



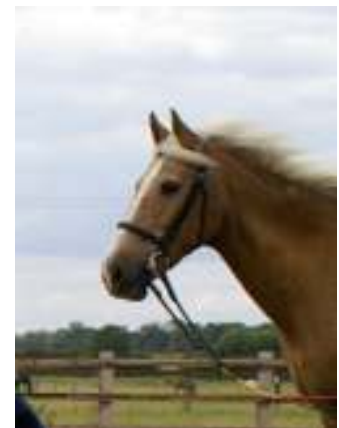
On these pages you can see pictures of some of the many horses and ponies, past and present, with which we have had the privilege of working.

The horses and ponies come in all shapes and sizes to fit every size of rider. Their temperaments are all individual too; some are very patient and will stand steady whilst a nervous, novice or severely disabled rider mounts or dismounts, then will walk quietly and calmly throughout the lesson instilling confidence into their rider. Others are livelier and more cheeky providing a challenge for the more able or experienced rider to meet.

As you can see all the colours of the rainbow are represented amongst these horses and ponies and this is an excellent tool for teaching the different coat colours to the riders. A rider will find it easier to remember that Dobbins is brown, than an unknown horse in a picture book.

The horses and ponies all have their own personalities, for example one pony was renowned for frisking the helpers pockets for treats, whilst another horse was so nosy that he had to investigate every piece of equipment used in the lesson. The riders and helpers enjoy finding out about all the different personalities.

Each horse or pony also has its own likes and dislikes; some prefer to go hacking, others enjoy gymkhana games and some are a bit lazy and just like to sleep in their stables!





We also have to do some training with some of the horses and ponies as in RDA we usually have a leader with each horse, and sometimes we have one or two side walkers too, to help the rider to maintain their balance or to assist in communication between the rider and the instructor. To most horses and ponies it is unusual to have someone leading while someone else is riding and it is certainly not normal to have side walkers at all. Some horses and ponies can feel a bit claustrophobic with so many people walking close by their sides and may react badly if they have not been introduced to the system properly beforehand. Other horses are never comfortable with side walkers even after training.



As you can see from the photos, the horses and ponies take part in many different activities including dressing up, joining in with the Christmas festivities and competing. We have been very successful at competitions over the years, thanks in part to the fantastic efforts of some of the horses and ponies featured here and they have won many rosettes. Including taking part, and one year even winning at the RDA National Championships!



We have been very fortunate over our 30 plus years to have been able to work with so many fantastic horses and ponies at the various different riding schools at which we have ridden.

