

Information Provided by the
USEF Equine Drugs & Medications Program

For additional information regarding
biosecurity measures for horses
please consult your veterinarian.



USEF.ORG

© All rights reserved. 2017 by United States Equestrian Federation®
Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

Cover photo: Tonya Morgan

BIOSECURITY MEASURES

FOR HORSES AT HOME AND
AT COMPETITIONS



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BIOSECURITY

Biosecurity is defined as a set of preventative measures to help avoid the transmission of infectious diseases in livestock. As members of the horse show community, we are constantly putting our horses at risk to contract infections from unknown sources. The purpose of this pamphlet is to outline some procedures that can be easily used by horseshow management, owners, horse caregivers and trainers to achieve the goals of proper biosecurity principles.

Biosecurity measures for horses before the competition season:

1. Vaccinate your horse for infectious diseases and make sure these vaccinations are current and up to date. Equine Influenza and Equine Herpes Virus vaccinations should be included in your vaccination program. It is important to understand that vaccination does not guarantee protection against these equine diseases and eliminate the need for good biosecurity measures. There is no vaccination against the neurologic form of the Equine Herpes Virus. Effective 12/1/2015, it is now required to have your horse vaccinated for Equine Influenza and Equine Herpes Virus prior to attending a USEF competition. Documentation of vaccinations being administered within the previous six months must accompany the horse to the competition. Horses in FEI competitions should be vaccinated according to FEI rules.
2. Not all equine diseases are infections such that they can be transmitted from horse to horse. With some equine diseases, horses serve as dead-end hosts and can't transmit the disease to other horses. Consult your veterinarian regarding other vaccinations that might be advisable in consideration of specific risks.
3. If there are any horses at your home stable with an infectious disease, properly isolate or contain the ill horses away from the others. Your veterinarian may recommend a 30-day quarantine for your stable to insure that the risk of further transmission of disease is eliminated.



1. If your horses travel to shows via commercial or communal transport, inquire about the disinfection procedures used to clean the trailers and how often the trailers are cleaned. Ideally, the trailers should be disinfected after each new group of horses has been delivered.

Helpful information for prevention of diseases in horses at shows:

At competitions, there are many people who can help in biosecurity efforts. The people with the most regular contact with horses are the grooms, trainers, owners, and stable personnel responsible for cleaning stalls and feeding horses. Others that may contact the horses might include stewards, td's, drug testers, and veterinarians.

1. Horses and Equipment: All horses should be treated as individuals as much as possible.
 - a. Limit direct contact with other horses and people. Do not allow the horse to touch noses with other horses while in the warm-up or collecting rings. Do not allow visitors to touch your horse.
 - b. Use specific buckets for each horse only for feed and water. Label the buckets with the horses' name so there is no cross contamination with other horses. Use a specific halter for each horse, clearly labeled.
 - c. DO NOT SHARE- buckets, halters, lead shanks, bridles, or tack between horses.
IF YOU MUST SHARE - scrub and clean equipment with detergent and dry completely between shared use.
 - d. When filling water buckets, DO NOT dip the end of the hose in each bucket. Hold the hose above the water when filling.
 - e. Do not allow the horses to drink out of communal water tanks.
 - f. Use different wheel barrows for cleaning stalls and feeding horses.
 - g. Ideally, use a separate turnout paddock for each horse. Do not mix horses between barns. Do not graze the horses in common areas.
2. Daily horse monitoring:
 - a. Temperature: Take horses' temperature two times a day and record it on a chart. Rectal temperatures are taken with a thermometer. These can be bought at a local pharmacy.
 - b. Clinical signs: Off feed, coughing, runny nose or eyes, quiet attitude, fever (102F or higher).
 - c. Report to show veterinarian or show office if your horse is sick. Keep horse in its own stall and limit contact until an isolation plan is made.

HELP PREVENT THE TRANSMISSION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BIOSECURITY

3. Recommendations for Horse Show Managers and staff:
 - a. On arrival, all horses may be asked to show a valid health certificate and proof of vaccination against Equine Influenza and Equine Herpes Virus. Vaccination schedules recommended by the American Association of Equine Practitioners are appropriate for horses in USEF competition. FEI guidelines should be followed for FEI competitions.
 - b. Arrival exams: Some competitions may request to take the horses' temperatures on arrival to the grounds and prior to admittance to stabling.
 - c. Bit Checking: The riders may be asked to have their bits checked at the competition ring. The riders can bring their own halters to the ring and remove the bridle for the steward. If the stewards are checking bits, gloves should be worn and changed between each horse. Liberal use of hand sanitizers is recommended.
 - d. Manure disposal should be far away from the stabling to avoid any contamination occurring.
 - e. Stables should be cleaned and disinfected prior to use. All organic matter should be removed and detergent should be used to clean the stalls. When they are dry, a disinfectant should be applied.
 - f. A plan for isolation or removal from the grounds in case of a horse becoming sick should be made prior to the occurrence. If a trailer is used to transport the horse, proper disinfection of the trailer should be done after the horse is moved.

The horse show environment currently involves constant transport and shifting of horses from one location to another. Many horses are confined to stabling in a relatively small area where transmission of disease can be easy and rapid. By following these simple biosecurity procedures, the incidents of disease can be minimized and contained so that the health of our horses can be protected.



Biosecurity

Preventative measures to help prevent the transmission of infectious diseases.

For current updates on disease outbreaks:



Equine Disease Communication Center (EDCC)

For additional information regarding biosecurity measures and vaccinations for horses:



California Department of Food and Agriculture Toolkit



Colorado State University -
Protect your show horse from infectious disease



University of Guelph

Please direct all inquiries to:
United States Equestrian Federation®
Equine Drugs and Medications Program
956 King Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43212
Phone: 800.633.2472
Fax: 614.299.7706
Email: medequestrian@aol.com
usef.org

Reprinted with Permission