

Unfortunately, each year many animals are struck by 'Hit & Run' drivers and left to die. If you do not report the accident the animal may well die a long, lingering, painful death. You can also be prosecuted for failing to stop and report the accident and for causing unnecessary suffering to the animal involved.

It is an offence against the byelaws to feed the ponies. To do so encourages the animals to congregate at the side of the road. They do not require feeding; all the food that they need is to be found on the vast open spaces of the Forest's Lawns, Heaths and Pasture Woodlands.

There are over 130 official car parks across the Forest. Please park your vehicle in one of these not at the side of the road. To do so encourages the ever inquisitive pony to see whats on offer and ultimately places it at risk.

If you have a dog with you on the open forest near livestock, please ensure that you have it under control at all times.

Enjoy the beauty of our Forest. Please drive safely within the speed limit and respect the animals and countryside code. Be tolerant of our animals and allow them to continue their work as "architects of the Forest", which they have done for the last 1,000 years.



### Contact numbers in the event of an animal accident or incident

#### Police

999 for animal accidents on the highway, or 0845 045 45 45 for non emergency incidents

#### Verderers of the New Forest

023 8028 2052 (Monday to Friday 9am-5pm) for road traffic accidents and injured animals found on the Forest.

#### Forestry Commission

023 8028 3141 (24/7 emergency call centre) for other animal incidents – including deer.

Whoever you contact will immediately pass on the details to the local Agister who will deal with the accident.



Forestry Commission  
England

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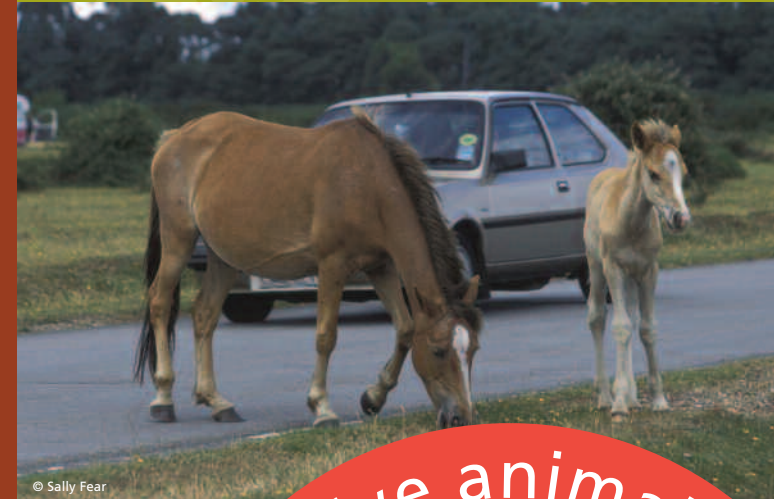
- The New Forest Trust
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# Animals and forest roads

THE NEW FOREST  
TRUST  
www.newforesttrust.org.uk



The information contained in this leaflet is intended to make your journey on the New Forest's unfenced roads a safer one for you, your family and the animals that freely roam the open areas of the New Forest.



All the animals that you see grazing the Forest have an absolute right to be there by law. It is your responsibility as a driver to accept that the animals have the 'right of way' at all times so please respect this.

Due to the high number of casualties inflicted on our animals, it was found necessary to impose a maximum 40mph speed limit. Over one hundred animals are killed and injured every year by motor vehicles, try not to be responsible for one of those statistics. During the hours of darkness and in adverse driving conditions your speed should be considerably less. Be aware that a number of ponies are wearing reflective collars and may be accompanied by other animals that are not, so when you see one collar illuminated do not assume that it is alone.

Remember animals have no more road sense than a young child. Many accidents are caused not through speed, but because motorists pass too close to an animal grazing on the verge. Animals do not look to see if anything is approaching before they cross the road and if you pass too close they may step in front of your vehicle and you will not have time to react.



#### WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE INVOLVED IN AN ANIMAL ACCIDENT:

- Stop and check the animal
- Identify your location
- Contact the police immediately whether or not you think the animal is injured. It may well have injuries that you cannot see or which become apparent in the hours following the collision. If you do not have a mobile phone, if possible, drive to the nearest available telephone. Unless you must leave the scene to call for help, do not drive off if the animal is still on the highway as this may cause a further accident especially if it has occurred during the hours of darkness.

For whatever reason the collision occurred, you are deemed responsible for an animal accident on the Forest's unfenced roads. You are required by law, to report the accident to the police as soon as practicable, and certainly within 24 hours. Please at all times observe the speed limits, and remain vigilant, whether you are a resident, visitor, or commuter - complacency will catch you out!

