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THOROUGHBRED BIOSECURITY MADE SIMPLE

All staff on training yards should be skilled in disease prevention, hygiene procedures and assessment of horses' health:-

- Assess horse's general demeanour
- Observe how horse is standing
- Look for eye or nose discharges
- Take rectal temperature twice daily - normal is between 36.5-38.5°C
- Check breathing rate - normal is between 8-15 breaths/min
- Check heart rate - normal is between 25-45 beats/min
- Press gum and release to check capillary refill time - normal refill should be between 1-2 secs
- Check consistency and number of droppings
- Check consumption from water buckets and feed bowl
- Keep good records and REPORT any abnormalities immediately

REDUCING RISK OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

- Isolate new arrivals for a period of 10 days or introduce horses from properties with a known high health status only
- Pay particular attention to horses from sales complexes, from unknown mixed population yards and those that have used commercial horse transport servicing mixed populations
- Verify the vaccine status of new arrivals
- Control rodents and keep feed in rodent-proof containers
- Clean and disinfect stables between inmates
- Clean and disinfect equipment between horses use separate equipment as much as possible
- Clean and disinfect horse transport between horses - remember to remove as much organic material as possible before disinfection
- Isolate horses at the first sign of sickness until contagious disease has been ruled out
- Contact your veterinary surgeon if any horses show clinical signs of sickness
- Do not move sick horses except for isolation, veterinary treatment or under veterinary supervision
- Attend to sick horses last (i.e., feed, water and treat) or use separate staff
- Wash hands and use hand disinfection gel when moving between groups of horses
- Wear separate protective clothing and footwear when working with sick horses - use footdips for additional biosecurity
- Use separate mucking out equipment for sick horses
- Keep records of horse movements so that contacts can be traced in the event of a disease outbreak
- Maintain good perimeter security for your premises and maintain controlled access for vehicles and visitors

