

Principles of Biosecurity

Biosecurity is putting in place certain practices to reduce the risk of introduction/ spread of disease-causing agents.

By following the tips in our useful fact sheet, you will help to:

- prevent the introduction and spread of various diseases, including strangles and equine influenza
- help keep your horse(s) healthy
- prevent unnecessary disruption to equine activities and businesses.



Vaccinations

These help to combat infection by stimulating an antibody response, which will prevent the disease occurring or reducing the severity of the disease, decreasing the risk of potential spread to other animals. Vaccines are very useful when their use is included in a yard biosecurity policy.

General biosecurity policies to follow

- Be familiar with your horse's individual behaviour
- Ensure each horse has its own rugs, tack, feed and water buckets.
- Wash your hands before and after attending your horse
- Regularly clean horse boxes, tack, stables, rugs and grooming kits
- Ensure all storage areas are kept clean, windows are covered with mesh and feed is stored in vermin proof containers
- Keep gutters/ drains clear and remove objects in which water can gather
- Dispose of muck away from water sources and horse

Signs of disease

If a horse on your yard is displaying the following clinical signs please contact your vet immediately:

- fever (high temperature)
- cough
- lymph node abscesses
- nasal discharge
- diarrhoea
- abortion
- incoordination



Basic biosecurity for new arrivals

- Ensure that all new arrivals to the yard are isolated for a minimum of 3 weeks. The ideal situation would be for them to be kept away from the other horses, without sharing airspace.
- Make sure that horses in isolation are cared for by separate staff members.
- Make sure you wash your hands and boots before leaving the isolation area.
- All new horses should be up to date with equine influenza vaccines. Horses who have not been vaccinated or who have lapsed need to complete the primary course prior to moving to the yard.
- A strangles blood test with negative blood results must have been carried out in the week prior to moving to the yard.
- Ensure each horse has dedicated equipment and tack to prevent the potential spread of infection between horses.

We can assist you with creating a risk assessment to help determine if your yard is at high risk and which factors affect this.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any further questions you may have about your own horse management.

Please contact us on **01327 811007** or **01788 523000**.