

Respectfully, all owners/ exhibitors are requested to comply with the following "housekeeping" measures:

**On entering show grounds:**

- Please mist your horse(s) stall(s) with a sanitizer spray prior to unloading from your trailer

- Please consider installing cleanable divider/separators on the open sides of your horse's stall to avoid muzzle contact with horses next to yours.

- Please ensure you post your emergency contact information on each horse's stall, especially 24/7 phone numbers, for the duration of the show, and indicate if stalled horse is a STALLION.

**For the duration of the show:**

- If you groom your horse in the aisle, tie only to your own horse or tack stall.

- Don't store feed in the alleyways - every horse who passes will have their nose in it.

- Don't share feed or water buckets among horses, use communal water troughs, or immerse a communal hose when filling water buckets.

- Don't leave manure exposed in wheelbarrows where other horses may come in contact with it, remove manure to designated locations.

- Don't leave manure in communal aiseways or wash racks.

- Don't store bedding or pails in alleyways.

- Don't share grooming equipment or tack.

# CANADIAN QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION

## Recommended Bio-Security & Emergency Measures Horse Show Guidelines

**For more information, see the link to the New Biosecurity Standard for the Equine Sector on our website at:**

**<http://cqha.ca/about/forms>**

**or**

**<http://cqha.ca/about/news-releases/health-alerts>**

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## Horse Show Emergency Measures

### 1. Animal in trouble?

Is the animal still in its stall? Assess the situation. Is the horse trapped, fighting with neighbouring horse, loose or at large, or sick?

Contact your AQHA Show Manager to advise what you are observing.

Contact the owner (*this is why it is necessary to leave 24/7 contact info on stall doors*) to advise them of the situation.

If horse is trapped (cast against stall walls or a limb is caught) **DO NOT ENTER STALL** without someone else present. You risk being injured and alone. Contact your AQHA Show Management; who may have the tools to help the horse.

**ON-SITE EMERGENCY TOOLS:** Your Show Management should be able to provide the following:

- a) Pocket Knife to cut lead shank/ halter
- b) Hacksaw with extra, good blade
- c) Jack to spread stall bars or lift jammed stall doors
- d) Pliers, such as fencing pliers, to cut wire and/or Bolt Cutters
- e) Tarpaulin to cover a downed animal or enclose a stall
- f) a "Drag" to remove heavy objects
- g) 2 lengths of 10 foot soft heavy duty rope.

**Access to on-site Emergency Tools:** tools may not necessarily be stored in a public place. Tools should be stored by a person, known to your AQHA Show Manager, who has the knowledge to take charge and is familiar with their use.

In a "last resort" case of a horse caught up and there is no time to use conventional methods to free the horse, dial 911 and ask for the **JAWS OF LIFE** to be brought to free the animal.

**Does animal appear to be unhealthy?** For bio-security reasons, **DO NOT GO NEAR OR HANDLE THE ANIMAL** especially if you have animals at the same show. Again, contact your AQHA Show Manager.

**Does animal appear to be colicking or need services of a veterinarian?** Contact your AQHA Show Manager and/or the owner, advise the situation and ask if they want the "on call" veterinarian summoned?

**Is an animal loose or at large, still inside the building?** **DO NOT CHASE**—guide loose livestock into any empty stall(s) away from other livestock and inform owner (if known) where to find it/them.

**Have animals escaped the building?** Assess the situation and contact your AQHA Show Manager. **DO NOT CHASE.** Proceed to any open gates leading to streets and/or other public areas, Direct others to block all gates and attempt to contain livestock on show grounds until help arrives. *Contact Local Police at 911 for traffic control assistance, if needed.*

# The ABCD's of Bio-Security for the Travelling Show Horse — by Bonnie S Barr, VMD, Dipl. ACVIM



Horse shows and events are prime places for a horse to catch an infectious disease. In recent years there have been reports of disease outbreaks at horse shows, thus simple measures to protect your horse could mean the difference between coming home with a red ribbon or a sick horse.

Contagious diseases significantly endanger the well-being of horses in addition to having potentially devastating financial and emotional effects. Horses that travel are exposed to conditions outside the normal including enclosed spaces, poor ventilation, fluctuations in ambient temperatures and comingling of a large number of horses from different areas, provinces, or countries. In addition to abnormal conditions, horses that travel are stressed resulting in a decrease in immunity making them likely to develop clinical disease when exposed to common pathogens (germs).

