



Caroline Moorey at the collection point in Farnham Saddlers. (FD05-32-10)

A FARNHAM woman is calling upon horse riders and owners to have a spring clean and dig out their old or unwanted horse or pony bits in the cause of animal welfare.

Caroline Moorey, a member of Farnham Riders Club, is chairman of the Friends of Marwari/Kathiawari Horse UK, a body formed to promote and help bring world-wide awareness of two unique breeds of Indian horse.

As recently reported, she has twice flown the flag for Britain competing in endurance rides in India riding Marwari horses, a breed with curly touching ears, which can only be found in the desert regions of India.

"Many of these majestic horses, which are considered divine, are ridden in severe home-made 'snaffle' bits that are commonly used in India," she explained.

"These are often crudely filed, with sharp shapes on the mouthpiece (spikes and rowels) and as such cause immense suffering and injury to the animal.

"It is often a lack of education or knowledge by the owner, not a deliberate choice to hurt their steed.

"It is with this knowledge that the 'Friends' have

devised the bit donation scheme and formed associations with influential and respected Indian horse traders, breeders and farmers, who understand the importance of good horsemanship.

"In time it is hoped that they can, in turn, educate their buyers and fellow horse owners into an alternative, kinder, way of biting their horses."

The aim is to circulate as many conventional bits as possible within the horse community in India, reducing the chance of a horse or pony going through the suffering of having a crudely-filed homemade bit put in their mouth.

"We have been careful to

choose and research a scheme that we know will work, now we need your snaffle bits (old or new)," she urged.

Sizes of four to five inch width only are needed as the breeds have small mouths.

All the bits donated will go on the next shipment scheduled for March and the Balotra (Mallinath) Fair in Rajasthan.

Donations can be made at the collection points at Farnham Saddlers, Oaklands Animal Feeds (Ewshot) and Ian McNeil Saddlery (Medstead).

Alternatively email info@friendsofmarwari.org.uk for advice on collection or delivery.



An example of a crude home-made bit in common use in India.