April 2021 by Natalie Munir

My name is Natalie and I’m one of the admin for the #StopFeedingOurHorses campaign. The campaign was started in January 2021 by Hannah Johnstone, after she was fed up of seeing horses and ponies dying or becoming seriously ill after being fed by members of the public. This is not a new problem, but it since the first lockdown, we have seen a huge increase in members of the public feeding horses and other livestock with disastrous and often fatal consequences. We have received reports of over 50 severe or fatal incidents and many, many others - luckily of a less severe nature. We started the campaign to raise awareness for this ongoing problem. We have 2 petitions currently running, to request for the law to be changed so that the act of feeding any livestock without the owner’s permission becomes illegal. Alongside these, we need a culture change to ensure that this act becomes completely socially unacceptable.

You might have seen reports across various media channels, including ITV:

https://www.itv.com/news/central/2021-02-19/lady-issues-warning-as-pet-horse-dies-from-eating-mince-pies-and-sausage-rolls?fbclid=IwAR3txpp0aEnjoq3f\_qyrZk5fh3gGLr2xiJTrcmNT1lIf2ZCbyXZHFqA42Ds

Lightning, the pony who choked on a raw potato was one of the catalysts for the campaign. Members of the group, such as Lightning’s owner have conducted various radio interviews such as https://fb.watch/3yMAemeIc-/ , the BBC has also shared articles such as https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-55888872. We’ve also had many Horse & Hound articles reported on various members of the group’s experiences. This is one about the group itself (we have over 10,000 members now). https://www.horseandhound.co.uk/news/campaign-to-stop-public-feeding-horses-gathers-momentum-737335?utm\_campaign=socialflow&utm\_medium=social&utm\_source=facebook.com&utm\_content=horseandhound&fbclid=IwAR3wH4cY4WiIv2tnV\_SAcSSzRBRoADRP94Tu1PfuAII5NOAma8j0Ppa-bMQ

More recently they have written an article on Hamish, a little pony who was fed leftovers from a roast dinner - https://www.horseandhound.co.uk/news/pony-fed-roast-chicken-dinner-undergoes-5500-colic-surgery-743134?utm\_content=horseandhound&utm\_medium=social&utm\_campaign=socialflow&utm\_source=facebook.com

We started with one Facebook group and now have other social media pages and groups;

 Public Facebook group - https://www.facebook.com/groups/210078577521390/?ref=share

 Private Facebook group - https://www.facebook.com/groups/117708650211011/

 Facebook page - @Stop Feeding Our Horses https://www.facebook.com/stopfeedingourhorses/

 Twitter @HorsesStop https://twitter.com/horsesstop/status/1384409619624255488?s=21

 Instagram @Stop\_Feeding\_Our\_Horses https://instagram.com/stop\_feeding\_our\_horses?igshid=1jwtg880w8lrf

and you can also search for the hashtag #StopFeedingOurHorses for more related literature.

The word is getting out there and more people are starting to listen, but we need as much support as possible to instil a global culture change. Please follow our pages, join our groups and share the very important message to #StopFeedingOurHorses 🚫🥕🐴

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