

FULL 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	\checkmark
Are they large and airy?	
Do the stables look big enough for your horse to turn around and lie down?	
Are they well drained and ventilated?	
Do they look clean and well kept?	
Is the area around the stables well swept?	
Is there enough space to groom your horse?	
If a horse is the stable during your visit, does it look to have enough hay?	
Does the hay and haylage storage area look clean and regularly maintained?	
Is it clean in the feed-room? (Remember: Spilt food and vermin go together)	
Are the beds of sufficient depth?	

Things to ask

Which stable will your horse be in?	
Do you have a choice of bedding options?	
What type of muck out regime is used? i.e. deep litter vs full dig out	
How often are the beds skipped out per day?	
Can the hay be fed form the floor, haybar or haynet?	
How often do the horses get hay refills.	
What is the feeding regime, i.e. how many times a day, on what and are there any restrictions on brand?	
Are there any extras you'll need to buy yourself?	



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	\checkmark
Are the paddocks of sufficient size for the number of horses?	
Are the fences solid and horse friendly?	
Are they free from barbed wire, chicken mesh or other unsuitable materials?	
Are they free from dock leaves, thistles, ragwort and other plants that demonstrate poor field management?	
Do the fields have electric fences?	
Are the gates big enough with good fastenings?	
Do they look well maintained?	
Is the grass in good condition for the time of year?	
Do the fields have a good supply of fresh water?	
If there are horses in the fields, do they look content?	
Do the paths to the fields look safe and well kept?	
Things to ask	
Are mares and geldings separated?	
How big are the groups of horses?	
How often the horses are turned out and are there a restriction on number of hours/day?	
Is the summer and winter turn-out routine different?	
Is there an option to do night turnout in summer?	
What time they get turned out in mornings and brought in winter/summer?	
Can a field be sectioned off in summer to restrict grass?	
What is the poo picking regime?	

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?) What is the maintenance protocol? *For instance, if your horse was to break a fence, would you have to pay?* Is there a worming or worm count programme in place?

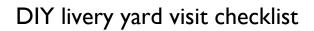
Ask to see the field that your horse would use and ask about who will be your horse's field companions?

Notes



School / Arena

Things to look for	\checkmark
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	
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>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?</i>	
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.	





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.

	\checkmark
Things to look for	·
Does the yard feel secure or is it open to people walking in unchallenged?	
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?	
Are there clean toilet, kitchen, and social area facilities?	
Is the muck heap clean and tidy?	
Is the Solarium, horse wash areas easily accessible and can your horse be secured safely in this area?	
Lorry and trailer parking. Is there ample parking and could you easily turn trailers round?	
Are Instructor and contractor qualifications and insurance displayed?	
Did the horses look relaxed and healthy?	
Were any other horse owners around? Did they seem friendly and relaxed?	
If you get the opportunity to talk to some of the horse owners and gauge their impression of the yard	

Things to ask

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



Routine

Things to ask

Are late night checks performed and if so what time are they at?	
What time is the last re-hay?	
If not on automatic water feeders, when are waters last topped up?	
What is the rug changing routine?	
Will extra rugs be put on in the evening and taken off during the day?	
What is the worming regime?	
Will Farrier and Vet visits be supervised for you?	
Are there regular Dentist, Chiropractic or Physiotherapy visits?	
If included in the price, how often are the horses groomed?	
Who handles the horses and is on yard?	

