

BIOSECURITY MADE SIMPLE

To safeguard the horse population within your training establishment take the following basic steps:-

Train all staff in disease prevention, identification and hygiene procedures.

The following are a set of vital signs for the normal healthy horse and appropriate examinations for general health:-

- **Temperature 36.5-38.5C;**
 - **Breathing rate 8-15 breaths/min;**
 - **Heart rate 25-45 beats/min;**
 - **Capillary refill time (in gums) - 1-2secs;**
 - **Look for eye or nose discharges;**
 - **Observe how the horse is standing;**
 - **Check for consistency and number of droppings;**
 - **Check consumption from water buckets and feed bowl;**
 - **Assess horse's general demeanour.**
- Keep good records and REPORT any abnormalities from the above. Take rectal temperatures twice daily, it is a very good indicator of disease.
 - Isolate new arrivals for a period of 10 days or introduce horses from properties with a known high health status only. Isolate and 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.
 - It is helpful to regularly clean and disinfect stables between inmates and also to clean and disinfect equipment and horse transport between horses. Remember to remove as much organic material as possible before disinfection.
 - Isolate horses at the first sign of sickness until an infectious or contagious disease has been ruled out.
 - Contact your veterinary surgeon if any of your 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 (ie feed, water and treat) or use separate staff.
 - Provide hand washing facilities and hand disinfection gel for staff handling groups of horses and provide separate protective clothing and footwear for handling and treating 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.

Extract taken from the NTF Code of Practice for Infectious Diseases of Racehorses in Training July 2012



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