

Tacoma Equine Hospital

3112 – 156th Street E. Tacoma, WA 98446 ♦ 253.535.6999

BASIC BIOSECURITY

Simple steps for keeping your horses healthy

Handling Sick Horses

- ▷ Immediately isolate sick horses away from the rest of the herd.
- ▷ Follow disinfection techniques with all equipment that comes in contact with sick horses (see disinfection section).
- ▷ Consult with your veterinarian about needed health care or vaccination protocols.
- ▷ Carefully sanitize all stalls, buckets, flooring and other equipment when a sick horse leaves the facility.
- ▷ Use a shallow basin full of properly mixed disinfectant for staff to wash their shoes in before leaving the area containing sick horses.
- ▷ Offer hand sanitizers to any and all people who have touched sick horses before healthy horses are touched.
- ▷ Carefully read and follow directions on the labels of any disinfectants or sanitizers used.

Safety When Traveling

- ▷ Be sure to maintain an up-to-date Coggins test for all your horses and carry it with you when you travel, along with a list of all current vaccinations and any medications needed.
- ▷ Do not use common water buckets or feed areas at shows or event grounds.
- ▷ Do not share twitches, lip chains, halters, or other items that may touch a horse's eyes, nose or mouth.
- ▷ Keep daily temperature logs for your horses, particularly if they show signs of malaise or inappetence.
- ▷ Isolate any sick animals immediately when signs are recognized.
- ▷ If you are traveling out of state, contact your veterinarian to obtain CVI (Certified Veterinary Inspection) health papers.

At Home Precautions

- ▷ Work with your veterinarian to design an appropriate vaccination program for all horses in your care.
- ▷ Be sure that horses entering your facility have up-to-date vaccinations as required and that they are free from communicable diseases.
- ▷ Isolate incoming horses for at least 2 – 3 weeks before allowing them exposure to horses currently on the grounds.
- ▷ Do not share water or feed buckets among horses.
- ▷ When cleaning buckets, be sure not to let the hose nozzle touch the bucket itself.
- ▷ Assign a set of grooming tools to each horse in your facility and clean them regularly.

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- ▷ Remove all manure and waste products to an appropriate location away from the barn.
- ▷ Take steps to limit horses' exposure to pest disease vectors – such as flies.
- ▷ Consult with your veterinarian about ongoing wellness care for your horses, including regular physical and dental examinations and a recommended deworming program.

Disinfection

- ▷ Remove all excess debris or dirt from items to be disinfected.
- ▷ Wash the item first with a detergent such as laundry or dish soap.
- ▷ Follow this washing by dipping the item in a disinfectant.
- ▷ For disinfection, you may use commercially available brands such as Roccal-D Plus. Be sure to follow label instructions.
- ▷ Disinfection can be completed on items such as nylon halters, bits, lip chains, grooming equipment, shovels, pitchforks and even shoes.
- ▷ Be sure to rinse the disinfectant off completely. Use clean water at least 2 – 3 times before you use the item to be certain the excess disinfectant is removed.

*Courtesy of Pfizer Animal Health