



THE BRITISH DRIVING SOCIETY LTD.

Executive Secretary : Mrs T Styles

83, New Road, Helmingham, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 6EA

CHAIRMAN : JOHN A PARKER

'SWINGLETREE', WINGFIELD, NR. DISS, NORFOLK, IP21 5QZ

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**FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BDS
PLEASE REPLY TO JOHN PARKER, LHHI, AT SWINGLETREE STABLES**

**REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BRITISH DRIVING SOCIETY
RE: THE USE OF DUNG CATCHERS / ' NAPPIES' ON HARNESS HORSES IN BLACKPOOL**

The British Driving Society is the national organisation responsible for all harness horse and carriage driving activities in the UK.

I have been Chairman of the BDS for the past 10 years. JP CV

I have been asked to prepare a preliminary report on the use of dung catchers, known as ' horse nappies' on harness horses used for passenger carrying services in Blackpool

From the point of view of driving harness horses in accordance with animal welfare and safety, the BDS makes the following points :

1. The majority of equine vets consider that horse nappies are detrimental to horse welfare.
2. Nappies are extremely detrimental to the welfare and safety of all harness horses. It is virtually impossible to attach a nappy in such a way that it avoids :
 - i. rubbing on the horse, causing sores,
 - ii. weighing down on the harness causing discomfort and distress to the horse and impeding the safe and correct function of the harness
 - iii. Interfering with the free movement of the harness, preventing the breaking system (known as the breeching) from functioning properly.
3. In all horses, there is a significant risk of the nappy and/or nappy fittings rubbing against the horse's hind legs, causing hair loss and sores. Because the nappy will contain dung, by virtue of its intended function, this means it will attract flies and insects which will be in extremely close proximity to bare skin which has been exposed by the friction of the nappy and/or nappy fittings on the horse. Flies and

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TO PROMOTE INTEREST IN ALL ASPECTS OF EQUINE DRIVING



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other biting and stinging insects will, therefore, have unimpeded access to exposed skin, with the result that the horse will be at much greater risk of being bitten or stung, causing pain, discomfort and distress. Where the friction of the nappy or fittings has caused a sore to develop on the horse's hind parts, not only will continued friction enlarge and worsen the sore, it will also further attract insects to the site of the wound, putting the horse at serious risk of developing an infected wound.

4. Mares are especially vulnerable because, unlike male horses, they will urinate directly into the nappy,

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