



THE BLUE CROSS

*Britain's pet charity*

CLIENT INFORMATION

# Horse ambulance welfare service



[www.bluecross.org.uk](http://www.bluecross.org.uk)

## Riding and driving are recognised as high-risk sports

Many equestrian competitions place considerable demands on horse and rider requiring a high degree of fitness, skill and concentration.

Whether a horse strikes into itself on the flat or takes a fall whilst jumping, lame and injured horses need to be removed safely from the arena or the course so that they may receive immediate first aid and to enable the event to continue.

Event organisers recognise that there is an ever-increasing risk of accidents at equestrian events, regardless of the discipline involved.

For this reason many show organisers book The Blue Cross horse ambulance service for their event, to be assured of efficient and swift assistance to any horse requiring emergency care.



**Even with the best of preparation and planning, accidents can happen.**

Working in support of the attending veterinary surgeon, dedicated and trained Blue Cross personnel deal with immediate equine emergencies and take injured horses to a safe place where they may receive first aid treatment.



**Each year The Blue Cross horse ambulance service attends over 50 equestrian shows and event days.**

In the event that an injured horse requires transportation to the nearest stable or clinic, The Blue Cross can assist by transporting the horse on the advice of the veterinary surgeon.

All Blue Cross horse ambulances are fully equipped, with everything from equine first aid kits, to slings, winches and drag-mats. Long, wide ramps and a single central stall make for ease of loading and comfort during transit.

Portable screens can be erected at an incident to give an injured horse or rider privacy from spectators and minimise distress.

In the most tragic of accidents where a horse may be killed, or require immediate humane destruction by the veterinary surgeon, Blue Cross horse ambulance personnel are equipped to efficiently and discreetly attend to the horse.

Whatever the event, The Blue Cross horse ambulance service is able to offer a professional and reliable service at competitive rates.

**Whether on stand-by or in action, Blue Cross horse ambulances are there to protect the welfare of the horses that give their all in the sporting arena.**



Arranging for horse ambulance cover could not be easier. Simply complete the provisional booking form overleaf and return to The Blue Cross equine welfare department at the address below.

You are advised to book early to ensure a unit is available to provide valuable welfare cover at your event.

