

Biosecurity Policy

Year

2020

Version

1.1

Updated

February 2020

Pony Club events bring together large numbers of horse/ponies in one place as such we understand the risk posed to the equine community from the spread of infections and diseases. We are committed to the implementation and continuous improvement of biosecurity practices and controls. The purpose of this policy is to assist in safeguarding of horses/ponies from the introduction and spread of harmful infections and diseases and outlines some basic biosecurity principles that should be adopted.

Passport

- 1** These are legal documents and must always be kept safe and secure.
- 2** A valid passport and vaccination record:
 - a. must accompany the horse / pony to all events
 - b. must be available for inspection by the event officials
 - c. must be produced on request at any other time during the event
- 3** You may be requested to upload a copy of your passport when submitting your entry to any Pony Club event.
- 4** The Pony Club are entitled to carry out Passport integrity checks, this may be pre-event and/or during the event.
- 5** Any horse or pony which poses a risk to the health of others will either be isolated or sent home.

Microchipping

- 1** In June 2018 a new law requiring horse owners to microchip their animals was introduced to prevent abuse and improve welfare, deter theft and fraudulent sales as well as being helpful in managing disease outbreaks, mapping the horse population and ensuring rapid communication with owners.

- 2** From October 2020 it will be mandatory for all owners to microchip their horses, ponies and donkeys. The new Central Equine Database will then allow local authorities and police to track down the owners.
- 3** If horse owners do not microchip their horses by October 2020 they could face sanctions from their local authority including a compliance notice and, as a last resort, a fine of up to £200.

Vaccinations

- 1** Horse/ponies which are unvaccinated or whose vaccinations are not up to date pose a potential risk to the health of other animals attending the event as well as any resident at the venue and we are conscious that we need to be vigilant in seeking to avoid the spread of this disease.
- 2** All horses and ponies attending the Pony Club events are required to be vaccinated, in accordance with Pony Club rules (see Health and Safety Rule Book page 30). As a minimum, the rules require:
 - a. No horse / pony may compete (or be present at the event as a companion) unless it has a Record of Vaccination against equine influenza completed by the veterinary surgeon who gave the vaccination, signed and stamped line by line, which complies with the Minimum Vaccination Requirements.
 - b. The Minimum Vaccination Requirements for a horse / pony are that it has received:
 - i. a Primary Vaccination followed by a Secondary Vaccination given not less than 21 days and not more than 92 days after the Primary Vaccination; and
 - ii. If sufficient time has elapsed, a booster vaccination given not less than 150 days and not more than 215 days after the Secondary Vaccination and further booster vaccinations at intervals of not more than a year apart.
 - c. At competitions at Area level and above including Grassroots Regional Championships and the finals of the Winter Series competitions, the most recent booster injection must have been given within the six calendar months prior to the date of the competition.
 - d. No horse / pony may compete on the same day as a relevant injection is given or on any of the 6 days following such an injection.
- 3** NOTE: We also remind owners of the importance of vaccinations and to ensure that their vaccination records are up to date. The vast majority of confirmed cases reported by the Animal Health Trust are in unvaccinated horses. We continue to

recommend that if it has been longer than six months since the last vaccination, owners should discuss a booster with their veterinary surgeon.

- 4 A reminder - you cannot compete the horse/pony on the same day or any of the following six days e.g. if a horse receives a vaccination on a Monday the earliest you can compete it would be the following Monday.
- 5 It is your responsibility to ensure the vaccinations are up to date. A copy of the horse/pony's vaccination record may be required to be attached with entries to Pony Club events. Spot checks will be undertaken, and random passport / integrity checks will also be carried out at the event.
- 6 For welfare reasons, other vaccinations should be up to date, including tetanus. Vaccinations for diseases should be undertaken at the advice of your veterinary surgeon.
- 7 Any horse or pony which poses a risk to the health of others will be sent home.

BEF Advice

- 1 The Pony Club continues to follow The British Equestrian Federation (BEF) advice.
- 2 The BEF continues to urge all horse owners to ensure that their vaccination records are up to date. This is vital to help prevent the spread of Equine Flu. If it has been more than six months since the last vaccination, they strongly recommend that owners discuss a booster with their veterinary surgeon and the Pony Club endorses that advice.
- 3 If BEF advice changes, this policy will be reviewed and amended accordingly.

Water at National Championships and large events

- 1 For biosecurity and practicality reasons, water may only be available in troughs. To prevent cross-contamination you **MUST** only use the buckets provided to dip into the trough and then fill your own buckets / water containers.
- 2 **Competitors' own buckets must NOT be dipped into the troughs.**
Hay nets must NOT be soaked in the troughs.
Horses must NOT be allowed to drink from the troughs.
- 3 Abuse of this system or theft of the dedicated buckets may result in the competitor being eliminated from the event and potentially future events.

We recommend that all our members remain vigilant for signs of infections / viruses / diseases, maintain excellent biosecurity and consult with vets if concerned.