



HOW TO SET UP AN ISOLATION FACILITY

Setting up and using an isolation/quarantine facility will dramatically improve the biosecurity of a yard and will help to limit any disease spread should a horse contract an infectious disease.

The isolation facility should also be used for new horses in case they are incubating an infectious disease on arrival at your yard.

Ensure all visitors to the yard are aware of the isolation area and contact with this area is kept to the minimum essential personnel.

Horses in an isolation facility should have accurate records kept, including temperature and any clinical problems seen.

How long should horses be in isolation?

- New arrivals to the yard should be isolated for at least 14-21 days.
- Horses with suspected or confirmed disease should be isolated until cleared by the vet.

Location

- It is key that wherever the isolation facility is located it is as far as possible from other horses (at least 10m) and that there is minimal personnel visiting the area.
- Stable
 - Ideally the isolation area should be a stable or stable block that is distant from the main stabling area and in a separate airspace.
 - If there is no separate stable available then leaving the stables empty on either side and marking out a quarantine area on the floor to prevent general access is the next best alternative.
- Field
 - Can be as simple as a field that is remote from the main yard, entrance and roadways.
 - In some cases it may be necessary to use double fencing (can be electric fencing) to prevent contact between the isolated horse and the main herd.

Equipment

- There should be separate mucking out, feeding (including water) and grooming equipment.
- There should be a separate muck heap where possible.

Personnel

- Ensure all visitors to the yard are aware of the quarantine area and the protocol associated with entering this area.
- Restrict the number of people who need to enter the quarantine facility.
- For routine management, horses in the isolation area should be dealt with last.
- All dogs, cats and other horses should be kept away.

Hygiene

- Hands should always be thoroughly washed with a suitable disinfectant after contact with horses in isolation even if disposable gloves have been worn.
- Boots should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after leaving the isolation area. A disinfectant footbath that allows foot and ankle to be covered is ideal.
- Use overalls that cover all clothing when dealing with a horse in isolation. Be careful not to contaminate clothing when removing overalls when leaving the isolation area.
- Overalls must be either disposable or washed at 60°C.