

The final journey

It will be necessary to arrange collection of your horse or pony for after he/she has been put to sleep. Again, this is something which we are more than happy to help you arrange if you would like us to. We recommend Brent Carter Ltd. or Leyland Pet Crematorium.

BRENT CARTER LTD.

tel. 01706 877620 / 07973 128251

email. brentcarterltd@hotmail.com

www.brentcarter.co.uk

LEYLAND PET CREMATORIUM

tel. 01772 622466

email. info@petcrematorium.co.uk

www.petcrematorium.co.uk

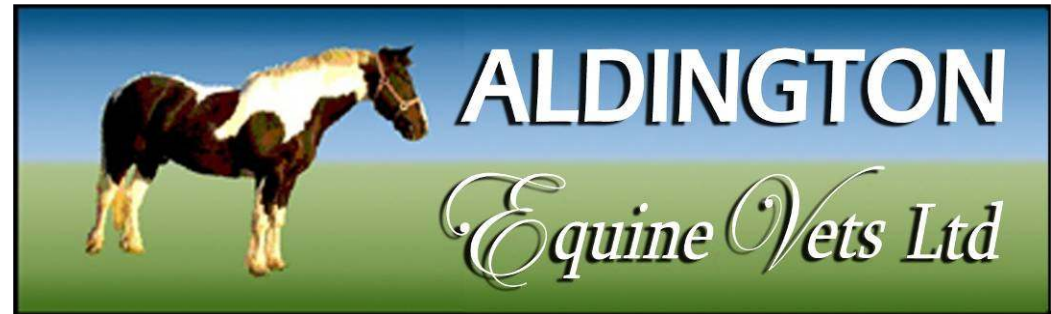
Brent Carter Ltd. and Leyland Pet Crematorium both offer a range of services including individual cremation (with or without ashes returned) and simple disposal/communal cremation. Please see the websites listed above for further details. We have leaflets for these two companies at our clinic should you require a copy.

Burial of your horse or pony on your own land cannot be performed without prior permission from Defra and your local council. For further information please contact the Defra helpline on 08459 33 55 77.

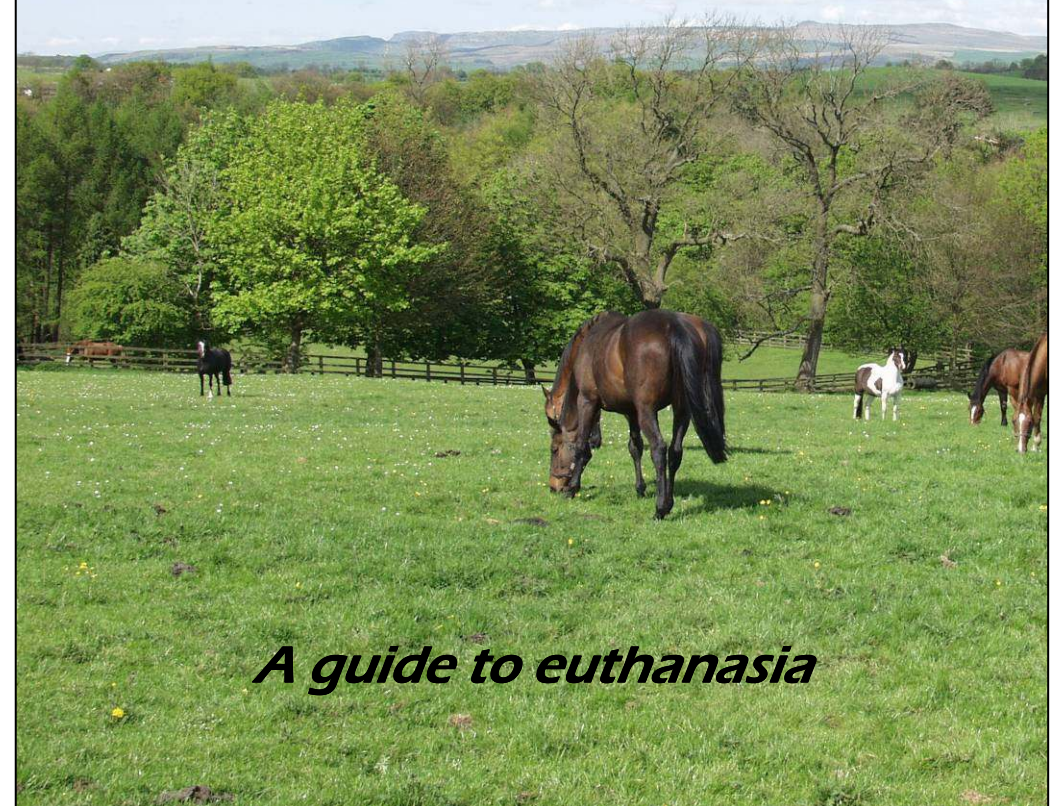
If you have any questions regarding any aspect of having your horse or pony put to sleep, please do not hesitate to contact us on 01254 888600. One of our office team or vets will be more than happy to speak to you.

