



50 Questions



If the answer to any of these questions is yes, then your horse's performance or behaviour may be affected by pain or discomfort.

1. Is the behaviour or poor performance your horse is displaying unusual for him?
2. Has he had a recent change of behaviour?
3. Does the problem occur only on one rein (e.g. it happens on the left rein but not on the right rein)?
4. Does the behaviour happen at home, but not at a show?
5. Does the problem occur when you are riding in the arena, but not out hacking?
6. Is the issue worse at the beginning of the session, and improving towards the end?
7. Does the issue get worse throughout the ride?
8. Does the problem happen only when you are riding in one of your two (or more) saddles or bridles?
9. Did your horse fail a vetting, or have any potentially related comments on his vetting? If you did not have him vetted, consider that the answer to this question could be 'yes'.
10. Is he old enough that stiffness might be a factor?
11. Is his rider too big or heavy for him?
12. Is his size/breed/age/type inappropriate to the work he is being asked to do?
13. Does he kick or bite, or is he generally nervous around people or other horses?
14. Does he react to worming or vaccinations?
15. Does he have a history of surgery, colic, accident or injury?
16. Was he imported from abroad?
17. Is he an ex-racehorse?
18. Is there a history of abuse?
19. Has he had an unusually large number of previous owners?
20. Does he have any ongoing medical conditions?
21. Is he fed haylage, or any sugar- or cereal-based feed?
22. Does he have any allergies?
23. Is he on any supplements or medication?
24. Is he ear-shy or head-shy?
25. Does he suffer from head-shaking, runny eyes, or runny nose?

26. If a mare, does she display mare-ish behaviour?
27. Is he difficult to catch, clip, or load?
28. Does he pull a face, swish his tail, move away, or otherwise indicate displeasure in relation to bridling, saddling, girthing, rugging or mounting?
29. Does he have limited turnout?
30. Does he play excessively with the other horses in his field?
31. Is he turned out with mares and geldings, as opposed to a field of just mares or just geldings?
32. Does he struggle to get up from lying down?
33. Does he only lie down on one side, or is he unable to roll right over?
34. Is he only ever ridden in an arena?
35. Is he grumpy, aggressive, or otherwise generally miserable, at all or any specific times?
36. Does he misbehave for the farrier or trimmer?
37. Has there been a recent change in farriery?
38. Does he have remedial shoes of any kind?
39. Is he barefoot?
40. Is he shod at intervals of greater than six weeks?
41. Is it longer than six months since his saddle was last checked by a professional saddle fitter?
42. Do you know that, for some reason, his saddle does not fit him?
43. Has there been a recent change in saddle, or in saddle fit?
44. Does he wear a particular type of noseband in order to stop him from opening his mouth?
45. Is it longer than one year since his teeth were last checked?
46. Does he have known dentistry problems?
47. Does he need to be sedated to have his teeth checked?
48. Is it longer than three months since he was last checked by a qualified physical therapist?
49. Does his physical therapist usually find any areas of stiffness, tightness or soreness?
50. Does his way of going change after treatment by a physical therapy