

HOW TO DEAL WITH NEW ARRIVALS TO THE YARD



To minimise the risk of infectious disease entering a yard it is essential to have a protocol in place for dealing with new arrivals. Below are some considerations which can form part of this protocol; however you should discuss these with your vet as there will be variations depending on the disease risk and activities of horses on your yard.

Isolation

- Isolate all new arrivals for at least 14 days.
- For more information on establishing an isolation area refer to the 'How to set up an isolation facility' fact sheet.
- Whilst in isolation horses should be monitored for signs of disease including coughing, nasal discharge, diarrhoea, swollen glands, raised temperature, lethargy/reduced appetite or abortion.

Vaccination

- Check the vaccination status and if this does not meet your yard requirements, get the primary course of vaccinations completed before the horse leaves isolation.
- Generally the minimum standard should include equine influenza and tetanus.

Strangles prevention

- Screening can be performed to test for strangles. This may be appropriate dependant on the disease risk to your yard, so discuss with your vet if you are unsure.
- Horses can be blood tested to determine whether they have been exposed to strangles infection within the last 6 months. Results must be discussed with your vet as a positive result does not mean the horse is actively infected and further testing is likely to be required.
- The timing of a strangles blood test is important as a very recently infected horse can have a negative result.
- Screen for strangles with a blood test at the start of the isolation period to identify infected and carrier horses so that treatment can be initiated quickly.

- Horses which are negative on the first test should have the test repeated at the end of a two week isolation period to ensure that a recently infected horse is identified.
- Other diagnostic tests are available to help identify strangles and you should discuss your requirements with your vet.

Worming

- Check when the horse was last wormed and ensure that this meets the requirements for your yard.
- Any new horse should be wormed with a product or combination of products which will kill all types and stages of roundworm (including encysted and inhibited small redworm) and tapeworm.
- Stable the horse for 48 hours after worming before turnout to allow the wormer to take effect and prevent viable eggs from being deposited on the pasture.

Day arrivals (for competition or lessons)

- Keep horses and owners that arrive for competition or lessons away from resident horses.
- If possible, also use a separate parking area.
- Do not allow them to use stabling/wash down facilities that are used by resident horses.
- Discourage any direct contact with resident horses.