Aldington Equine Vets Ltd.
Martholme Farm, Great Harwood
Lancashire, BB6 7UJ
tel. 01254 888600

www.equine-vet.co.uk



*Saying goodbye to your
horse or pony*



A guide to euthanasia

Having your horse or pony put to sleep and what to expect

This leaflet aims to explain what to expect when you have decided to have your horse or pony put to sleep. We understand what a difficult decision this is to make and as a practice hope to be able to make the process as stress free as possible for both you and your horse or pony.



There are two options for having your horse or pony put to sleep (euthanased). Either option is non-painful for your horse. Most commonly our clients choose to have their horse or pony euthanased by injection, which is performed by one of our vets. The other option is to have your horse shot with a free bullet. Although our vets are not licensed to put horses to sleep by this method, we can help you to arrange this if you would prefer – usually we would recommend Brent Carter Ltd. for this service.

Euthanasia by injection

This method of euthanasia involves injection of a combination of two drugs, the first which anaesthetises the horse and the second which stops the horse's heart. Your horse will need to have a catheter placed (a needle inserted into its vein) which can take some time, then be heavily sedated before the injection is given.

Destruction with a free bullet

Shooting a horse is an equally humane method of euthanasia and is very quick. However, there can be more blood with this technique and it can sometimes be shocking and upsetting for owners to watch. Brent Carter Ltd. does not make a charge for this service if you use them for the collection of your horse or pony. Nervous horses can be sedated by us beforehand if required.

Overall, the cost for euthanasia by injection is higher than for destruction by free bullet. Euthanasia by injection is likely to cost between £140 and £260 depending on the size of the horse – this does not include the fee for collection.

What will happen on the day

If you choose to have your horse or pony euthanased by injection we will arrange a visit for one of our vets to attend. Normally the appointment with the vet will need to be around half an hour before the arranged collection time.

It can be helpful to arrange having your horse or pony put to sleep at a time when your yard is relatively quiet. We will also need a suitable area to perform the euthanasia. A relatively open, non-slip area to which a truck/trailer can be reversed up to is ideal. Usually an area of grass or an arena/field with a wide gateway is used.

The vet will need to discuss with you why you would like your horse or pony to be put to sleep, and will ask you to sign a consent form giving us permission to perform the euthanasia. If you are looking to make an insurance claim for mortality or euthanasia on humane grounds please discuss this with your insurance company before arranging the euthanasia, and inform us when you make the appointment so the vet due to attend is aware of this.

Normally, your horse will be sedated and have a catheter placed. This may involve clipping a small patch of hair on the horse or pony's neck. We will then walk your horse or pony to the area you have chosen to have him or her put to sleep. It is likely that more sedation will be given at this point as he/she needs to be quite heavily sedated before the final injection is given.

For safety reasons the vet will ask you to stand back when the horse falls to the ground. It is normal for horses to have reflex movements of their limbs and muscles after they have died and commonly take very deep breaths even several minutes after the heart has stopped. Once it is safe to do so, you will be able to say goodbye to your horse or pony.

Jessica Putnam MRCVS, February 2013