



SUSSEX HORSES DIE FROM BEE STINGS

We were sad to hear of the tragedy which caused the death of four horses in East Sussex.

It appears that one horse managed to jump into a section of a field containing several beehives, knocked over one hive and was stung. The horse not unnaturally panicked, more hives got knocked down and the horse was severely stung. Both the bees and the horses were owned by the same person.

Attracted by the disturbance, the other three horses in the field came over and were stung too. All four horses died of heart failure.

This is a rare occurrence-but horses and bees don't generally make good neighbours.

Hives are at risk from horses breaking into the area where hives are sited and either rubbing against or kicking over hives.

Once they are stung the odour of the sting can attract other bees to sting that animal leading to large numbers of stings as seems to have happened in this case.

The BBKA has an advisory leaflet on siting beehives that can be accessed at http://www.bbka.org.uk/files/library/choosing_an_apiary_site_b11_1306865400.pdf

This gives information to both beekeepers and members of the public about appropriate locations for hives to be sited. In particular they should not be sited near footpaths or bridleways.

In normal circumstance, cattle, sheep and chickens are not bothered by being near bees.

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