

Suffolk Riding Club:

Biosecurity Policy

This policy is our Club policy in support of our national affiliated society, British Riding Clubs, part of the British Horse Society.

Biosecurity is a set of preventative actions that are designed to reduce the risk of disease transmission. By following correct biosecurity actions at all times, and not just in the event of a disease outbreak, you will reduce the likelihood of your horse catching a disease or passing it on to others. If we all carry out good biosecurity actions, the risk of infectious diseases spreading around the horse population reduces significantly.

Suffolk Riding Clubs encourages its members to follow the below steps as part of their standard biosecurity practices:

1. Take your horse's temperature regularly and know what's normal. Any rise in temperature means extra care needs to be taken and ring your veterinary surgeon immediately if it goes above 38.5C.
2. Make sure that all horses that are introduced to your yard are kept away from other horses for a period of time (ideally in isolation facilities for three weeks).
3. Make sure your horse is fully vaccinated against equine influenza and receives a booster at least every 12 months, even if they don't travel away from your yard. The more people who vaccinate their horses, the less likely it will be that we'll all be affected by disease.
4. Avoid sharing equipment such as water buckets and hay-nets between horses, and reduce unnecessary interactions with horses not your own, to avoid cross-contamination.

In periods of heightened risk additional biosecurity measures could and should be levied; these could include:

- Restricting entry to training events and competitions to vaccinated horses.
- Checking of passports on arrival (before unloading) to ensure all equine influenza vaccinations are up to date¹.
- Minimising horse-to-horse contact wherever possible
 - Mandating spaced parking to maintain distance between horseboxes and trailers.
 - Limiting the number of horses in arenas or warm-up areas at any one time
 - Requiring prompt loading and unloading

¹ For the avoidance of doubt, when referring to Equine Influenza vaccination, up to date means that the full initial course has been completed, with boosters administered on the anniversary of each calendar year thereafter.

- Requiring the use of hand sanitisers and foot mats for riders, owners, support staff and horses.
- Encouraging handlers to use their own equipment, such as buckets, grooming kits, tack, or water sources and not to share.
- Refusing entry to any horse that shows symptoms of any communicable disease, i.e. coughing, nasal discharge, lethargy or raised temperature.

Suffolk Riding Club will follow the advice of its national affiliated society in determining the current risk level for infectious diseases, and therefore which, if any, of the above measures it will require members, and non-members, to adhere to when attending events organised by the club. Additionally, Suffolk Riding Club will require attendees to adhere to all biosecurity measures implemented by our venues.

Suffolk Riding Club will ensure that all members and non-members pre-booked onto an event are made aware of any biosecurity measures or checks that will be required at the venue, and that our standard biosecurity measures are clearly shown on our website and within the terms and conditions of any events.