

PONY CLUB



Insights with Equine Professionals

Horse Care

A webinar series organised and hosted by The Pony Club Youth Advisory Council.

Presented Live on
27th of March

This free event is aimed at Pony Club Members. Whether you're considering an equestrian career or simply curious about these unique roles, this webinar offers valuable insights you don't want to miss.



Guest List

Louise Scott

Product Manager and Nutritionist
Dodson and Horrell



Sam Dracott

DipWCF Farrier



Elisa Faima

Equine Sport Therapist
ECF Equine Services





Dodson & Horrell is a world leading horse feed manufacturer, established in 1939, providing feeding solutions for every horse and pony.

Our range of products have been trusted by horse owners for more than 80 years. Backed by research and science and with a dedication to feeding every horse as an individual, we're exclusive feed partners to the British Equestrian Teams.

Our range of equine feeds offer complete nutritional solutions for high performance and competition horses, racing, showing, breeding and leisure riding. We also cater for horses with additional needs, such as veterans, and those in need of everyday support such as higher fibre or weight management.

Nutritionists at Dodson and Horrell formulate new products and evaluate the offering regularly to make sure the feeding range meets the needs of all horses.

Career Profile

Louise Scott



Q. What is your job title?

A. Product Manager/ Registered Nutritionist for Dodson and Horrell

Q. What did you study at school/university?

A. I studied biology, chemistry, physics and maths A levels. I then completed an undergraduate BSc (Hons) Equine Management degree at the Royal Agricultural University. I went on to do a Masters – MSc Ruminant Nutrition at Harper Adams University.

Q. What are of the most enjoyable parts of your role?

A. Creating products that help keep horses healthy and make feeding and nutrition easy for horse owners.

Q. What aspect of your role would people find surprising?

A. It isn't just about knowing the science, you have to have industry and legislative knowledge to create the right feeding plans and products that work practically and commercially too.

Q. What is a short description of your job role?

A. As nutritionist and product manager, I work on supporting our sales team and working with customers to create diet plans and answer nutritional queries. I also deliver training both internally and externally. A large part of my role involves managing the formulations and working on product development, so looking into new research being published, sourcing new ingredients, designing products and running any product trials.



Notes

Use the space below to take any notes from Louise's talk:



Sam Dracott DipWCF is an established UK Registered Farrier for over 13 years. Sam covers all aspects of shoeing including:

- Traditional Shoeing
- Remedial / Laminitic Shoeing
- Dressage, Polo, Showjumping, Eventing, Driving, Hunting

Farriers make and fit shoes for horses. They use some of the same skills as a blacksmith, but blacksmiths can only fit shoes to horses if they are registered as Farriers. Typically, you would:

- Discuss and agree the horse's shoeing requirements with the owner
- Check the horse's leg, foot and hoof, cutting away any excess hoof growth and making sure the horse is properly balanced
- Choose the most suitable type of shoe for the horse's size, foot condition, type of activity and working conditions
- Make horseshoes by hand or machine
- Adjust the shape of the shoes, using a hammer and anvil
- Fit the horseshoes

You may also work with vets and equine hospitals to provide corrective shoeing and surgical farriery. Most Farriers are self-employed, so you would need to organise your own bookings and order stock and tools. You also need to keep accounts and promote your business.

You need to be physically strong and have good practical skills. You also need to communicate well with horse owners and vets.

To work as a farrier you must be registered with the Farriers' Registration Council. The only way to register is to complete a four-year Apprenticeship with an Approved Training Farrier (ATF).

Source: The Worshipful Company of Farriers - <https://www.wcf.org.uk/how-to-become-a-farrier>

Career Profile

Sam Dracott



Q. What is your job title?

A. Farrier

Q. What did you study at school/university?

A. I studied GCSEs including geography, business studies and PE alongside core subjects. I then took A Levels in biology and psychology but realised that route wasn't for me.

After a short pre farriery course at Myerscough College I began a four and a half year apprenticeship with regular training blocks at Warwickshire Agricultural College. I qualified with a Diploma in Farriery.

Q. What are the most enjoyable parts of your role?

A. No two days are the same. Every horse and job is different which keeps it exciting. It's incredibly rewarding work seeing the difference good farriery makes to a horse's comfort and performance. It's also opened doors I never expected from working with brands to speaking at events and growing a social media community. I now get to share what I love with millions!

Q. What aspect of your role would people find surprising?

A. Most people are surprised at just how physical and technical the job is. You're not just putting shoes on horses. You're constantly assessing movement, balance, conformation and even working closely with vets to support a horse's overall health. It's a lot more than just hammering on a shoe!

Q. What is a short description of your job role?

A. I trim and shape hooves, apply shoes where needed and help horses stay sound, comfortable to perform at their best. It's hands-on skilled work that takes patience, problem solving and a real understanding of anatomy and movement. I absolutely love what I do and feel lucky every day to work with horses and help them feel their best.



Notes

Use the space below to take any notes from Sam's talk:



Massage is a hands-on therapy that involves assessment and manipulation of the body using a range of soft tissue techniques alongside stretching, joint mobilisations and muscle activations. During each session your therapist will work with your horse to engage their mind and body to induce relaxation and get the most out of their session.

By assessing the many factors that can influence a horse's way of going, your therapist can work with you towards improving their overall performance, comfort and lifestyle.

Most soft tissue problems are accumulative, except when caused by underlaying illness or trauma. Muscle sensitivity can be an indicator of a health issue, tack/equipment problem or related to training and conditioning, early detection by a skilled hands-on therapist could help to prevent further injury and restore natural movement patterns.

Sports massage therapists regularly work alongside other industry professionals such as vets, farriers, physiotherapists, chiropractors and saddle fitters to build a strong equine focused team supporting you and your horse

Career Profile

Elisa Faima



Q. What is your job title?

A. Equine Sports Therapist and founder of ECF Equine Services

Q. What did you study at school/university?

A. After finishing school I attended 6th form then went to Merrist wood college where I studied and gained a National Diploma in Equine Management and some of my British Horse Society exams. I also attended TCAP (The College of Animal Physiotherapy) where I qualified as an Equine sports massage therapist.

Q. What is the most enjoyable parts of your role?

A. Seeing the difference I can make to a horse/pony after I have treated them.

Q. What aspect of your role would people find surprising?

A. How much you can learn about how the horse is feeling just by their reaction to how you are treating them.

Q. What is a short description of your job role?

A. My job consists of providing massage treatment to a variety of horses everything from a Shetland pony to an international showjumper.



Notes

Use the space below to take any notes from Elisa's talk:

Reflective Questions

Now you have heard from the guests, answer the following questions to help you reflect on what you have learnt and how this may help shape your career choices in future.

Q. Which career of the three do you think you are most interested in and why?

A.

Q. If you were to pursue a career in the horse care world, what actions would you need to take to start your journey?

A.

Q. Are there any challenges in this journey? and how do you plan on overcoming them?

A.



Q. What kind of training, certifications, or experiences do you think would be essential for entering the equine horse care industry?

A.

Q. What role does technology or innovation play in shaping equestrian careers particularly in the horse care world?

A.

Q. How can internships, volunteering, or apprenticeships help you decide which equestrian career is the best fit for you?

A.