

Biosecurity Guidelines

For the Comox Valley Exhibition Grounds

Please refer to the most up to date and full AAEP Biosecurity Guidelines for more detailed information.

Anything that touches an infected or suspected infected horse or their secretions or excretions (including but not limited to: manure, discharge from the nose or abscesses or an aborted fetus or fetal membranes etc.) may have the potential to transfer pathogens to other horses. Please note: Animals with neurologic disease should be considered rabies suspects and handled accordingly, until proven otherwise.

Caretakers of Sick (or suspected sick) Horses:

- 1) Assign specific individual(s) to care for sick or affected horse(s). Ideally, a caretaker should not be responsible for caring for both healthy and exposed/affected horses. If it is unavoidable that an individual has to provide care to both affected and unaffected animals, then the following precautions should be observed:
 1. Care of healthy animals (feed/groom/exercise/muck stall) should be completed first.
 2. Exposed animals next.
 3. Affected/sick animals last.
- 2) Disposable gloves, plastic booties and barrier clothing should be used when working with sick horses.
- 3) After handling sick horses:
 - Double bag and dispose of gloves and booties in the dumpster.
 - Reusable/washable gowns/barrier clothing should be placed into a disposable garbage bag and removed from the property and washed off site.
 - Remember your hand hygiene – follow CDC guidelines.

General Management Practices:

- Post restricted access signs at all primary perimeter access points.
- Footbaths and hand sanitizers (62% ethyl alcohol) should be placed at all primary perimeter access points. Special attention should be paid to cleaning footwear upon leaving an isolation barn area.
- Footbaths with disinfectant should be used. Rubber or waterproof footwear and appropriate maintained footbath or footmat maybe a substitute for disposable booties.
- Affected horses should be prevented from having any contact with other horses. Openings in stall walls (windows, gaps between boards) should be covered with solid (not mesh or screen) barrier material.
- Eliminate use of communal water sources. Instruct caretakers not to submerge water hose when filling buckets!
- Remember waste management procedures are not limited to organisms shed in feces but are applicable to manure and soiled bedding all infectious agents.

Manure and Soiled Bedding:

- Manure on wheelbarrow tires, tractor tires, etc. is a potential source of the infectious agent and can be tracked everywhere else on the event grounds if tires are not properly cleaned and disinfected!

- Dispose of manure/soiled bedding in dumpster.
- DO NOT put waste material from the stalls of affected horses onto open air manure piles/pits.
- DO NOT spread soiled bedding and manure from affected horses onto pastures.
- Horse-specific equipment (feed tubs, water buckets, halters, pitch fork, wheel barrow & other equipment, etc.) should be clearly identified as belonging to an individual horse and shall be used only for that horse.

Equipment/Supplies:

- Shared equipment (lead shanks, lip chains, bits/bridles, twitches, dose syringes, thermometers, grooming supplies) should be cleaned of organic debris and disinfected between horses.
- All equipment should be thoroughly scrubbed and cleaned with a detergent and water, rinsed, disinfected and followed by a final rinse.
- Cloth items (saddle cloths, towels, bandages, halter fleeces, rub or wipe rags) should be laundered off site and thoroughly dried between each use.
- Equipment that cannot be effectively disinfected (sponges, brushes) should not be shared between horses.
- Multiple dose medications (oral pastes/ophthalmic ointments, etc.) should be labeled for use by a specific horse and not shared.
- Ointments/topical medications should be removed from larger tubs and portioned into smaller containers for use on individual horses.
- Non-porous stall surfaces (varnished wood, metal, painted concrete, asphalt, poured textured floors, stall mats etc.) should be cleaned with a detergent, rinsed and either allowed to dry or squeegeed of excess water.

Facility:

- For disinfectants follow label instructions for use.
- DO NOT mix disinfectants with other chemicals.
- Select a disinfectant that has documented effectiveness in the presence of 10% organic matter and is safe to use around horses and humans.
- Bleach is readily inactivated by organic matter; use only after thorough cleaning.

Environmental Factors:

- Vermin control is critical, especially for disease agents that can be transmitted on fomites. Rodent, bird, and insect control should be evaluated and upgraded as necessary - screens installation may be required. Non-equines (goats, barn cats, dogs) should not be permitted within the primary perimeter.
- Prior to repopulating a facility having housed affected animals
 - Rubber boots, coveralls, goggles and gloves are to be worn by cleaning personnel.
 - Completely strip stalls of all bedding material.
 - Brush down all walls of cobwebs and other residual material.
- For stalls with non-porous walls and floors:
 - Wet down all surfaces -- walls, ceilings, ledges (top of walls) -- with detergent and water.
 - Allow 5-10 minutes for the liquid to soften caked-on organic material then scrub surfaces with a stiff-bristled broom to loosen all material.
 - Rinse, beginning at the top of walls and from walls towards the drain. Repeat until surfaces

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- are clean.
- Squeegee excess water off surfaces, or allow them to dry.
 - Apply disinfectant prepared according to label directions on all surfaces, starting at the top of stall walls and working from the far end of the stall to the exit. Allow to dry.
 - Repeat step #5 if suspect or confirmed difficult organisms are found or suspected.
 - Follow all label instructions for application and safety precautions.
 - Completely clean and disinfect aisle ways, wash racks and common areas following similar procedures.
- For facilities with porous surfaces (wood construction, dirt or clay flooring, etc.):
 - Remove all bedding and organic matter and thoroughly dry scrub all surfaces to remove as much organic matter as possible.
 - Follow up with scrubbing stall walls with a detergent solution.
 - Disinfectants can be sprayed on surfaces, but may have inadequate results.
 - Remove all buckets, hay nets, feed tubs, stall webbings, metal grates, etc. and scrub with detergent solution, rinse, disinfect and then rinse thoroughly with potable water and allow to dry.
 - Outside primary perimeter - outriders' horses, pony horses, pick-up horses:
 - Update/initiate vaccinations (where applicable)
 - Daily veterinary inspection prior to use should include:
 - Rectal temperature
 - Inspection for clinical signs of disease
 - Contact with multiple horses is to be avoided.
 - Personnel required to have multiple horse contacts should use hand sanitizers between the handling of each horse.
 - During an outbreak all shared facilities/equipment should be cleaned and disinfected after each use.
 - Horse trailers/vans should be cleaned and disinfected between each use.
 - Soiled bedding should be removed and placed in an area designated for infectious materials.
 - Remember, any tools/equipment used to remove the soiled bedding/manure should be cleaned and disinfected after each use, including tires, handles etc... DO NOT put waste material from the stalls of affected horses onto open air manure piles/pits nor spread soiled bedding and manure from affected horses on pastures.