**The ABCD's of bio-security for the traveling show horse** will help to assure the health of your horse is not compromised. These steps involve proper health care, disinfection and awareness of day-to-day hygiene.

**"A" stands for appropriate health care, which starts at home.** This refers to establishing the best practices to maintain the general health of your horse and includes

appropriate vaccinations, proper deworming, a suitable diet and proper exercise. The goal is to keep the immune system healthy. An appropriate vaccination schedule can be discussed with your veterinarian who will know of the possible contagious diseases in your area and the area you are traveling to.

**"B" refers to the best form of transportation for the horse.** The ideal means to transport your horse is in a properly cleaned and disinfected trailer, preferably your own. Good ventilation when shipping is important, as is tying the horse loosely in the trailer. Research has shown that tying a horse's head up makes it more prone to respiratory disease because it is harder for the horse to clear the airways of debris and mucus.

**"C" refers to cleanliness especially of the show grounds.** Stalls should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected between uses either by the event coordinator or by the participants. Prior to putting your horse into the stall, note if the stall has been cleaned. If there is old bedding or feed material in the stall, you know it has not been properly cleaned. There are times when it is nearly impossible to appropriately clean and disinfect a stall because the material the stall is made out of is porous (i.e. wood) and the floor is dirt.

In a perfect world, the best cleaning method is to remove all bedding, scrub the walls and floor with a detergent, rinse, allow walls to dry, and then spray with a disinfectant. The literature has shown that physically scrubbing surfaces with soap and water followed by rinsing removes about 90-95% of bacteria and viruses.

Unfortunately this is not practical, thus a modification is to remove all of the old bedding and feed material and spray the surfaces with a disinfectant. If there is a large amount of organic

material (dirt, fecal matter) on the walls, removal with soap and water is recommended prior to applying the disinfectant.

An inexpensive garden pump sprayer makes a good way to carry and apply disinfectants. In this scenario an appropriate disinfectant is one that is



effective even in the presence of organic material such as a "phenol" compound. These disinfectants can be recognized by "-phenol" or "-phenate" at the end of the chemical name on the label (examples include One-Stroke Environ® or Tek-trol®). Diluted bleach (8 ounces bleach to 1 gallon of water) is an inexpensive disinfectant, but it works best on a surface that has been thoroughly cleaned.

**"D" refers to day-to-day hygiene.** This refers to many day-to-day activities at a show that put your horse at risk for exposure to germs. Closed or heated show grounds may be comfortable for you, but usually result in poor ventilation and exposure of your horse to temperature fluctuations.

Bio-security does not stop once you leave the show grounds. Before leaving, clean and disinfect tack, boots, equipment and grooming supplies. Once at home, best practices are to change your clothes and boots prior to handling resident horses. Isolate the returning horse(s) from your resident horses for 14 days and monitor for clinical signs of an infectious disease.

Appropriate bio-security is important for the travelling show horse. As the saying goes, ***an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.***

## Shared Responsibility for Bio-Security

In today's changing show world, exhibitors and owners must be even more diligent with their "housekeeping" responsibilities and be on guard to protect their horses from the danger of communicable diseases. It's a good idea to take your horse's temperature daily, as an early indication of a problem.

## CQHA Comments:

This brochure has been designed to help you, as exhibitors and owners, to be aware there is always an element of risk to having livestock move about our country. AQHA Show Management sets up these guidelines for horse owners/exhibitors to adhere to, for the benefit of all involved.

Should a contagious issue/event arise prior to the start of an AQHA sponsored show, **health alert notification** may be circulated via your local AQHA Affiliate's website, FaceBook pages, and/or E-Newsletter.

Please note, during a show, it is the responsibility of owners/exhibitors to report all accidents, incidents, or illness in the barns, warm up pen, or show arena, directly to your AQHA Show Manager.

Should your horse(s) show signs of contagious illness following any event, please contact the AQHA Show Manager. That way appropriate follow-up information can be provided to the owners/exhibitors of the other horses who were at that facility at that same time.

Finally, we ask that exhibitors/owners keep in mind that an AQHA Show Secretary's primary role is to organize classes, input exhibitor entries, and record judges' results. A Show Manager is responsible for overseeing the facilities, the day-to-day schedule and for the welfare of the horses being shown, in accordance with AQHA Rules & Regulations.