



Stablemate Tips

Biosecurity Plan Guide

Setting up a Biosecurity Plan

Biosecurity is a programme of management practices which reduce the potential for the introduction into or spread of disease causing agents within your yard.

Your vet will be happy to help you with an initial risk assessment to evaluate where biosecurity measures can be improved or introduced.

Drawing up and introducing a yard biosecurity plan will assist you in maintaining good biosecurity practices which in turn will:

1. Prevent the introduction and spread of infectious disease,
2. Keep your horses healthy thus ensuring optimum performance,
3. Prevent lengthy, costly disruptions to equine movements.

Your biosecurity plan is only as good as the effort you and your yard team put into setting it up and maintaining it.

Everyone has to understand what you are trying to achieve, why and how. They must buy into the concept and follow the set procedures so involve them from the beginning.

Explain what biosecurity is, the various risks identified during the risk assessment process, their role within the plan and the consequences of the plan not being followed.

Ensure that all products, equipment and facilities are in place to allow all staff and visitors to easily comply with the yard procedures.

Provide a clear written set of yard biosecurity procedures to each staff member and each horse owner.

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Display a copy of these in relevant areas of the yard where they can be clearly seen by staff and visitors.

Display reminder notices in yard staff areas and conduct regular checks to ensure that all procedures are being completed properly by everyone all the time.

Reassess and discuss your plan with your vet on a regular basis especially following an outbreak of any infectious disease. This will enable you to establish the success of your plan and identify any new areas of risk in order to implement any changes or additional steps required for improvement.