worming or worm count programme in place? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ask to see the field that your horse would use and ask about who will be your horse's field companions? | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Notes

School / Arena

- Things to look for** ✓
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- Does the surface look level and clean?
 - Is the construction of the school good and is the surface suitable for your needs
 - Is there evidence of a good poo picking philosophy in force?
 - Is the school well-kept with safe easy to use gates?
 - Is it free from deep tracks, ill-placed jumps, abandoned cups and other signs of lack of care and maintenance?
 - Are there floodlights?

- Things to ask**
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- How often is it harrowed/graded?
 - Does it stays good in summer and drains in winter? Does it freeze?
 - Is the arena hired out to non-liveries and if so how communicated to liveries?
 - Is there any restriction on use or booking arrangements? *i.e. for lessons or schooling*
 - What are the rules of the school? *i.e. do you have to pay extra for anything, such as to use the floodlights, what is the maximum number of people allowed in there at any one time?*
 - If more than one, do they have specific uses, i.e. show jumping, flat work or lunging?
 - What other options are there for schooling or exercising your horse?
e.g. is there a jumping paddock, cross-country course, lunging pen, horse walker, gallops, or off-road hacking?
 - Ask about lessons from your own instructor.
 - It is not unknown for yards to refuse to allow anyone but their "own" instructor to teach on site.

Notes

General

TIP - Have a good look round the yard. Talk to current liveries, spot any potential dangers to your horse and see how other horses are treated. Don't be afraid to ask questions.

Things to look for	✓
Does the yard feel secure or is it open to people walking in unchallenged?	<input type="checkbox"/>
The tack space - if individual tack areas, can they be secured and is the space adequate for your needs? If communal, how the area is secured and is there a specific area for your equipment?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there clean toilet, kitchen, and social area facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the muck heap clean and tidy?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the Solarium, horse wash areas easily accessible and can your horse be secured safely in this area?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lorry and trailer parking. Is there ample parking and could you easily turn trailers round?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are Instructor and contractor qualifications and insurance displayed?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did the horses look relaxed and healthy?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Were any other horse owners around? Did they seem friendly and relaxed?	<input type="checkbox"/>
If you get the opportunity to talk to some of the horse owners and gauge their impression of the yard	<input type="checkbox"/>

Things to ask

Ask about the Livery agreement. Is it simple and clear?	<input type="checkbox"/>
What types of liveries are offered? What does each one include and how much does it cost?	<input type="checkbox"/>
What exactly will you pay for and what is charged as an extra? Is it good value for money?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are late night checks performed, and if so what are they and when do they occur?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are security arrangements in force during the day and night? Is there CCTV coverage of the yard and tack areas?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has the yard been broken into and if so when?	<input type="checkbox"/>
How often is the muck heap emptied?	<input type="checkbox"/>
What is the worming regime?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there regular Dentist, Chiropractic or Physiotherapy visits?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ask about any rules linked to the toilet and kitchen areas?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are personnel on site 24/7 for 365 days a year?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are the staff BHS qualified and BHS teaching staff available for lessons?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ask about the teaching routine are slots available and can visiting instructors come to the yard?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the yard hold small horse events, lecture demonstration or social gatherings?	<input type="checkbox"/>
If solarium, horse wash areas and/or rug wash are available do these attract extra costs and if so how much?	<input type="checkbox"/>
How many staff to how many liveries?	<input type="checkbox"/>

