

Equine Medication Management Policy

Template policy for individual yards to amend to reflect their own policies and requirements

Policy Purpose and Scope

This policy applies to all staff. It is the responsibility of any employee delegated to administer medication to ensure that they follow this policy so as to ensure the wellbeing of the horses within the yard and minimise the risk of a breach of the BHA equine anti-doping rules.

Administration of Medication

- Only the trainer or an employee specifically delegated with the responsibility may administer any medication to any horse in the yard. This is essential as the trainer will have discussed the withdrawal period of medication with the yard veterinary surgeon and has overall responsibility for ensuring medication is properly administered and recorded.
- Before administering any medication, check the identity of the horse being treated (this includes where the vet is treating the horse)
- Consider marking the stable door for any horse which is on medication
- When administering powder medication, it must be placed into the horse's feed manger in the stable and the manger must be thoroughly cleaned. Take care not to spill powder elsewhere.
- Give horse's treatment in their own box but consider if it is safe and practical to administer any oral paste medication out of the stable, or in a separate treatment box
- If administering a medication orally, use a clean towel or cloth to wipe away any residue product from the horse's lips. Use towel or cloth only once and immediately dispose of or place in washing basket for contaminated items
- Wash hands thoroughly before and immediately after a treatment of an individual horse and/or use single wear disposal gloves. [consider putting in if gloves must be worn for any specific medication use]
- Do not use homemade remedies.

Medication Storage

- All medication must be kept in the locked medication cabinet. This may only be accessed by

- All medication must be logged out of the store and medicines not left on the yard.
- Unused medication must be safely disposed of in accordance with instructions or returned to the medication cabinet immediately
- Keep the medicine cabinet clean – residue power may contaminate other drugs
- Dispose of unused or expired medicines. Dispose of used syringes and needles into sharps containers/biological waste as appropriate

Recording Medication

- Ensure **all** treatments and medication are recorded in accordance with BHA rules – this includes treatments such as joint injections, sedations, local anaesthetics

Horses on medication

- Do not share tack with other horses
- Ensure that the tack including the bit is thoroughly cleaned removing any encrusted feed and dirt
- The horse box should be emptied and decontaminated after every journey.
- Empty and decontaminate the stable, manger and water trough at the end of a course of veterinary treatment
- Be aware that some drugs can be recycled in urine or faeces (such as flunixin)* and this is why thorough emptying and cleaning of a stable is required where a horse has been on a course of medication.

This policy is non-contractual and the employer may amend it at any time.