

# 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.