

PUBLIC FEEDING & INTERACTING WITH STOCK

DATE & TIME	LOCATION	ANIMALS INVOLVED	FURTHER INFO/COMMENTS
1 10/02/21	Aldridge Campsite towards Beachern CP		As you know I run [REDACTED], and yesterday was returning up the track from Aldridge Campsite towards Beachern Carpark when I had to stop the [REDACTED] because of a roadblock of ponies with a group of people in amongst them. The group which included adults and young children (ages 5 to 6yrs) did not seem at all bothered at being nuzzled quite forcibly by the ponies and one was taking selfies. I parked and got out to assist as a dangerous situation was unfolding with more ponies arriving to find that the lady in the middle of the ponies had a bag of carrots. I went through my usual patter with them to no avail and asked for the carrots—they offered me two!!! At this point the ponies were getting even more intent on grabbing the carrots and for everybody's safety I actually had to grab the bag from her hand. The people were totally ignorant of it being wrong to feed the livestock and even more worrying was the fact they had no idea that their children were literally about to be pushed over—they really did not recognise that their own children were actually getting quite frightened. However having sorted out the situation they did thank me for my help—I felt it necessary to apologise to them as I felt that I was quite rude to them for safety's sake.
2 15/02/21	Brockenhurst		Hi [REDACTED], and observed the following occupants of a car feeding ponies with not only complete carrots, but also what appeared to be complete sandwiches, so much so that the ponies did appear to be chewing for a good while to digest.
3 13/03/21	Frogham	Donkeys	The car attached was feeding donkeys carrots. I stopped on my bike and asked them to desist as it could harm the donkeys. They said they would. I cycled on, they continued to feed the donkeys, so I went back and took the photo. They then followed me, pulled along side me and despite claiming to be New Forest residents claimed they didn't know they shouldn't. They then followed me for over a mile intimidating me. I pulled over near some people and told them to drive on. The male driver refused at first. He only left me alone when a third party came over to see what the fuss was about. This happened Sunday 7th March at about 1400 hours just down the hill from the pub at Frogham. I know it is unlikely for any action to be taken, but could it be recorded by who ever would be interested as an "incident"?
4 07/06/21 a.m.	Hilltop	Donkeys	This chap pulled up at Hilltop yesterday while I was taking photos of one of the donkey foals. He started to feed the donkeys with bananas and said he also had cabbage for them. When challenged and asked to stop feeding them, he started ranting on about how he knows all the wardens and they allow him to do it. Vehicle is [REDACTED]. Person reporting provided photo by email.
5 25/06/21 14:00	Hilltop	Ponies	Car stopped at side of road, three girls taking photos of themselves feeding a group of ponies carrots from a plastic bag. When challenged they did not know they were not supposed to feed the ponies. Car registration not taken. Lady reporting says we need more signs on the Forest.
6 17/6/2021 7.00 a.m.	Mill Lawn	Ponies	Photographer taking photos. Far too close. Refused to take any notice of commoner trying to explain why couple should keep their distance.
7 21/08/21	Boltons Bench	Donkeys	Saturday 21 Aug I was passing through Bolton's Bench, Lyndhurst and saw a group of people feeding a Jill and her foal with a bag of carrots. I said they shouldn't feed them, it's illegal, can kill them etc. The woman who had the carrots was quite threatening towards me and she said she didn't believe me. As her manner was not pleasant I left and just hoped she would pick up the remaining carrots. This is the third time I have had a similar experience at Bolton's Bench. The previous time the man said he would stop and I saw him drive off. However 20 mins later I drove by again and saw carrots scattered along the road and he was pulling out of another car park. He obviously completely disregarded what I had told him. I think this is a common problem, people don't actually believe that carrots and feeding are a potential death sentence for ponies and donkeys. Perhaps the education campaigns need to go further than just asking people not to feed the animals. There is so little regard for the animals and so much selfishness from visitors who just want to get their few minutes of entertainment.
8 12/04/22	Cadnam Cricket	Ponies	Just for your information I observed a family encouraging their small children, approx 5 to 8 years of age, to go to the ponies and hand feed them. When I turned up the ponies were not near any vehicles and were grazing away from the cars and visitors around Sunday lunch time. 10/4/22. A number of people gathered near the ponies with their children bending down close to the ponies front and back ends. The ponies ignored them but the family and their children went to their car and then handed out food which were whole carrots and large parsnips. At this point I intervened and told them to stop which they did and I gave a firm explanation. The NO FEEDING SIGN was nearby. A woman nearby had apparently referred them to the sign before I turned up but they had fed the veg to the ponies, including two of ours. The woman was concerned that another pony had struggled eating the veg and pointed the mare out to me. I checked her and again checked the group two hours later to make sure they were ok. Because of the feeding the ponies were then attracted to all the people and vehicles in the car park, hanging around them all awaiting another picnic hand out. One pony was scraping a vehicle with front hoof so I had to send them away from the area.
9 09/05/22	Wilverley Plain	Ponies	Group of [REDACTED], picknicking, were harassed by ponies. They moved into the enclosure but witnessed other people feeding the ponies.

10	05/05/2022 6 30 p.m.	Nomansland	Ponies	I was sat outside Mirrabelle at Nomansland on 5th May at 6 30pm when this van stopped in the middle off the road. The passenger proceeded to try to hand feed the ponies, whole carrots through the passenger window. When the ponies would not step onto the road to reach the offered carrots. The carrots were tossed onto the verge. In the light of my last encounter with people hand feeding ponies I decide taking a picture was all I could reasonably do. I hope you can contact these people and make them aware of the danger to the ponies and road users.
11	04/05/22	Brockenhurst	Ponies	I am working in Brockenhurst and have noticed a couple of problem mares that are hanging out by the water splash. They have clearly been fed by people and are now causing a problem. Today there was a family trying to have a picnic by the water splash and they could not as the mares barged in looking for food. The lady fed one of the ponies to get it out the way so that she could get her bags which is counter product for the ponies! Ponies were threatening to kick etc. It is a grey (white) mare with a foal and a darker grey mare, I'm sorry I did not get their brands but they are often at the water splash. I'm just wondering whether it is worth trying to relocate them somewhere before they do hurt someone or they get ordered off. There was a large crowd gathering to help and I think you may hear from others. I'm not complaining just trying to help for the ponies benefits.
12	On or before 14/7/2022	Location unknown	Donkeys	Donkeys being petted and ?fed by someone known to the informant. Photos provided. All info via Facebook. Informant asked for permission to pass to the Police. Police acknowledged.
13	29/07/22	Burbush	Ponies	People feeding ponies
14	04/08/22	Burbush	Ponies	People feeding ponies
15	28/08/22	Moonhills	Ponies	couple feeding 2 large bags of carrots to 20 ponies which were getting aggressive and fighting and kicking one another. The people were asked to stop but refused.