



Stablemate Tips

Quarantine

Quarantine/Isolation Biosecurity

Quarantine is not just for sick or new horses, as any horses which have left the yard for any reason such as showing, competition, racing or breeding purposes have the potential to bring back disease.

There are certain diseases which have a significant incubation period or a carrier state in which cases an apparently healthy horse could introduce an infection into your yard. The impact of diseases such as Strangles and Equine Influenza can be devastating and several simple Bio Security measures can be put into place to help you to reduce the risk to your horses and your yard.

Be aware of horses at your yard who may have been exposed to disease whilst away from the yard for various reasons (e.g. training, racing, showing, competition, eventing, hunting, breeding). If a horse has been away from the yard with close contact with other horses then it is advisable to keep them in isolation on return to the yard.

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When setting up a quarantine/ isolation facility:

1. Limit the amount of shared airspace between quarantined horses and the general population.
2. Isolation stalls should ideally be in a separate building downwind of the main barn/stables and away from all other horses/animals including those stabled, turned out and passers by.
3. This unit should be run in a barrier type nursing regime adhering to strictest levels of animal and human hygiene including the use of disposable and/or easily washed and disinfected outerwear changed daily.
4. In the isolation facility a horse should have its own dedicated equipment for feeding, watering, grooming and mucking out which must be kept thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.
5. Where ever possible the isolation unit should have its own drainage and a separate muck heap away from the main unit.

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6. Flying/biting insects need to be controlled via use of insecticides, window and door screens.
7. Horses should be prevented from putting their heads out over the doors or through side partitions which is critical in the case of respiratory disease where nasal secretions are often the primary spread of disease.
8. Wipe clean and disinfect door, side rails and partitions to remove body fluids which can spread diseases.
9. Access should be restricted to essential personnel only wearing the correct protective clothing at all times when in the unit.
10. All other animals domestic or feral should be kept away.
11. Quarantined horses wherever possible should be handled by dedicated personnel, using dedicated equipment wearing dedicated clothing OR be last in the daily routine for general staff after having handled all the other horses in the yard in order to reduce the potential for the spread of disease.
12. A log should be kept of those who enter the isolation facility.
13. Hands and boots should be washed before leaving the isolation area. Ideally dedicated boots should be used in this area. Outerwear depending upon its make up should be removed and bagged for disposal or laundering.
14. All new arrivals or returning horses should be isolated for a minimum of three weeks
15. All new Horses should be up to date with their equine influenza vaccines. Horses who have not previously been vaccinated or whose vaccinations have lapsed should have completed the primary vaccination course (first two vaccines) and a further week elapsed prior to moving into the main yard. Ideally these should be completed prior to moving to the isolation unit.
16. A Strangles blood test with negative result must have been carried out in the week prior to moving to a new yard. On arrival new horses will be placed in isolation. An additional sample should be taken with negative result prior to moving into the main yard. A positive blood test result will require a guttural pouch wash to detect carriers.
17. In the case of horses coming in having travelled internationally:
 - New arrivals should have a negative swab result for CEM and negative blood test results for EVA and EIA.
 - Stallions standing at stud and all those used for AI should be checked to ensure that they are negative for all three diseases before breeding and checked that they remain free of infection by repeated negative swabs and blood samples.
 - Strict human and animal hygiene controls should be employed when handling horses for breeding e.g wearing of disposable gloves and the use of disposable equipment.



Always consult your vet who will be more than happy to help you with advice on setting up an isolation/quarantine facility and how and where to implement yard specific biosecurity measures.