

#RealNewForest

Why don't all animals have reflective collars?

Collars help significantly with keeping commoners' animals safe on New Forest road, and are probably one of the reasons for the improvement in the rate of accidents over the past two decades. Collars have been designed to be safe for ponies, so they can't get strangled by them, but the elastic content means that they are quite easily removed. The owners will do their best to replace them when they can, but often this can only be done when they are rounded-up and in the Autumn, which also depends upon them being caught by a round-up.

Collars cannot be safely fitted to foals, and we've not found one that is effective for cows, sheep or pigs. In 2018 commoners did start experimenting with reflective ear tags for cattle.

It is important to remember that collars do not show up from all directions, and are not an alternative to taking very special care on New Forest roads. The animals have right of way on New Forest roads, and it is important that they use them to move between grazing areas.

©realnewforest2019