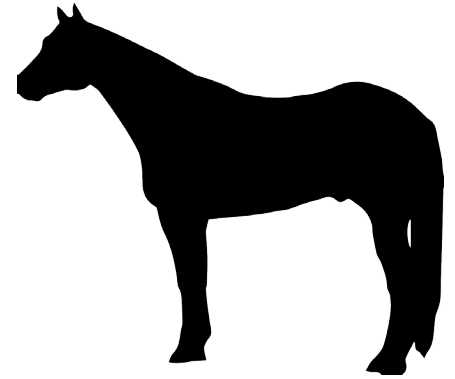


## Keeping your horses healthy

**Biosecurity** is another way of saying “infectious disease control.” Biosecurity is a combination of management practices designed to prevent the introduction and transmission of diseases into and throughout a herd. Infectious diseases can be transmitted by animals, people, equipment, and vehicles. Equine exhibitions are events where animals have an increased risk of getting infectious diseases due to the commingling of animals from different sources. Taking some simple precautions can help reduce that risk and keep your animals healthy. Below are some biosecurity recommendations for ensuring the health of your exhibition horses.



### Before the Show

- Read all guidelines for each show to be sure your animals meet all entry and exhibition requirements.
- Work with your veterinarian to ensure your horses are up to date on vaccinations.
- Evaluate your horse's health prior to going to the show. Never take an unhealthy animal to a show. Signs of illness can include decreased appetite, fever, diarrhea, nasal discharge, enlarged lymph nodes, depressed attitude, incoordination, inability to walk or other neurologic signs. If you see any of these signs, please contact your veterinarian.
- Take only clean and disinfected equipment to the show to prevent any potential disease transfer from your horse to others.

### During the Show

- Monitor your horse daily for signs of illness. If you suspect your animal is sick, notify a show official right away.
- Avoid personal contact with animals other than your own.
- Do not share feed, feed/water tubs, grooming supplies, tack or other equipment with other exhibitors at the show.
- Keep your area and equipment clean of manure contamination.
- Wash your hands frequently with warm soapy water after contact with animals or equipment.

### After the Show

- Isolate the horses you took to the show from the rest of your herd when you return home.
- The exhibition horses should be as far from other animals as possible, but they need to be at least far enough away to prevent nose-to-nose contact. Your veterinarian can help you establish a good location.
- Modify your chore routine to care for the exhibition horses last each day. Do not share equipment between these horses and other animals at home.
- Monitor the exhibition horses daily for signs of illness, including those signs listed in the “Before the Show” section. Contact your veterinarian if any animal shows signs of illness.
- Clean and disinfect all equipment, shoes, vehicles, and trailers you took to the show. Allow them to dry completely.
- Talk to your veterinarian to determine the best biosecurity practices for your horses.