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BHS Approved

## DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL POLICY

1. **General.** This policy covers the manner in which the Club will seek to prevent equine disease from spreading and what control mechanisms will be employed in the event of the outbreak of disease at the Club. This policy has been revised to incorporate the following annexes:

- a. Annex A: Isolation Procedure.
- b. Annex B: Cleaning and Disinfection Procedure.
- c. Annex C: Worming Policy.

d. **Vaccination requirements.** Horses must be vaccinated annually for equine influenza and biennially for tetanus. If there is a break and the due date is missed then the horse needs to start its course of boosters again.

e. **New Horses:**

- a. All horses brought on to the yard are subject to two weeks' isolation following our isolation and disinfection procedures (see Annexes A and B respectively). During isolation horses are monitored for changes in health and behaviour. Any issues are to be reported to the Yard Manager immediately.
- b. A negative Strangles blood test result is required prior to coming onto the yard. If the test comes back out of range then a guttural pouch check is required.

f. **Current Horses Showing Symptoms:**

- a. Horses showing symptoms of any transmittable illness or diagnosed are to be put straight into isolation until cleared by the vet.
- b. All horses that have been in contact recently with symptomatic horses are to be closely monitored. Any horses also showing symptoms are also to isolate.
- c. The Club's isolation and disinfecting procedure is to be followed closely following any incidents.

g. **Conditions Requiring Isolation.** Potentially infectious conditions need to be isolated. These include but are not limited to:

- a. Strangles.
- b. Equine flu.

- c. Ringworm.
- d. Equine herpes virus.

If you are suspicious of any symptoms a horse is showing isolate even if you do not know exactly what it is. It is better to be over cautious. The Yard Manager must be informed ASAP if any suspicious symptoms arise.

h. **Signs and Symptoms.** Signs and symptoms to look out for that could mean an infectious illness is present and a horse needs to isolate are as follows:

- a. Coughing and sneezing regularly e.g more than once a day.
- b. Thick discharge from the nose.
- c. High temperature (Above 38.5°C).
- d. Lethargy.
- e. Swelling of lymph nodes under the jaw.

i. **Going on and off yard to shows.** All horses to be up to date with vaccinations prior to leaving the yard. If an event declares a horse who participated is showing signs of diseases or illness that can spread to other horses that participated, returning horses must be monitored closely and contact with others limited as precaution. See Annex A for further direction on the Club's isolation procedure.

j. **Second hand equipment.** All equipment brought on to the yard which is second hand is to be thoroughly disinfected and cleaned before use.

k. **Horses.** Each horse is to have designated tack which is cleaned after every use. If for any reason tack is swapped or changed then the tack should be disinfected accordingly. All horses have their own designated rugs which are individually tagged and not to be swapped or shared between horses.

l. **Grooming kit.** The shared grooming kits which are used between all horses and ponies are disinfected monthly. If any transmittable illness is suspected then the grooming kits are all to be instantly disinfected to prevent further spreading and each horse is to be allocated individual brushes until such time the illness is no longer a threat.

Annexes:

- A. Isolation Procedure.
- B. Cleaning and Disinfection Procedure
- C. Worming Policy.

**Annex A to  
Disease Prevention and Control Policy  
Dated 20 Jan 25**

**ISOLATION PROCEDURE**

1. **All Club staff and members are to ensure they follow this direction:**
  - a. **All new arrivals will undergo two weeks of isolation, using the isolation box and the isolation paddock. Only after the successful conclusion of the mandatory two week isolation period will a new arrival be able to move to their allocated stable and paddock.**
  - b. **Horses will be put in isolation for two weeks if they are away from the Club for more than two nights. However, if the horse is away for two nights or less there will be no isolation required, as long as while the horse was away it did not have shared turn out, shared water or feed buckets, and has been kept away from other horses.**
  - c. **Should a horse display signs of a contagious disease (such as Strangles), or if you have suspicions about its health, immediately move the horse to the isolation box. Inform the Yard Manager and seek advice from the vet.**
  - d. **Your prompt action may possibly halt an outbreak.**
2. **General:**
  - a. The isolation stable is to be in good repair and disinfected.
  - b. A barrier must surround the isolation box, with signs telling people to keep out.
  - c. Use own mucking out tools. Any bedding from mucking out to go direct to the big muckheap. Once the horse has finished in the box all bedding to be removed then stable disinfected.
  - d. All of the horse's kit to remain by stable. Once the horse is due to be moved into the main yard, all kit is to be disinfected, including rugs, headcollar, lead rope, bandages and grooming kit.
  - e. Disinfect all mucking out kit.
  - f. One groom will be put in charge of each horse in isolation.
3. **Groom:**
  - a. To wear overalls only when handling this horse. Overalls can be taken home to be washed (hot wash with some form of anti-bacterial washing powder), but must be in a sealed plastic bag while in transit.
  - b. Wellies are to be worn and to be scrubbed in a bath of disinfectant when walking away from the stable.

