Barn Smarts for Biosecurity TIPS FOR KEEPING YOUR HORSE HEALTHY



Don't be a "Typhoid Mary"!

You don't want to be the one spreading illness to healthy horses in your barn. If you are caring for a sick horse, first care for all of the healthy animals, then work with the sick horse. Always change clothes (including footwear) and wash your hands thoroughly before you go back to healthy animals.



Sharing Snot 'sNOT Cool!

While away at a show, don't allow your horse to make nose to nose contact with other horses. If possible, use your tack stall as a barrier between your horse and their neighbor. Always provide your own water buckets, don't allow your horses to drink from the community water tub. Disinfect tools and equipment (including your trailer and tires!) during your stay and after you return home.



No double dipping!

Don't immerse the end of the hose in your horse's water bucket. The hose may be contaminated, spreading germs or illness from horse to horse. Instead, hold the hose and don't let it contact the bucket or the water in the bucket. One solution would be to bring your own hose or a container of disinfectant to dip the end of the hose.



Horses need sick days too!

(Don't let your horse be Typhoid Mary either!) Always leave sick horses at home. The stress of travel and showing will not help them recover, could expose them to secondary infections, and you will be exposing many other horses to the illness.



Time Out!

Quarantine new horses or any horses that have been exposed to outside horses (at horse shows or other organized events) for a minimum of three weeks. Treat quarantined horses as if they were ill: do not share equipment, feed them last, and wash your hands thoroughly before returning to healthy animals.



Selfish is Safer!

Resist the temptation to share items between horses (preferably they share none). Even items like brushes and saddle pads can transmit viruses, bacteria, and fungi to other animals. A little bit of selfishness with your equipment can protect your horse.





Do your horse's dishes

Dumping water buckets is not enough to protect your horse. Scrub and disinfect on a regular basis to prevent the buildup of bacteria, algae, and other contaminants. This also includes feed tubs, water tanks, and supplement buckets.

Stranger Danger!

Restrict horse access to necessary visitors only. People can bring bacteria and viruses into your facility on their clothes, shoes, and vehicle tires. Provide a disinfectant foot bath and hand wash station for visitors. Set up and visibly label designated visitor parking areas and driveways to minimize outside vehicles entering animal traffic areas.



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