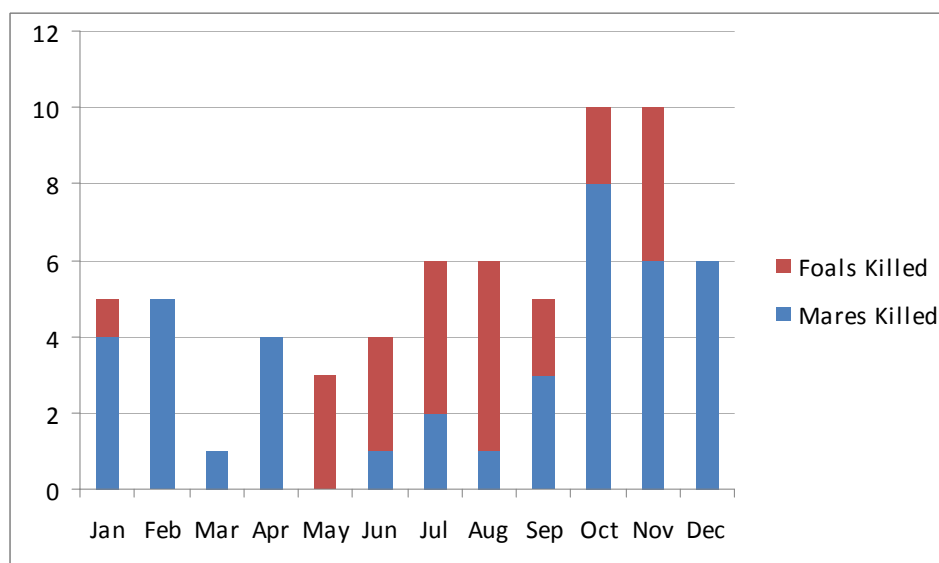


## New Forest Pony and foal deaths during the year

The chart below shows how the number of deaths of mares and foals varied during 2009. Two aspects stand out:

- Mares are at least risk between May and August. This is probably because the length of daylight is much greater during the summer and it is therefore light when most cars are travelling.
- Conversely, foals are very much at risk from May onwards. They quickly become much more playful than the mares and often gallop about, and across roads without warning. They are also smaller (and less easy to spot at night), and even 'minor' accidents are more likely to cause serious injury or death.



Foals are more likely to be killed in an accident than the mares:

- Of 46 foals involved in accidents in 2009, 24 (52%) were killed outright or had to be put down due to the severity of their injuries. 22 were recorded as injured or unharmed.
- Of 113 mares involved in accidents in 2009, 41 (36%) were killed outright or had to be put down due to the severity of their injuries. 72 were recorded as injured or unharmed.

**Drivers are urged to be especially careful when driving through the New Forest between May and November.**