

POMP Risk Assessment

Equine Care, Grooming & Concierge Services

Business Name: Peace of Mind Ponies (POMP)

Location: Client yards across Hertfordshire & Buckinghamshire

Assessor: Alex Jordan

Assessment Type: General Equine Work Risk Assessment

Review Date: Annually or following any incident/change in services

1. Scope of Assessment

This risk assessment covers all activities undertaken by Peace of Mind Ponies, including but not limited to:

- Horse handling (turnout, bringing in, grooming)
- Stable duties (mucking out, feeding, watering)
- Rug changes
- Basic grooming and foot care
- Yard work
- Lone working
- Concierge and welfare coordination duties

2. Persons at Risk

- Peace of Mind Ponies (Alex Jordan)
- Client horse owners
- Yard owners and staff
- Other yard users
- Members of the public
- Horses under care

3. Hazard Identification & Control Measures

3.1 Horse Behaviour (Kicking, Biting, Rearing, Bolting)

Risk:

Serious injury from unpredictable horse behaviour.

Control Measures:

- Full disclosure required from clients regarding known behaviour issues
- Horses handled calmly, confidently, and professionally
- Dynamic risk assessment before and during handling
- Use of appropriate PPE (gloves, hat, sturdy footwear)
- Unsafe horses may be refused or require amended handling plans
- No punishment or force used

Residual Risk: Medium (inherent equine risk)

3.2 Slips, Trips & Falls

Risk:

Injury due to uneven surfaces, wet yards, mud, ice, poor lighting.

Control Measures:

- Appropriate non-slip footwear worn at all times
- Extra care during adverse weather conditions
- Avoidance of known hazardous areas where possible
- Client informed of dangerous surfaces
- Tasks modified or postponed if risk is unacceptable

Residual Risk: Low–Medium

3.3 Manual Handling (Lifting, Pushing, Pulling)

Risk:

Musculoskeletal injury from mucking out, lifting feed, hay, water containers.

Control Measures:

- Correct lifting techniques used
- Loads split into manageable weights
- Use of wheelbarrows and tools where available
- Refusal to lift unsafe or excessive weights

Residual Risk: Low

3.4 Lone Working

Risk:

Delayed assistance in case of accident or emergency.

Control Measures:

- Lone working risk assessed at each visit
- Charged mobile phone carried at all times
- Emergency contacts held for all clients
- Trusted contact informed of work schedule
- Unsafe lone-working situations declined

Residual Risk: Medium

3.5 Yard Equipment & Tools

Risk:

Injury from faulty or poorly maintained equipment.

Control Measures:

- Visual checks before use
- Unsafe equipment not used
- Faults reported to client/yard owner
- Own equipment maintained appropriately

Residual Risk: Low

3.6 Weather Conditions (Heat, Cold, Ice, Storms)

Risk:

Heat exhaustion, hypothermia, slips, reduced visibility.

Control Measures:

- Weather-appropriate clothing worn
- Increased rest and hydration in hot weather
- Extra care in icy or stormy conditions
- Tasks adapted or rescheduled if necessary

Residual Risk: Low–Medium

3.7 Vehicle Movement on Yards

Risk:

Collision with vehicles, trailers, machinery.

Control Measures:

- Awareness of yard traffic
- High visibility awareness where appropriate
- Avoidance of high-risk areas during busy periods
- Compliance with yard rules

Residual Risk: Low

3.8 Fire Risk (Stables, Hay, Bedding)

Risk:

Fire causing injury or loss of life.

Control Measures:

- Awareness of yard fire procedures
- No smoking on yards
- Clear access routes maintained
- Immediate reporting of fire hazards

Residual Risk: Low

3.9 Biosecurity & Disease Transmission

Risk:

Spread of infectious diseases between horses/yards.

Control Measures:

- Hand hygiene between yards
- Cleaning footwear and equipment where necessary
- Client instructions followed for sick/quarantined horses
- Minimal cross-yard equipment use

Residual Risk: Low

3.10 Stress & Fatigue

Risk:

Reduced concentration leading to accidents.

Control Measures:

- Realistic scheduling of work
- Adequate rest breaks
- Workload managed professionally
- Tasks refused if fatigue compromises safety

Residual Risk: Low

4. Emergency Procedures

- **Horse injury/illness:** Contact named vet immediately
- **Human injury:** Seek first aid or emergency services
- **Fire:** Follow yard emergency procedures
- **Incident reporting:** Client informed as soon as reasonably possible

Emergency contact details must be provided and kept up to date by the client.

5. Insurance & Competence

- Public Liability Insurance in place
- Personal Accident Insurance in place
- Certified Freelance Groom (BGA)
- BHS Stage 3 Care qualified
- Extensive practical equine experience

6. Review & Monitoring

This risk assessment will be:

- Reviewed annually
- Updated following any incident, near miss, or significant change
- Adapted where site-specific risks are identified

7. Declaration

Peace of Mind Ponies is committed to minimising risk while acknowledging that working with horses carries inherent dangers. All reasonable steps are taken to ensure a safe working environment for people and horses at all times.

17th December 2025