

Information sheet No. 2



Preserving the scene of a crime

Scenes of Crime Officers (SOCO) are often called to the site of an incident to gather forensic evidence. The officers attending initially (uniform or CID) will make the request for SOCO to attend - some incidents require their attendance regardless.

The following is some advice relating to the preservation of a scene of crime and its surrounding evidence should you have the misfortune to be a victim.

- Preserve the scene of the crime as you found it. DO NOT disturb anything. Note the time of discovery CONTACT THE POLICE IMMEDIATELY!
- DO NOT let any other person near/touch anything until you have been cleared to do so by the Police.
- If your animal has been injured or abused in any way - call your Veterinary Surgeon if immediate attention is required. Any subsequent veterinary examination is overseen by a SOCO for forensic purposes. Look for signs of abuse if suspected, but DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CLEAN UP until you have been advised to do so.
- If theft is involved, not possible entry. Provide as much detail as possible for the police attending. Making a list of such details is often a welcome diversion at this anxious time. Such things will include:
 - What time did you discover the 'incident'?
 - When did you last see everything safe and sound?
 - A list of property missing/damaged.
 - Descriptions, ie horse/vehicle passport/photographs, etc.
 - Have you or any other person seen or heard anything suspicious recently, ie strangers lurking, horse boxes parked nearby, etc.
 - If you are the 'victim' or injured party, ie owner, you will also be asked for your own details which, together with the above details will provide the basis of information for the investigation of a crime compliant.

DO NOT BE AFRAID TO REPORT THINGS TO THE POLICE if you are concerned Even if they do turn out to be 'innocent' - it is better than not reporting at all, and later find out it is genuine! The police will not mind - they are there to help you!