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## Biosecurity Policy

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Year

**2023**

Version

**2.0**

Updated

**May 2023**

The Pony Club in line with its Equine Welfare Policy supports the Biosecurity of all horses and ponies attending its activities, including but not limited to rallies, camps, and competitions alike.

The Pony Club defines Biosecurity as the management of risk through practices and controls to safeguard horses and ponies from infections and disease whilst preventing its spread further into the equine community.

This Policy identified control measures to be implemented at Pony Club Activities.

### **BEF Advice**

The Pony Club continues to follow The British Equestrian Federation (BEF) advice. If BEF advice changes, Pony Club policy will be reviewed and amended accordingly. Current Biosecurity information produced by British Equestrian can be found on their [website](#).

To support Venues hosting Pony Club Activities can be found in both the Pony Club Welfare Policy and British Equestrian [Handbook for Venues](#).

### **Passport**

- These are legal documents and must always be kept safe and secure.
- A valid passport and vaccination record:
  - must accompany the horse/pony to all events
  - must be available for inspection by the event officials

- must be produced on request at any other time during the event
- You may be requested to upload a copy of your passport when submitting your entry to any Pony Club event.
- The Pony Club is entitled to carry out Passport integrity checks, this may be pre-event and/or during the event.
- Any horse or pony which poses a risk to the health of others will either be isolated or sent home.
- Microchip information will be recorded in the passport and may be checked at the event

Information on passports can be found in the Welfare Policy and through [British Equestrian](#)

## **Vaccinations**

- Horse/ponies which are unvaccinated or whose vaccinations are out of date pose a risk to the health of other animals attending the event or residents at the venue.
- All horses and ponies attending Pony Club events must be vaccinated in accordance with Pony Club rules (see website for current rule).
- The vast majority of confirmed Equine Influenza cases reported by the Animal Health Trust are in unvaccinated horses.
- Please remember that a horse/pony cannot compete on the day it is vaccinated or any of the following six days e.g. if a horse receives a vaccination on a Monday the earliest it can compete is the following Monday.
- It is the parent/member's responsibility to ensure vaccinations are up to date. Spot checks will be undertaken, and random passport/integrity checks may be carried out at any Pony Club event.
- Responsible horse ownership means other vaccinations should also be up to date, including tetanus. If in any doubt, seek the advice of your veterinary surgeon.

The Vaccination rule for the Pony Club can be found in the Rule section of the [website](#).

## **Event Planning**

Biosecurity is an important factor of event planning for all involved in the Pony Club, this is paramount to ensure equine health

Horses/Ponies can suffer from a variety of health problems which can be viral, bacterial, or fungal infections. We want all Pony Club horses/ponies to be fit and healthy as they will have a higher chance of fighting off those infections. If any Horse/Pony is showing signs of infection, veterinary advice is needed. Following strict bio-security guidelines at Pony Club events is encouraged as it will prevent the spread/outbreak of disease.

- Pony Club owners should avoid other horses, and have direct contact with other horses at events or from different yards.
- Pony Club members should not let different horses drink from a shared water source.
- Letting your horse have a hay net rather than grazing is encouraged as you don't know the grazing history on the field.
- When stabling overnight, check if the stables are pre-disinfected between horses, if not we encourage you to disinfect them before putting your horse in the stable. • Avoid sharing equipment between your horse and someone else's horse as some infections can live a long time on the equipment.
- Disinfect equipment between events.
- If using a hire trailer/lorry, disinfect it before and after using it.
- Carrying a spray bottle of disinfectant on you at events is encouraged.
- If a horse is showing signs of illness at an event, it should be isolated immediately, and if it's classed as fit to travel by a vet it must leave the event soon as possible.

Stabling of equines at Pony Club events may be a requirement, should this be the case please take into careful consideration the biosecurity measures set out above.

## **Sharing of Tack and equipment**

The use of other persons' horses or ponies, items of tack, grooming equipment, and clothing are considered cross-contamination. Cross-contamination leaves the equine and humans using the item open to infection or disease. This is to be prohibited wherever possible to support reducing the risk of illness being spread.

In the interest of maintaining a healthy horse or pony, it is also important that each pony or horse has its own feed bowl and buckets. These should remain solely used by them to control and limit the spread of infections or diseases.

Please take into consideration biosecurity measures and guidance as highlighted above

## **Event Etiquette**

Whilst attending any Pony club event, be it Rallies, training and/ or competitions there are etiquettes to maintain horse welfare through out the duration. These include

- Horses and ponies not from the same yard to remain at 6 metres from each other at times when they are tied up and being led. This limits the threat of injury and illness.
- Horses and ponies are not to touch others not from the same yard whilst in attendance to avoid illness and spread of disease
- Passing in closer proximity whilst in the collecting ring and ridden is permissible as it is fleeting contact of less than 15 minutes
- Horses and ponies are to be supervised at all times whilst in attendance to avoid the risk of injury and escape

## **Water at National Championships and large events**

A source of higher risk for biosecurity at events can be watering points, measures and controls to implement are:

- For bio-security and practicality reasons, water may only be available in troughs. To prevent cross-contamination only use the buckets provided by the event organisers to dip into the trough and then fill your own buckets/water containers.
- 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 directly from troughs.

## **Prevention of Infections and Disease Spread**

With the interest of the whole equine community in mind horses and ponies considered to be unwell or showing signs such as

High Fever

Cough

Thick Nasal  
discharge

Sweating

Should actively seek Veterinary advice to support the ongoing health of the horse or pony and should not attend Pony Club Activities until advised by their Veterinary team.

The list above highlights the common signs across a variety of infections and diseases that can impact the health and well-being of the equine community. Should horses or ponies be showing other signs of wider infections or disease they should seek advice and not attend activities through this action we will be able to control and limit the spread of the possible infection or disease.

Owners, responsible persons, and members can take to support monitoring their horse or ponies' health can be monitoring their temperature, pulse, and respiration. Guidance can be sought from the Pony Club Manual of Horsemanship or through World Horse Welfare which supplies [video guides](#).

Upon returning from “stay away” Pony Club activities such as competitions and camp, livery yards and farms may require the horse or pony who has attended to undertake measures such as

- Enter isolation.
- Stable away from other horses for a duration
- Prevent turnout.
- Limit turn out near other horses.
- Store tack and equipment away from general use and other persons' equipment to prevent use.

The intention of this will be to control any possible illnesses which may have come in with the horse or pony returning to the site and maintain the general health of the group.

<b>Approval date</b>

<b>Review date</b>	<b>Owner</b>
	Health, Safety, Safeguarding, and Horse Welfare Committee