

HOW TO MAKE A QUARANTINE AREA

A practical guide to introducing a new horse



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. Below is our recommendations on how to set up your area.

We've also made a comprehensive guide on how to prepare for your new horse and safely introduce them to your herd. Scan the QR code to help you get ready.



FEATURE	PRACTICAL REQUIREMENT
LOCATION	Position the quarantine area away from communal walkways and at least 50m from other horses . Where this is not possible, aim for at least 10m separation. Use separate airspace (e.g. avoid American barns).
STABLE OR Paddock	Where possible, use a separate building with solid, washable walls. A separate paddock can also be suitable if it prevents direct contact and has its own water supply . Double fencing can help prevent nose to nose contact , but a narrow gap between fences should not be relied upon as the sole means of separation.
ACCESS AND PEOPLE	Clearly identify the quarantine area and restrict access to people who understand the protocol. Ideally, use separate carers or staff. If this is not possible, attend to resident horses first and quarantined horses last. Before returning to resident horses, wash hands and change clothing and footwear . If you have had contact with a horse with suspected or confirmed infectious disease, follow veterinary advice regarding additional precautions.
HYGIENE	Provide soap and water and use dedicated clothing, overalls, gloves and waterproof footwear. Remove visible dirt from boots before disinfection. If footbaths are used, prepare and maintain them correctly . Hand sanitiser can be useful as an additional measure but does not replace washing hands.
EQUIPMENT AND WATER	Use clearly labelled buckets, headcollars, grooming equipment and mucking out equipment for horses in quarantine. Keep feed and bedding supplies separate . Do not share troughs, buckets or hoses , and prevent drainage or contaminated runoff from reaching areas used by resident horses.
MANURE AND CLEANING	Keep manure and used bedding separate , in an area away from resident horses and communal walkways. If any horses are confirmed with an infection, after use of quarantine, remove organic material before disinfecting suitable surfaces and equipment. Use an appropriate Defra approved disinfectant and follow the manufacturer's instructions for dilution and contact time.