



Equine welfare

British Horse Council

28th June 2024

Roly Owers

NEWC cost of living surveys

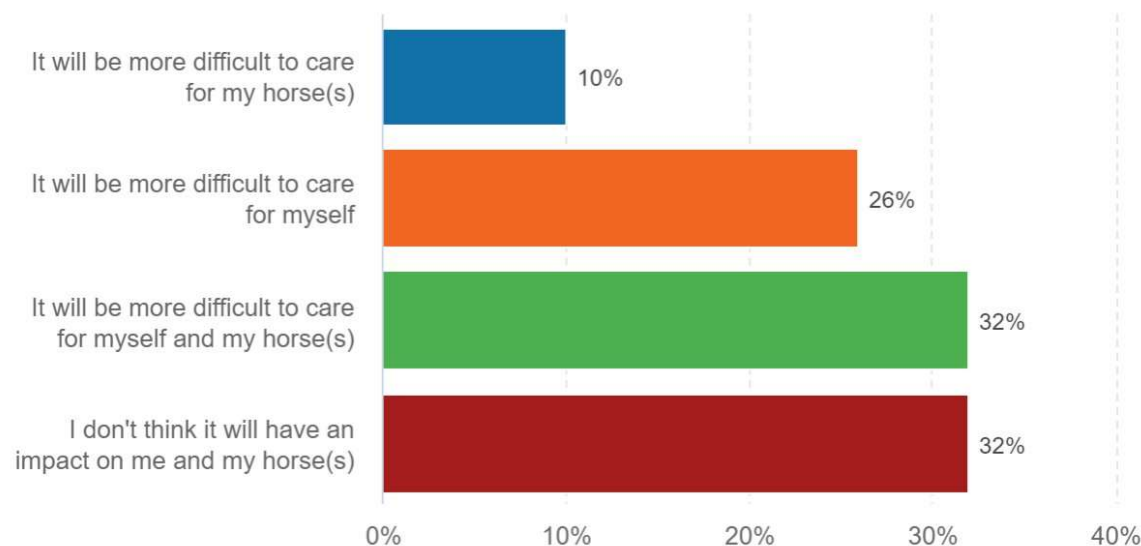
Jan-Feb 2024



Horse owner survey:

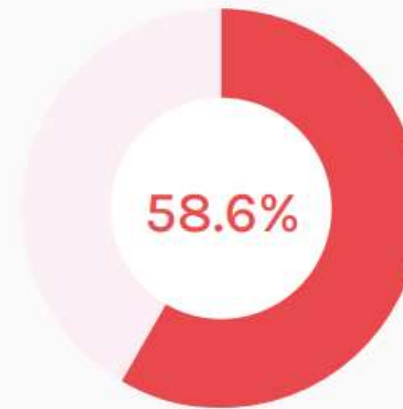
- 6,143 respondents
- 93% of owners kept their horses for leisure
- 38% reported 'medium impact' on ability to provide basic care to their horses
- 81% concerned about the continued pressure of increased costs

In general, what impact do you think the pressure of increased costs will have on your ability to care for you and your horse in the next year?

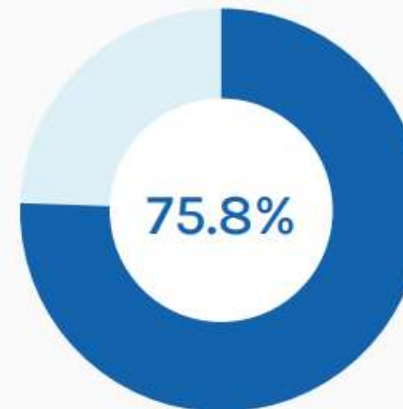


NEWC CoL: sanctuaries & rescues

- Only 29 responses compared to 36 last year
- Major trends similar to last year
- Deterioration in:
 - Donations
 - Staff and volunteers facing difficulties



have seen an increase in welfare cases involving equines.



have seen an increase in calls from the public wishing to hand over an equine.

Horse smuggling - RTÉ exposé



- Thousands of Irish horses ‘disappearing’
- Systemic abuse of laws across UK and EU
- Horses given new identities:
 - Food chain safety
 - Mis-selling
- Broadcast 12 and 13 July – available on RTÉ player now

Horse smuggling – what can be done?

- Short term:
 - Improved information sharing – slaughterhouses, markets, fairs and sales
 - Better join-up and collaboration between UK, EU and EEA
 - Greater awareness of implications of buying unseen
- Longer term:
 - Digital equine identification system for all UK countries and the EU

