

This is a time that all horse owners dread – having to make THE decision. It is, for many people the hardest, most heart rending thing that they will ever have to do and it is not a subject that is often discussed.

When is it the right time?

There are obviously many different reasons for a horse to require euthanasia (“putting to sleep”). These will vary from dramatic emergency situations, to a long discussed decision, but it is something that has to be decided for each individual horse. In many situations, particularly elderly animals, the decision creeps up on you slowly. We all hope that maybe our beloved friend will pass away peacefully during the night. Sadly, this rarely happens and instead a decision eventually has to be made.

Whilst the actual decision is up to the owner, we will always advise and help to discuss options in a professional and sympathetic manner.

How is it done?

Free bullet – this is done using a hand gun and can be carried out by veterinary surgeons or licensed slaughtermen, such as the local hunt.

Injection – this can only be carried out by a veterinary surgeon. A catheter is inserted into the jugular vein so that at the time of injection the horse does not feel any injection or distress. Many owners choose to hold their horses for this injection, but you do not have to.

What happens afterwards?

It is illegal for horses to be buried unless prior permission has been obtained from the relevant local authority and the environmental agency. The burial site has to be discussed and specified with them prior to euthanasia.

We will completely arrange for the disposal of the body depending on what you would prefer. Cremation of the individual with other domestic animals is commonly used; in this instance there are no ashes returned.

Alternatively, we can arrange for specialist people to provide an individual cremation service with the ashes returned in wicker baskets or wooden boxes with a name plaque. Any costs can be discussed beforehand when the situation is less upsetting.



TIME TO SAY GOODBYE

All the individuals responsible for disposal will automatically collect the body from the yard or field. Only horses that have been shot can go to the local hunt kennels. This is not a free service to non-hunting people and the charge is at the hunt's discretion.

People often have firm ideas regarding what will happen when the time arrives. However, in many instances, it is such a distressing time that people don't know what they want.

If you are left with any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us on 01666 826456.