

Biosecurity Policy

Year

2023

Version

1.0

Updated

July 2023

Pony Club events bring together large numbers of horse/ponies in one place, thereby increasing the risk of the spread of infections and diseases to the equine community. The Pony Club is committed to the continuous improvement of biosecurity practices and controls in order to manage this risk and to safeguard horses/ponies from infections and disease. This policy outlines some basic biosecurity principles that should be observed.

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** The law requires horse owners to microchip all animals to prevent abuse and improve welfare, deter theft and fraudulent sales, to manage disease outbreaks, and facilitate the mapping of the horse population and rapid communication with owners.
- 2** It is mandatory for all owners to microchip their horses, ponies and donkeys. The Central Equine Database allows local authorities and police to track ownership.
- 3** Penalties for failure to microchip horses and ponies include a local authority compliance notice and/or a fine of up to £200.

Vaccinations

- 1** Horse/ponies which are unvaccinated or whose vaccinations are out of date pose a risk to the health of other animals attending the event or resident at the venue.
- 2** All horses and ponies attending Pony Club events must be vaccinated in accordance with Pony Club rules (see website for current rule).
- 3** The vast majority of confirmed Equine Influenza cases reported are in unvaccinated horses.
- 4** 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.
- 5** 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.
- 6** 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.

National Championships and large events

If any Horse/Pony is showing signs of infection, veterinary advice must be obtained immediately.

Maintaining strict bio-security measures at the Pony Club Championships is important to prevent the spread/outbreak of virus or disease.

1. Horses/ponies should avoid direct physical contact with other horses where possible.
2. So as not to acquire or pass on infection, horses/ponies should not drink directly from a shared water source.
3. Only use bio-secure buckets when dipping into shared water sources.
4. The use of a hay net with hay brought from home, to which your horse/pony is acclimatised, is encouraged in preference to grazing at the Championship venue, which is a potential source of infection.
5. Hay nets must NOT be soaked in shared water troughs.
6. Consider disinfecting your temporary stable before occupying the stable.
7. Avoid sharing equipment between your horse and someone else's horse. Infections can live a long time on stable equipment.
8. Disinfect equipment between events.
9. If using a trailer/lorry that is not your own, disinfect it before and after using it.
10. Carry a spray bottle of disinfectant for use as required.
11. A horse/pony showing any signs of illness should be isolated immediately, and veterinary advice should be obtained.
12. A horse/pony that sustains an injury or which is showing signs of stress or exhaustion should be checked by a vet, whose advice should be followed prior to traveling home or to a veterinary referral centre.