



EMO January/February 2015 Newsletter

Tack Theft: Are You Covered?

It's every stable owner's nightmare: You walk into your barn in the morning expecting to see the friendly faces of hungry horses awaiting breakfast, but instead you discover the twisted and broken lock of your tack room door and the scattered remains of what was your entire collection of saddles, bridles, blankets and equipment.

Sadly, tack theft isn't uncommon, and, likewise, recovering those stolen saddles is equally uncommon.

Therefore, it's important to make sure that your tack and equipment is fully insured in the unfortunate event your property becomes a target of thieves.

If you board your horse and train with a professional, you might assume your tack is covered under the facility owner's or the trainer's insurance. That's not the case, however; all tack and equipment must be insured by the person who owns it.

Only tack and property owned by the trainer who owns or leases the facility is covered by the trainer's Commercial Liability Policy (CLP) in the event of a break-in and theft.

If a professional has a CLP, it's important that he schedule the tack and equipment to be insured and update those lists on a regular basis if items are added or deleted.

Tack and equipment valued up to \$2,500 per item can be bulk scheduled, while those items above that threshold must be scheduled individually. These items, such

as higher-end saddles, for example, must be itemized with the brand, serial number, size and description to be fully covered.

Trainers or facility owners who board horses should make sure to include information about tack and equipment insurance coverage on their boarding contracts to avoid any misunderstandings.

If you board your horse and keep your saddle, tack trunk and other equipment at the barn, your homeowner's or renter's insurance should cover these items in the event they were stolen. If you haven't done so, you should contact your insurer to find out if you need to schedule or itemize your property, especially your more expensive items.

It's also wise to contact your insurer to find out if your homeowner's insurance covers tack and equipment at horse shows or in your horse trailer. Many people who have trailers with tack rooms regularly store equipment there, and if you do you'll want to make sure it's fully insured.

Remember, if you do have tack and equipment stolen, you'll be subject to a deductible if you make a claim. On average, a deductible of this type is in the range of \$250 per incident, but it's important to know your deductible and discuss your needs with your agent to come up with a comfortable amount.

If your saddle has a serial number, make sure to record it in a safe place in the event it's stolen so you can provide it to law enforcement. If it doesn't have a number, consider stamping it with an identity mark under the flap, such as your initials or your driver's license number.

Report any stolen tack or equipment as soon as possible to local law enforcement and your insurance agent.

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