

AN APPROACH TO NEW ARRIVALS

A practical guide to introducing a new horse to your herd

Getting a new horse is an exciting time, and there's often lots to think about. We've created a practical guide on how you can introduce a new horse whilst being conscious of infectious disease and protecting your resident herd.

A horse can look completely healthy and still carry infectious disease. New arrivals, particularly those coming from unfamiliar groups or where recent mixing has occurred, pose a greater risk of introducing infection to resident horses.

This guide applies to new arrivals from any source, including private homes, yards, sales, rescues and moorland drifts.

PLAN

BEFORE ARRIVAL

Plan before the new arrival reaches your premises. Arrange a suitable quarantine area in advance and discuss vaccination and appropriate screening with your vet.



Keep every **new arrival separate** from resident horses for 21 days where possible, and for no less than 14 days



Use **clean transport** and, where possible, **avoid contact with other horses** during the journey



Ask the seller about **vaccination history**, **previous illness** and any **known contact** with sick horses



Check that **resident horses are up to date with equine influenza vaccination**. Talk to your vet about including strangles in your vaccination plan



New arrivals should also have an **appropriate vaccination plan**, discussed with your vet in advance of their arrival



Where **vaccinations** or boosters are needed, give them **sufficiently in advance** to allow an immune response to develop

Vaccination reduces disease risk but does not replace quarantine, monitoring or appropriate screening



DISEASE RISK & SCREENING

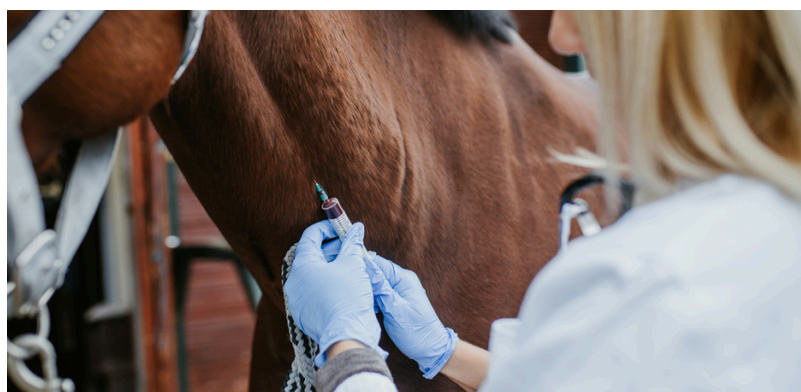


Screening is an important part of reducing disease risk, but it does not replace quarantine

The tests required for pre/post movement screening will depend on the horse's history, previous movements and disease risks.

For horses arriving from outside the UK, your vet can advise whether additional testing or monitoring is appropriate and whether any statutory import requirements, movement restrictions or post import checks apply.

Strangles screening should also be considered. Some horses recover from strangles but continue to carry *Streptococcus equi* in their guttural pouches. These horses can appear completely healthy while remaining a source of infection to others. Discuss options with your vet.





WHAT IS QUARANTINE?

Quarantine can be described as period of isolation designed to prevent the spread of infectious diseases between different equine populations, often implemented when moving a horse to a new premises. It acts as a biosecurity barrier, ensuring that a horse is healthy and free of disease before it is introduced and housed with other horses.

Quarantine does not have to mean complete social isolation. The new arrival can usually see and hear other horses provided direct contact, shared water and shared equipment are prevented.

If a horse becomes distressed when kept alone, discuss practical alternatives with your vet. These may include a neighbouring paddock with adequate separation or a suitable companion that remains within the quarantine group throughout.



We've made a comprehensive guide on how to set up a quarantine area for your new arrival. Scan the QR code to begin getting set up.

PLAN

DURING QUARANTINE



Keep every new arrival separate from resident horses for 21 days where possible, and for no less than 14 days



Record the rectal temperature twice daily where this can be done safely. A rise in temperature can be an early sign of infectious disease before other signs develop



Agree a parasite control plan with your vet which may include testing, treatment and efficacy checks before turnout onto shared grazing

CLINICAL SIGNS CHECKLIST

Check the horse at least twice daily for:

- Reduced appetite
- Lethargy
- Fever of 38.5°C or above
- Nasal discharge
- Coughing
- Swelling under the jaw or around the head and neck
- Diarrhoea
- Unusual behaviour

If any of the signs above develop, contact your vet promptly.

Keep the affected horse and any contacts separate and avoid further movement or mixing until veterinary advice has been obtained



PROTECT YOUR HERD

Protect your herd's health by following our 'VITALS' biosecurity framework whenever introducing new horses to your property

V

Vet involved early, if you notice any signs of infectious disease developing during quarantine



I

Initiate quarantine for 21 days where possible, and for no less than 14 days



T

Test for infectious disease risks where appropriate



A

Apply appropriate vaccination and an agreed parasite control plan



L

Look closely for signs of illness and record temperature twice daily where safe



S

Stop movement and mixing if illness develops, and contact your vet promptly

