

# **The FECTU Welfare Code for the Care and Use of Traction Animals**

**British Horse Loggers is committed to the welfare of horses working in forestry, which is why we ask members joining us to sign up to the FECTU code of welfare:**

- The animals to be kept in conditions and in an environment that is stress free and suitable for the species, their age and their gender.
- The animals to have constant access to good quality and suitable food and clean water.
- Any work that the animals are asked to do will be within their capacity both in terms of their physical capabilities but also their age and training.
- Young animals will not be asked to work harder than their age and physical development allows
- Harness and equipment to be suitable for the job, in good condition of repair and maintenance and suitable for both the animal used and the job it is asked to perform.
- Planning for good health care is essential and all necessary measures will be taken to prevent injury and disease. In the event of any medical need, all treatment will be carried out by a qualified practitioner.
- Foot care to be regular and of a high quality.
- In training and in work, animals are to be free to move naturally.

*The Association aims to encourage cooperation between those European organisations involved in the promotion and advancement of the working heavy horse (and other draught animals), to collectively represent those organisations and to promote and look after their common interests without compromising the autonomy or special interests of any member organisation. The Association will also participate in the preservation of the common European draught animal heritage, and in the promotion of both working and leisure use of these animals, paying particular attention to sound working practices with regard to animals and the humans involved, and the environment. The Association supports any initiatives undertaken by member societies which seek to encourage and make better use of draught animals and which ensure high standards of welfare for those animals.*

See the FECTU website [www.fectu.org](http://www.fectu.org) for more information