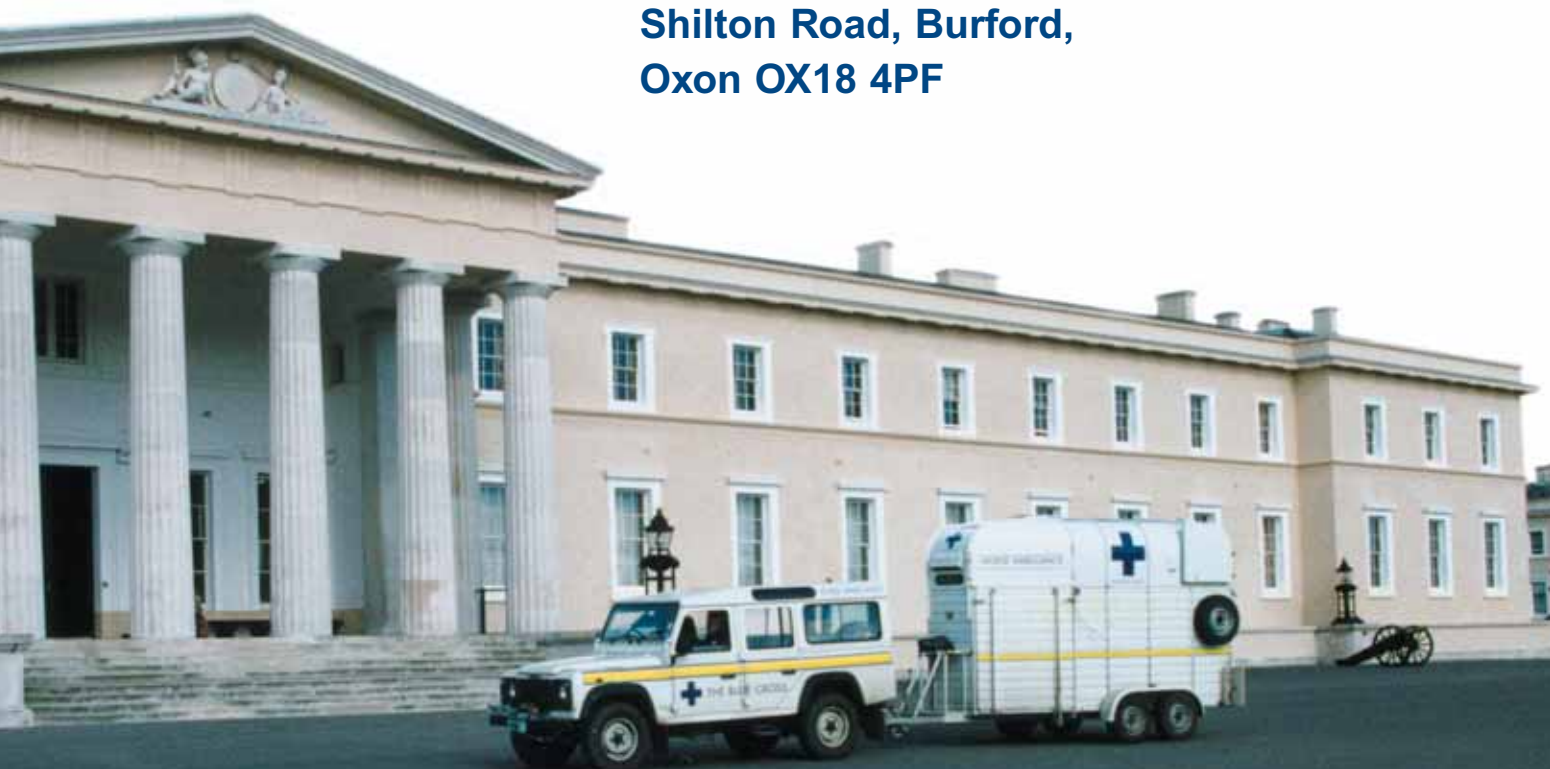


The cost per ambulance, per day, starts from just £215.00 inclusive (prices may vary depending on the location of the event). For local and smaller events we are able to offer a single crew option. Prices start from £180.00 per unit, per day. Please ask for details.

Once your application has been received we will write to confirm the availability of a unit on the date requested and confirm the cost. To confirm a provisional booking simply complete and return the offer letter together with the necessary payment.

Thank you for booking The Blue Cross horse ambulance.

**Please return this form to: Miss Lindsay White,  
The Blue Cross equine welfare department,  
Shilton Road, Burford,  
Oxon OX18 4PF**



## Provisional booking form

**I wish to provisionally book The Blue Cross horse ambulance service to attend the event detailed below:**

Nature of event: \_\_\_\_\_

Date/s of event: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of organiser: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number of organiser: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of organiser: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address of event venue: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Directions to event: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Start time of event: \_\_\_\_\_

Required arrival time of ambulance(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Number of ambulances required: \_\_\_\_\_

In the event of a fatality is there a knacker lorry available? Yes / No / On call  
**NB - Please be aware that although the horse ambulance can deal with a fatality it means that the ambulance will be out of action for a considerable period of time.**

Name of attending vet: \_\_\_\_\_

Address and telephone number of veterinary practice used: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Are official passes required for the ambulance staff and/or vehicles: Yes/No

Willing to provide packed lunch/drinks for staff attending on the day: Yes/No

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return the completed form to: Miss Lindsay White, The Blue Cross equine welfare department, Shilton Road, Burford, Oxon OX18 4PF.**

# One hundred years of The Blue Cross horse ambulance

The charity started in 1897 as Our Dumb Friends League and established The Blue Cross Fund (later to be adopted as the name of the charity) to provide care for injured and overworked harness horses in London.

A fleet of horse-drawn ambulances supported the hard working horses on the streets of the busy city. With the outbreak of the First World War, The Blue Cross ambulances were taken to France for use by the army in removing injured horses to makeshift Blue Cross veterinary centres.

Whilst the need to care for working harness horses may have diminished, The Blue Cross continues to operate a horse ambulance service catering for the modern working horse: those competing in equestrian events or injured whilst straying onto roads.



c.1906 An injured horse is helped into a Blue Cross ambulance.



1914 A Blue Cross field ambulance rescues an injured army horse.



c.1923 The Blue Cross motorised horse ambulance and crew at work.

**For further information, or to support The Blue Cross horse ambulance service and equine welfare work, visit our website [www.bluecross.org.uk](http://www.bluecross.org.uk) or call 01993 825517.**



THE BLUE CROSS

*Caring for horses*

**The Blue Cross equine welfare department,  
Shilton Road, Burford, Oxon OX18 4PF**