



Carmel Valley Trail & Saddle Club

Equine Biosecurity Policy

November 7, 2020

BACKGROUND

The notion of equine biosecurity is well accepted, and the setting up of programs at horse events is highly recommended, sometimes mandatory, by several major equine organizations such as The American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP), US Federation Equestre (USEF), the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA), and many others. Guidelines to develop such programs abound, some of them are provided as links at the end of this document. The California Department of Agriculture and Food Administration (CDFA) provides a tool kit for the development of a program (link below).

The recommendations below are based on the facts that 1) this is the first time the Club will consider equine biosecurity, 2) there has never been a documented case of an outbreak of infectious diseases at the Club, 3) most of event participants are members of the Club and/or are from the area, and 4) that we would like to start with education, creating awareness. Later, the Club could choose to develop a more extensive program that will further decrease the risks of transmission of an infectious agent. The more complex is a program the less are the risks of infectious diseases transmission.

STATEMENT

CVTSC is committed to protect the health of the horses on the property. Although health certificates are not required to enter the grounds, please refrain from bringing horses that are showing signs of infectious diseases, such as profuse nasal and/or ocular discharges, persistent cough, enlarged glands, diarrhea, fever, loss of appetite, incoordination, abnormal gaits, lameness, draining abscess.

REQUIREMENTS

The program will be implemented at horse events when horses are kept overnight, and the number of horses (from different owners) exceed 10.

- All event participants will be asked to fill the Equine Biosecurity Questionnaire (attached below) on arrival, at registration.
- Event managers will be responsible to perform a daily check on all animals at the event. This can be done during a walk-through, asking owners about any clinical signs (listed on the questionnaire) of infectious diseases.
- Event managers will be responsible to develop records with information on owner (name, address, phone number), horses (name, corral location). The records will be kept and available for 1 month.

IMPLEMENTATION

In the event of a report of a potential case of infectious disease

1. The event manager will request the horse to be confined in its designated stall or corral.
2. The event manager will contact the Board of Directors, alerting them to a “potential infectious horse”. One available Board member will respond and contact the event manager for details.
3. The responding director makes decision to call a veterinarian for further investigation and diagnosis.
4. The veterinarian will declare the animal: a) non-infectious, b) suspicious or c) infectious. This initial call and visit will be paid by the Club. All further testings, treatments, etc. are the responsibility of the owner.
5. The veterinarian, in communication with representative of the Club, horse owner, and event manager, will develop a plan of action in the case of a suspicious or infectious horse. Potential actions may include: a) owner takes horse home, b) horse is isolated and quarantined at the Club, c) horse is kept in designated corral, but contacts are limited.
6. The responding board member will inform the remaining directors and all event participants.

BIOSECURITY KIT

A biosecurity kit kept in the clubhouse is available and includes:

1. List of contact numbers (local veterinarians, Board members)
2. Equipment:
 - a. Biohazard plastic bags, disposable coveralls, boot covers and gloves
 - b. Concentrated disinfectant (w/recipe for dilution)
 - c. Measuring cup and hand held spray bottle
 - d. Hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes
 - e. Buckets, brushes and mucking tools
 - f. Signs and yellow hazard tape
 - g. Thermometer

REFERENCES

- https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Ahfss/animal_health/pdfs/Biosecurity_Toolkit_Full_Version.pdf
- <https://www.usef.org/forms-pubs/KR7Md0c5tCw/biosecurity-measures-for-horses-at-home>
- https://www.albertaequestrian.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/2014_biosecurity_book.pdf



EQUINE BIOSECURITY QUESTIONNAIRE

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| YES | NO | |
|-----|----|---|
| | | My horse(s) is/are free of infectious diseases (to my knowledge) |
| | | My horse(s) have not been exposed recently (2 weeks) to sick horses |
| | | <p>My horse(s) show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Profuse nasal or ocular discharge • Persistent cough • Enlarged lymph nodes, glands • Diarrhea • Fever > 102 F • Loss of appetite • Draining abscess • Abnormal gait, incoordination, lameness <p>(If your horse shows any of these signs, the organizers may require a health exam by a veterinarian prior to admittance to the event.)</p> |

PRINTED NAME of PARTICIPANT

SIGNATURE

DATE