



## Association of Private Pet Cemeteries & Crematoria

[www.appcc.org.uk](http://www.appcc.org.uk)

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[www.cremationcodeforvets.org](http://www.cremationcodeforvets.org)

### Information on horse ashes for bereaved owners:

After individual cremation only skeletal remains of your horse should be left. If your horse had any metal pins, plates or screws following operations (or horse shoes) then these would also remain and are sometimes offered back to the owner by the crematorium. The only other contaminant that may be present are small pieces of hearth that break away during the cremation process and are removed along with the remains of the horse.

The cremated bones, mostly made up of dry calcium phosphates with some minor minerals such as salts of sodium and potassium, are then broken down into small fragments and/or powder using a machine called a cremulator. There are various types of hand and electric cremulators and the model used may affect how fine or granular the resultant ashes are.

The ashes given back after cremation represent approximately between 2.5% to 4.5% of the body's original mass. This can vary from horse to horse, but their weight can be more closely predicted from the horse's height. E.g. a 15hh horse will produce approximately 16 – 20kg of ash and a 16.2hh horse will produce more like 20 – 22kg after cremation.

Ashes are normally light grey/silver in colour as in Sample 1 - pictured below right. Sample 2 is very different in colour and composition, with a large proportion of black material that could be uncremated remains.

To get an idea of whether the second sample is similar in mass to what would be the expected weight of ashes for an individual horse, they would need to be re-cremated so that only the cremated skeletal remains are left before being weighed and compared to the original body mass of the horse.



**Sample 1** – properly cremated & cremulated remains from an APPCC



**Sample 2** – some properly cremated remains mixed with a large amount of black material

Owners who bought an individual cremation service direct from Cooper may be able to take private legal action to recover the cost of the service. Owners who bought the service through a veterinary practice or another third party (and paid them for the service) should, the APPCC believes, take action to recover the costs from them (the third party could then take their own action against Cooper).

Horse owners wanting an independent visual inspection of their ashes should contact either of these members of the APPCC who will assess their ashes free of charge.

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