



## Offaly Local Authorities

# CONTROL OF HORSES BYE-LAWS 2014

Joint Policing Committee	28th January 2013
Environment & Water Services SPC	25th September 2013
Offaly County Council Meeting	18th November 2013
LTACC Meeting	5th December 2013
Offaly County Council Meeting (adopted)	24th March 2014

**CONTROL OF HORSES  
BYE-LAWS 2014**

The County Council of the County of Offaly in exercise of the powers conferred on it by the Control of Horses Act 1996 and the Control of Horse Regulations 1997 hereby makes the following Bye-Laws in respect of the Administrative County of Offaly including the Urban Districts of Tullamore and Birr.

Part I

Preliminary

1. These Bye-Laws may be cited as Offaly County Council (Control of Horses) Bye-Laws 2014
2. These Bye-Laws shall come into operation on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of March 2014
3. In these Bye-Laws –

"the Act"	means the Control of Horses Act 1996
"the Council"	means the County Council of the County of Offaly
"Exclusion Area"	means an area specified in Part 1 of the First Schedule hereto
"The Pound"	means a Pound provided under the Pounds (Provision and Maintenance) Act 1935.
"The Superintendent"	means the Superintendent of the Garda Síochána for the area in which a horse is seized or detained under the Act.
"Dispose of"	means to sell or give away or have destroyed, and cognate words shall be construed accordingly.
"Authorised Person"	means a person appointed an authorised person under the Act.

4. These Bye-Laws apply to the area comprising the Administrative County of Offaly including the Urban Districts of Tullamore and Birr.
5. For the purposes of these Bye-Laws a person who is the head of a household, of which a member under the age of 16 years owns a horse, shall be deemed to own the horse.

## Part II

6. An authorised person or a member of the Garda Síochána may seize and detain any horse that the person or member has reason to suspect is being kept or ridden or driven in any area contrary to these Bye-Laws.
7. a) No person shall keep or have charge or control of a horse unless
  - 1) they have knowledge of the name and address of the owner of the horse
  - 2) they own or lease a premises which is registered under the Diseases of Animals Act 1966 with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, or its subsequent manifestations, as a registered horse premises.
  - 3) the horse, if born after 1st July 2009, is microchipped within six months of, or in the same calendar year as, birth whichever is the longer period.
  - 4) the horse has a valid passport, issued in the current owners name, by an authorised horse passport issuing agency.
  - 5) the horse can be identified by its UELN (unique equine life number)

b) This Bye-Law shall not apply to authorized officers, members of the Garda Síochána or members of the Defense Forces in the execution of their duties.
8. a) The Council, considering that horses are causing or may cause a nuisance or danger to persons or damage property, hereby prohibits a person from having, keeping, riding or driving a horse in any of its functional area at all times and declares it to be an exclusion area for the purposes of the Act.

b) This Bye-Law shall not apply to the classes of persons and in the circumstances specified in Part II of the First Schedule hereto.
9. No person shall at any time in a public place turn out any horse to graze or feed, whether tethered or loose.
10. No person shall at any time cause or allow to cause a horse to stray.
11. No person shall keep, ride or drive a horse in a public place unless over the age of 16 years or under the supervision of a person over the age of 16 years.
12. No person shall keep, ride or drive a horse in a public place unless the horse is fitted with a suitable bridle and bit or suitably attached to a carriage or trap designed to be safely so used.
13. No person shall keep, ride or drive a horse in such a manner as to be a hazard or nuisance to other road users or animals or a danger to property including the horse being so kept, ridden or driven.
14. The Council or Superintendent may provide a horse detained under the Act with such veterinary attention as they consider appropriate.

15. The Council shall be entitled to demand and receive from the owner or keeper of a horse detained under the Act or this Bye-Law:

- a) The full and total cost of collecting and transporting it by whatever means from the place where it was detained  
and
- b) The full and total cost of providing it with care and sustenance during the period of its detention  
and
- c) The full and total cost of any veterinary attention which the Council or Superintendent have provided.

All such payments will be required to be paid in full prior to the release of the impounded horse.

16. Where the owner or keeper of a horse detained under the Act is unknown, cannot be found or does not fulfill the requirements of Bye-Law No.7 and Bye-Law No.15, the Council or Superintendent may dispose of the horse on the expiration of three calendar days from the date on which the horse was impounded.

17. a) Where the owner or keeper of a horse detained under the Act is known and can be readily found, the Council or the Superintendent shall notify him/her of its detention, and that its release may be obtained on payment of the fees due as per Bye-Law No.15 and also on fulfillment of the requirements of Bye-Law No. 7, and that in the event of such fees not being paid and requirements not being fulfilled within three calendar days of his/her notification, the Council or the Superintendent will dispose of the horse.

b) Notwithstanding paragraph a) of this Bye-Law, the Council or the Superintendent may refuse to release the horse where they

- 1) Are not satisfied that adequate accommodation, sustenance and veterinary attention will be provided for the horse.  
or
- 2) Have reason to believe that the horse will be cruelly treated following such release.

18. Where the owner or keeper of a horse detained under the Act fails to pay the fees due and payable in respect of such detention within three calendar days of being requested to do so

or

Fails to fulfill the requirements of Bye-Law No.7  
or

Fails to take possession of the horse at his/her own expense from the Pound  
or

The Council or the Superintendent refuse to release the horse under Bye-Law No. 17 b),

Then the Council or the Superintendent shall dispose of the horse in such a

manner as he/she considers appropriate.

19. A person who contravenes a Bye-Law shall be guilty of an offence.

20. Every person who shall offend against any of the foregoing Bye-Laws shall be liable for every such offence on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding €1500.00 or to imprisonment not exceeding six months or both.

21. These Bye Laws replace Offaly County Council Control of Horses Bye Laws 1998.



## First Schedule

### PART I

#### Bye - Law No.8(i) – Exclusion Areas

The Entire functional area of Offaly County Council including the Urban Districts of Tullamore, Birr and Edenderry.

### PART II

#### Bye – Law No.8(ii) – Exempted Persons

- a) An authorized person or a member of an Garda Síochána acting in the course of their duty.
- b) A Pound Keeper keeping a horse in a Pound.
- c) A person accepting, detaining or disposing of a horse under an arrangement with the Council or a Superintendent of an Garda Síochána.
- d) An owner or lessee of land in the area, in respect of a horse kept by him/her on that land and who is registered as an Equine Holding with the appropriate government Department.
- e) The proprietor of an Equestrian Centre or Riding School in the area in respect of a horse kept by him or her at such a centre or school.
- f) A Person transporting a horse by vehicle through the area.
- g) A Veterinary Surgeon keeping a horse in the area for the purposes of receiving veterinary attention.
- h) A person bringing a horse into the area for the purposes of competing in an event or gymkhana organized by a recognized equestrian organization

PRESENT WHEN THE SEAL OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE  
COUNTY OF OFFALY was affixed hereto

On the 16<sup>th</sup> day of April 2014.

Maurice Cleary  
COUNTY SECRETARY *Senior Executive Officer.*

Stead M. Ryan  
CHAIRMAN OR NOMINATED MEMBER  
OF THE COUNCIL