- c. Hair to be tied back.
- d. Hands to be washed, especially when finished working with the horse.
- e. Disinfectant spray to be kept by the box.
- f. When dealing with a horse in isolation, no contact is to be had with any other horse.

**Annex B to  
Disease Prevention and Control Policy  
Dated 20 Jan 25**

**CLEANING AND DISINFECTION PROCEDURE**

To comply with the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities involving Animals) Regulations 2018, the Club has policies and procedures in place to ensure accommodation and any equipment within it is cleaned as often as necessary and good hygiene standards are maintained. The accommodation is capable of being thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

**1. Training and cleaning products:**

Action	Procedure
Staff trained in safe use of detergents and fluids	Instructions on packaging and equipment followed
Cleaning products used are fit for purpose and safe for people and animals	Disinfectant products are virucidal and bactericidal. Cleaning products are safe for people and animals. Disinfectant of choice: Jeyes fluid
Cleaning products stored out of reach of horses and clients	Stored and locked in cupboard out of reach of animals and clients
No standing water left to avoid accumulation of pathogens	All standing water cleared immediately

**2. Areas/items cleaned:**

Action	Procedure
Every occupied room and stable	Cleaned at end of each day and when necessary throughout day
Horses removed from areas being cleaned	Until cleaned surfaces dry
Faeces and soiled bedding removed from all areas when necessary	Soiled bedding removed at least twice a day and disposed on the muckheap
Stables to be disinfected at least every 6 months	All riding school stables to have mats removed and stable/mats to be disinfected every 6 months
Livery stables to be disinfected on occupancy change	Livery stables to be cleared out and disinfected on occupancy change
Cleaning of communal indoor areas	All areas disinfected once a day
Cleaning of isolation stable	Isolation stable to be completely cleared out and disinfected when a horse leaves the stable. A complete new bed will be put down every time
Feed buckets and feeding utensils to be cleaned after every use	All feed buckets and feeding utensils to be cleaned after every use and disinfected once a week or if being used by another horse

**Annex C to  
Disease Prevention and Control Policy  
Dated 20 Jan 25**

**WORMING POLICY**

1. **General.** All riding school horses and liveryes, full, working and DIY, will follow the yard worming procedures, in order to ensure there is an organised and effective worm control programme in place.
2. **Approach.** We aim to use a monitoring approach using worm counts and saliva tests which aim to reduce worm resistance by avoiding unnecessary treatment.
3. **Procedure.** After consultation with Penn Equine Vets we will be following the course of preventative treatment/diagnosis detailed below:
  - a. May: Worm egg count.
  - b. Mid July: Worm egg count.
  - c. Early October: Worm egg count.
  - d. December: Equisal tape worm test.
  - e. December/January: All horses will be routinely treated, after the first frost, with a wormer for bots, red worms (cyathostomes) and tape worm (tape worm if indicated as necessary following the results of the saliva test).
4. **Method.** The worming policy will be administered as follows:
  - a. The office will order and issue the worm counts and saliva tape worm tests and charge each livery accordingly on their monthly invoice.
  - b. All samples will be collected from the owners and sent back to the lab by the office.
  - c. Results will be sent to the office and owners confidentially notified of their results.
  - d. In the event of a horse/pony requiring treatment, the owner must action this and provide the empty wormer pack to the office with the name of the horse/pony and date it was administered.
  - e. Depending on the worm count results the horse/pony may need to be retested to ensure the count is down to an acceptable level.
5. **Exemption from Club policy.** If a horse/pony is following a specific Veterinary worming programme the Livery will need to provide the Yard Manager/Office Manager with proof of the programme and the subsequent results each time testing is carried out.