Donkey Hire Welfare Checklists

Donkey Rides

- Operators should hold Public Liability Insurance and a valid council licence to operate working donkeys
- Operators must be over 18 and qualified to work with donkeys
- Working donkeys should be at least 4 years of age
- Donkeys must be in a good state of health and able to work comfortably
- The donkeys’ feet must be regularly trimmed to a good standard
- Donkeys should be given sufficient food, drink and bedding
- Water should be made available at regular intervals
- The maximum weight for riders of standard donkeys is eight stone or 51kg (miniature donkeys should not be ridden at all)
- All tack must be properly fitted and in good condition
- The name and contact number of the licensee should be displayed
- A donkey should work no more than 6 days a week, with 1 full day of rest
- Donkeys working all day should have a break of at least an hour when their tack is removed
Donkey Trekking

- Training should be provided on how to look after your donkey
- Your donkey doesn’t carry you, just your luggage
- Your donkey can carry a small child for limited periods
- Your donkey should carry luggage that weighs no more than 40kg
- Your donkey will need regular breaks, with shade
- Your donkey will need access to clean drinking water
- Your donkey will need accommodation at night that is safe from predators, and shelter from bad weather
- You donkey will need hay in the morning and evening

For further information and advice on donkey welfare:

UK: The Donkey Sanctuary – Tel: +44 (0) 1395 578222
USA: Peaceful Valley Donkey Rescue: info@pvdr.org / 866-366-5731