

This Old Horse: Quarantine protocols and procedures

WASH YOUR HANDS!

Proper hand washing after handling quarantined horses is important. Here is the right technique; anything less doesn't do the trick. 1) Wet hands with warm water. 2) Use liquid soap. 3) Rub your hands together for 15 to 20 seconds, being sure to do the backs of your hands and in between your fingers. 4) Rinse well. 5) Dry with disposable towels.

CLEAN SURFACES PROPERLY *Any surface an infectious horse comes in contact with must be cleaned. This goes for doors, trailers, tack, equipment and more. 1) Remove any loose material, dirt, caked-on manure, etc. The cleaning agent cannot reach the surface through these barriers. 2) Wash, rinse and dry the surface thoroughly with warm water and an appropriate disinfecting cleaner (i.e. bleach or white vinegar). 3) Disinfect the surface.*

QUARANTINE AREA

The outdoor quarantine should be set well away from other horses, with its own specified water buckets, feed buckets, mucking equipment and so on. Quarantine in stalls that have solid dividers and their own sanitized equipment and tools. If no solid walls, leave open stalls between horses and close gossip doors so no contact is allowed.

PROTOCOLS AND PROCEDURES

New horses with **no known health history** will be quarantined for 30 days. The horses will be observed for the 30 days, and their temperature, food and water intake, manure output, physical appearance and temperament monitored.

Turnout is in a separate designated area, far enough away from the other horses, facilities and turnout areas so that nothing can be spread by air, and that all equipment is designated and kept separate, manure is disposed of separately, and all surfaces (fences, troughs, etc.) are cleaned between horses. Should the paddock at some point contain an infected horse, (depending on the disease) leave the paddock vacant for a period of time (depending on the disease).

VISITORS

Anyone entering visiting a quarantined horse is required to wear clean clothes and to change before visiting other horses. They are required to follow the same protocols as anyone else coming into contact with the horse(s).

If the facility **does** have a contagious disease in its midst, we will inform any visiting farriers, veterinarians, coaches, trainers and so on so they can take necessary precautions and restrict visits for awhile unless it's absolutely necessary.

- Precautions should always be taken while handling quarantined horses, including disposable gloves and footbaths or shoe covers. Depending on the severity of the illness,

you may also need to wear coveralls or scrubs and change before handling other horses or leaving the quarantine area.

- Any contaminated item or piece of equipment should be taken care of within the quarantine area, and not transferred to another area of the facility. This includes affected bedding and manure – these should be disposed of in a separate manure pile.