

## LEGAL WHO SHOULD PAY FOR THE DAMAGE?

**Q** My horse keeps breaking the rickety post and rail fencing at my livery yard because there's no electric fencing to keep him from leaning on it. The yard owner says it's my responsibility to pay for fence repairs but surely it's his responsibility to make sure the yard's safe and well managed with effective fencing? Who should pay?



### Hanna Burton

is a lawyer with Horse Solicitor, which specialises in serious injury cases

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The starting point of this argument is that the livery yard owner's responsible for the cost of the reasonable upkeep of the yard, including its fences. Only if you agreed to be responsible for the upkeep of the fencing, either by way of verbal or written contract, would you be liable.

The livery yard owner is not required to install electric fencing, although it may be an idea if horses are leaning against the fencing and damaging it, as it will ultimately save him money. If your horse is unusually prone to leaning on the fencing and damaging it then the livery yard owner may ask you for a contribution but I can't see that you would be bound (by contract) to pay.

It seems to me that the best solution here is for the livery yard owner to repair the fencing and utilise electric fencing to prevent further damage. He can then agree with you an increased charge, if he deems that appropriate, and whether or not you wish to continue to keep your horse there subject to the new conditions would be up to you.

## SHOEING HELP WITH CRACKED HOOVES

**Q** My horse has a crack at the front of his hoof that goes from his coronet band to the bottom of his hoof and widens slightly at the base. My farrier pares it back every time he's shod, but the crack never grows out. Are there any hoof ointments or products I could use to boost hoof growth and help repair the crack?



### James Nash

DWCF is a registered farrier

It's important to first identify the cause. Cracks in the toe are most often caused by:

- **Over-long hooves** causing strain in the hoof wall
- **A foot imbalance** or lack of support in the toe region from an overly set back shoe
- **An injury and subsequent scarring** to the coronary band - this may split and allow bacteria and fungus into the hoof structure

If it's a superficial crack that runs from the coronary band to the ground it's possibly the result of an old trauma to the coronary band. This can scar the horn-producing coronary corium, resulting in a gap in horn production or an area of weakened horn. This type of

crack will widen at the base as the area is invaded by bacteria and fungus. The infection at the bottom needs to be debrided of necrotic tissue and cleaned

with a product such as Life Data that treats both bacteria and fungus. Cornucrecine rubbed into the coronary band will help reduce the scar tissue, as well as increasing the rate of hoof growth, which will eventually eliminate the fault in the hoof wall.

If the crack is structural your farrier can open up and clean the crack before applying a plastic filler such as Imprint Granules. These have the same strength and flexibility as hoof and will hold the sides of the crack firmly while allowing movement. Over about a year the fault, and the plastic filler, should grow out.

**HOOF CARE TIP**  
Smear Vaseline onto the soles of your horse's feet in wintry weather to help stop a build up of snow and ice

