

Head cam video could prove crucial in court

Footage can make the difference between winning and losing a claim

HEAD camera footage can make the difference between winning and losing claims over road accidents, lawyers have advised.

Sharon Dewis, who broke her pelvis when a car hit her horse in 2016, lost her job as a result. She took legal action against the driver but as there were no witnesses or footage, a 50/50 liability split was negotiated. The case settled for £13,000 with Ms Dewis receiving 50% of this owing to the split.

HorseSolicitor partner Hanna Campbell, who represented Ms Dewis, told *H&H* the case could "easily have been lost".

"This is a clear example of how important head-cam footage can be in securing access to justice. Had our client had supportive footage, liability is unlikely to have remained in dispute and the matter could have been settled 100% in her favour," she said.

"Every case is based on its own facts. We try to establish liability and look to get admission of liability from the other side. When it comes to valuing a case, the sum a rider receives can vary from £5,000 to millions."

Ms Campbell said around 90% of riders the firm acts for do not have footage.

"When you go to court, it is the

By BECKY MURRAY

claimant's position to prove their case; it becomes one person's word against another's," she said.

"If we have footage, and it clearly shows the driver is negligent, it would put us in a strong position. Head camera footage can make the difference between winning a claim or not."

Ms Campbell added that having footage can reduce the time a case takes to settle, and prevent it having to go to trial.

British Horse Society (BHS) director of safety Alan Hiscox told *H&H* it is important riders try to remember as much information as possible when reporting incidents.

"We appreciate it is not always possible to remember details, which is why some riders may choose to wear a camera. Owing to a lack of research on whether such devices have a negative effect on rider injury when falling, the BHS stresses that every rider should carry out a personal risk assessment before deciding whether to wear one," he said.

"The BHS encourages riders to report incidents to our accidents website to enable us to continue to gather evidence and research."



Head cam footage can prove whether a driver was at fault

Pictures by Lucy Merrell, Peter Nixon, Stephen Sparkes/Helen Revington, Jon Stroud Media and Paul Varnam/hooftblog.com



German dressage rider **Dorothee Schneider** is recovering from a fall from stallion Quantum Vis MW,

who was spooked as she mounted. Dorothee hopes to be back in the saddle in a few days.



Tamsin Thurlow won the Burghley Horse Trials groom award 2019. Tamsin groomed for

Sarah Bullimore and Reve Du Rouet who completed the event in fourth place.



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