



GRAYSON - JOCKEY CLUB RESEARCH FOUNDATION, INC.

821 CORPORATE DRIVE • LEXINGTON, KY 40503

859-224-2850
FAX (859) 224-2853

October 16, 2007

TO: All race track, show grounds & other horse center managers

FR: Ed Bowen
President
Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation

In light of the disease outbreaks, including herpesvirus-1, which have plagued various horse sports and activity centers in recent years, the board of directors of Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation requests that you make the attached list of recommendations available to your colleagues and members. We intend this as a service to the industry and invite you to make whatever publication and/or distribution you wish.

Thanks in advance.

Infectious Disease and Stewardship of the Horse

Infectious disease can, and does, occur in horses that are well managed and receiving proper care. The development of infectious disease in a horse may be unforeseen and not directly attributed to the actions of its caretakers.

However, the development, scope, and outcome of an infectious disease outbreak in a population of horses may be highly dependent upon the actions of horsemen.

The responsibilities of horsemen and horsewomen include the following:

Employ infection-control practices on a routine, on-going basis and in the absence of disease.

- Maintain horses up-to-date on vaccinations

- Record temperatures once, and preferably twice, daily

- Label horse-specific equipment (water buckets, feed tubs, halters, etc) and avoid switching or shared use between horses

- Clean and disinfect between each use all shared equipment that comes in contact with the mouth, nose, eyes, or any regions of the head (Bits, lead shanks, dose syringes, etc.)

- Handlers (grooms, hot walkers, exercise riders, etc.) should wash their hands or use hand sanitizer between horse contacts.

- Avoid using communal water sources and do not submerge the hose while filling buckets.

Monitor horses and identify clinical signs associated with contagious infectious disease:

- Multiple horses having a temperature of 102° F or higher (+/- cough/nasal discharge/hives/filled legs)

- One or more horses having enlarged lymph nodes under or behind the jaw (+/- fever/nasal discharge)

- One or more horses with rapid onset of neurologic signs (weakness/uncoordination/alterd gait/tail paralysis/urine dribbling)

- Diarrhea (+ fever/ depression/loss of appetite/laminitis/or having developed after surgery or another illness)

- Multiple horses having similar signs (in the absence of preliminary or confirmed diagnosis)

Note: These signs may also be associated with non-contagious disease and their presence does not necessarily mandate immediate quarantine. However, further inquiry and investigation is warranted including assessment of:

- Recent horse movement into or out of the barn

- Possible exposure to known, existing infectious disease

- Other potential diagnoses

- Ongoing management practices and likelihood of further exposure within the barn

Disclose information to appropriate authorities:

In population-dense management situations, it is critical that potential cases of contagious infectious disease be promptly reported to the regulatory veterinarian on-site and/or facility management. Contagious disease must not be viewed as 'one person's problem' either by the individual having sick horses or individuals whose horses remain clinically normal.

One horse sick with contagious disease is a concern for the entire population and the collective efforts of all present are required to protect the health of the population. Cooperation between all parties—horsemen, veterinarians, facility management and all stakeholders—is the most efficient way to rapid resolution of an infectious disease outbreak.

Continued disclosure is critical as changes in an ongoing outbreak may require changes in the disease management plan.

Comply with protocols implemented to manage an outbreak:

In the event contagious disease is diagnosed, a plan—specific to the disease, and unique to the facility and affected population—may be implemented by state authorities . Failure to comply or attempts to avoid compliance will only serve to prolong the outbreak and thus the duration of restrictions and testing—and their associated significant costs.

Prepared by Dr. Mary Scollay on behalf of



Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation
821 Corporate Drive
Lexington KY 40503
PH: 859-224-2850
Fax: 859-224-2853

Ed Bowen, ebowen@jockeyclub.com