

GRACE'S GUIDE...

In this issue I thought I'd look at hazards in the yard. The risks here can often be overlooked or underestimated – just because things have always been there, or done that way and nothing has happened

yet doesn't mean to say it won't tomorrow! It's always worth standing back and taking a good look around your yard to see if you can spot something familiar, which you see every day, but could pose as an accident waiting to happen.

to reducing yard hazards



- 1** Ensure wheelbarrows are always parked safely in the yard with the handles facing away from anywhere a horse might pass by. It is an accident waiting to happen and if a horse jumps sideways it will end up in trouble if it gets tangled in with the handles.



This picture demonstrates how NOT to leave a wheelbarrow, with its handles blocking a thoroughfare.



DON'T leave tools lying around when they're not in use.

- 2** Never leave tools i.e. forks or brooms propped up by stables when you have finished with them – these are a hazard to horses and people. Put safely away after use each time.



DO make sure tools are stored correctly when not in use.

- 3** When holding a horse for the blacksmith or vet, ensure you are standing on the same side of the animal as they are working.



The WRONG way to hold a horse while a vet or farrier is working.



The CORRECT way to hold a horse – so you are both on the same side should the horse spook away from one of you.

- 4** Keep stable doors closed even when the box is empty as this prevents people and horses catching themselves on them.

- 5** When in the yard be aware that even the quietest animal can bite, particularly around feeding time. Leave horses alone when they are feeding as this is their time and give them that respect.

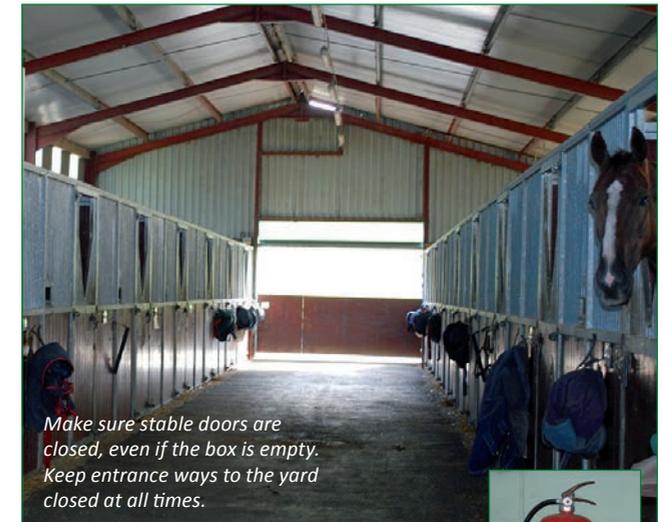
- 6** Avoid walking horses over drain covers in case they slip.

- 7** Check that hay and straw stacks are secure and there is no risk of heavy bales falling suddenly.

- 8** Make sure vehicles in the yard are parked safely and as far out of the way as possible.

- 9** Avoid unsupervised dogs running around horses – this is not good for horses or dogs.

- 10** Entrance ways into the yard should be gated with the gates closed at all times when not in use. This will ensure horses do not get loose if they break free.



Make sure stable doors are closed, even if the box is empty. Keep entrance ways to the yard closed at all times.

- 11** Any glass windows or grills in front to prevent access by your horse.

Make sure fire extinguishers are clearly on show



- 12** Electrical wiring and equipment should be protected and checked every 3-5 years by a qualified electrician. Switches, wiring and light fittings must be well out of the reach of horses' teeth.

- 13** A well drained yard will prevent ice forming in winter and a supply of salt should be kept in case of frozen patches.

- 14** Fire extinguishers should be situated around the yard at appropriate points and displayed prominently for maximum visibility.

Ultimately, remember that anything which poses a risk to you is nine times out of ten a bigger risk to your horse. Vigilance at all times is paramount when dealing with horses in a safe manner.