

Each year many animals are struck by 'Hit & Run' drivers and left to die a long, painful, lingering death. If you do not report the accident but someone sees you or provides the sufficient evidence to enable you to be identified, you may be prosecuted for failing to stop and report the accident and for causing unnecessary suffering to the animal involved. Please do not be one of those drivers, and accept your responsibilities should it unfortunately occur to you. Over 100 hundred animals are killed and injured every year by motor vehicles, try not to be responsible for one of those statistics

**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 Moors.

**Park your vehicle in the official Forestry Commission car parks, not at the side of the road.** To do so encourages the ever-inquisitive pony to see what's on offer and ultimately places it at risk.

**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 the architects of the Forest, which they have done for the last 1,000 years – without the help of the motor vehicle or human intervention



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### 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

#### Forestry Commission

023 8028 3141 ( 24/7 call centre ) for other animal incidents – including injured animals found on the Forest

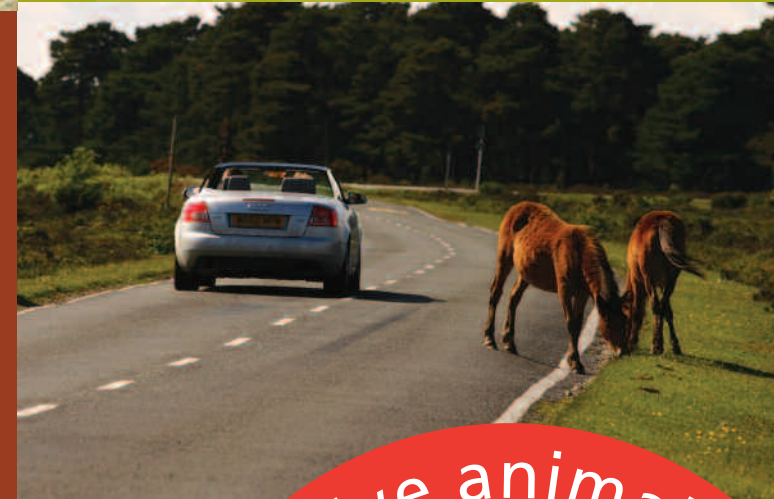


Hampshire  
County  
Council

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- Forestry Commission
- Hampshire County Council
- New Forest District Council
- National Trust
- Verderers
- New Forest Pony Group
- New Forest

# Animals and forest roads



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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 unfenced areas of the New Forest.

Stay below 40 and give animals right of way



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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 and you must respect this.

Due to the high number of casualties inflicted on our animals, it was found necessary to impose a maximum 40mph speed limit. To be more accurate, this means that you must only drive at speeds up to a maximum of 40mph. 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.



If you are unfortunate enough to have a collision with an animal you must take the following action.

- 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, seek assistance of a passing motorist or 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, and you are required by law, to report the accident to the police as soon as practicable, and certainly within 24 hours. You or your insurers will be expected to bear the costs incurred as a result of having an accident, which can include the value of the animal, any veterinary costs, and in the case of a fatality, disposal of the carcass. So you see, it is far better not to have an accident, by observing the speed limits, and remain vigilant at all times, whether you are a resident, holidaymaker, visitor, or commuter. Complacency will catch you out!



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