

# Contents

<i>Headway charity disclaimer</i>	xi
<i>Foreword: From child of nature to trained partner</i>	xiii

<b>The nursing foal to weaning</b>	<b>1</b>
------------------------------------	----------

Before you decide to breed	3
Deep trust from the start	4
The final stages of pregnancy	6
The birth of the foal	11
Loss of colostrum	13
Complications	16
After the birth	17
Nursing hurdles	23
Finding the udder	24
The imprinting stage	27
Management and feeding of the nursing foal	31
A good brood mare . . .	33
The foal's character	34
What foals should learn	34
Taking care when leading and tying up	43
Differences between colts and fillies	48
Worming and vaccinations	49
Weaning	51

## **The weaned foal – the first winter 59**

Management and feeding in the first winter	61
Do you understand your foal?	69
Reaching an understanding with your weanling	70
Exercises with the yearling	74

## **The yearling on summer pasture – the second summer 85**

Management and feeding of yearlings	87
Family ties	88
Sexual maturity	90
Handling the young stallion	92
Castration	93
Injuries in mixed-age stallion herds on pasture	94
In the herd	96

## **From yearling to two-year-old – the second winter 97**

Management and feeding	99
How do horses learn?	100
Paying close attention	100
More ambitious ground work	102
Ground work	112
Training to load	114

## **The two-year-old on summer pasture 117**

Management and feeding of two-year-olds	119
Stallion licensing	120
Licensing at three and a half years old	122
Young blood	123
A horse's teeth	124
Exercises for the two-year-old horse	125

**From two-year-old to three-year-old –  
the third winter** **127**

Management and feeding	129
More ambitious exercises	130
Willingness and cooperation	155

**Resources** **157**

Exercises for every age	159
Sources	160
Further reading	160
Useful addresses	160

<i>Index</i>	<i>161</i>
--------------	------------