



# Control of Horses Act 2015

## 2015 CHAPTER 23

### 1 Powers of local authorities in England to detain horses

(1) After section 7 of the Animals Act 1971 insert—

#### “7A Power of local authorities in England to detain horses

(1) A local authority in England may detain a horse which is in any public place in its area, if the conditions in subsection (2) are met.

(2) The conditions are—

- (a) the local authority has reasonable grounds for believing that the horse is there without lawful authority, and
- (b) if the land is lawfully occupied by a person—
  - (i) that person consents to the detention of the horse, or
  - (ii) the local authority has reasonable grounds for believing that that person would consent to the detention of the horse (but this does not require the authority to seek consent).

(3) Section 7C contains further provision about detention under this section.

(4) In this section “local authority” means—

- (a) a county council,
- (b) a district council,
- (c) a London borough council,
- (d) the Common Council of the City of London, and
- (e) the Council of the Isles of Scilly.”

(2) In section 7 of that Act (detention and sale of trespassing livestock), at the end insert—

“(8) Subsections (2) to (7) do not apply to horses on land in England (as to which, see sections 7A to 7C).”

(3) In section 11 of that Act (interpretation)—

- (a) after the definition of “fencing” insert—

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*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).*

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- “horse” includes an ass, mule or hinny;”;
- (b) in the definition of “livestock” omit “asses, mules, hinnies,”;
- (c) after the definition of “poultry” insert—
  - “public place” includes—
    - (a) any common land or town or village green;
    - (b) any highway (and the verges of any highway);”.