

Equine Biosecurity Policy

Date of Policy: May 2023

Review Date: May 2024

Staff Responsible: All Staff Team

1. Rationale

With increasing numbers of infectious disease outbreaks in the UK it is important for all those working with equines to be aware of the vulnerability of all equines to disease. Biosecurity measures can reduce the risk of infection and reduce the spread of disease. It is therefore the responsibility of all those working with equines to uphold appropriate biosecurity measures.

2. How our policy was formulated

This policy was developed by Stephanie Warren-Browne with reference to statutory guidance

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/700200/horses-welfare-codes-of-practice-april2018.pdf

And BHS guidelines:

<https://www.bhs.org.uk/horse-care-and-welfare/health-care-management/horse-health/disease-prevention/>

Aims and Objectives:

The aim of this policy is to ensure the appropriate biosecurity protocols are followed to ensure the health of all equines and reduce the spread of infectious disease amongst them.

The objective is for all staff to be aware of the biosecurity protocols and their importance.

Rainbow Horses Biosecurity

Rainbow Horses has 12 equines, with no neighbouring, visiting, or travelling equines. All passports are kept in the top drawer of the filing cabinet in the Extra Things stable.

All staff are aware of normal equine behaviour and equines are observed by multiple staff daily for signs of illness. Any signs of illness are reported to the Equine Lead (Steph Warren) or directly to the vet on 07894151219.

All staff and visitors wash their hands before and after interacting with the equines.

The horses that receive feeds have their own colour coded buckets which are cleaned after each use. They have access to a mains connected water trough which is cleaned regularly.

The fields are picked regularly and the muck heap is positioned at the other side of the yard to the equine fields. Additionally, egg counts are performed twice yearly to monitor worm burden and equines are wormed accordingly.

Horses are vaccinated yearly, have yearly routine dentistry, and are regularly trimmed by a qualified farrier. This is recorded in an equine information sheet on the drive where it is accessible to all staff. Vaccinations are also recorded in their individual passports.

All staff must read the biosecurity policy and be familiar with the protocols therein.

New Equine Protocol

All new equines are isolated for two weeks upon arrival.

All new arrivals have their vaccination status checked.

Any signs of illness are reported to the Equine lead (Steph Warren) or directly to the vet.

Ill Equine Protocol

Any equine which requires isolation for their illness will be isolated according to the isolation protocol.

Any signs of illness are reported to the Equine Lead (Steph Warren) or directly to the vet on 07894151219.

Any ill equine will be monitored daily for further signs of illness, food and water intake, and overall well-being.

Isolation Protocol for New or Ill Equines

As we have a limited number of equines, none of whom have contact with equines outside their current herd, upon discovery of any illness which requires isolation or while planning for the arrival of a new equine the following should be completed immediately. The equine will be moved to the isolation paddock; additional electric fencing will be secured inside the isolation paddock to prevent contact with other equines; suitable protective boots, gloves, and overalls will be brought on site; necessary equipment will be marked and separated; signs will be placed around the isolation area. This being done initially, the following protocols will then be followed.

Isolated equines are kept in a separate, small paddock where they are unable to have contact with any other equines over the fence.

Biosecurity signs will indicate the isolation area and only designated staff will enter or interact with the isolated equine. The designated staff members will do any work before and/or after all other work is carried out for the day. They will also wear protective boots, gloves, and overalls when in the isolation area.

Feeding, mucking out, and grooming equipment will be separated if used for the isolated equine and kept in a separate area, clearly marked. All equipment used for the isolated equine and in the isolation area will be disinfected after use.

All visitors to the site will be made aware of the isolation area, which is situated away from the site entrance.