



Basic Horse Biosecurity—Bringing Home New Additions



Adding a new horse to the farm or facility can be an exciting and stress free experience if a few biosecurity steps are taken. “Biosecurity” means doing all that you can do to prevent the spread of harmful or deadly organisms on your farm. Regardless of the type or size of the facility, number of other horses at the facility, purpose of the new horse, or where you obtained the horse, these basic principles should be followed.

Owners, employers, visitors—

- ✓ **Do your homework first.** If possible, obtain records of the new addition from previous owner. Determine its whereabouts during the last 30 days and its current medical status.
- ✓ Be sure to have your veterinarian check your horse upon arrival at the farm, especially if illness or injury is noted.
- ✓ Watch for signs of illness in resident animals after new animal arrives.
- ✓ Minimize the stress of travel and new environment by providing adequate shelter, food and water.
- ✓ Ideally, designate one person to work with new animal. If this is not possible, work with the new animal last.
- ✓ All people working and visiting the farm/facility need to adhere to basic biosecurity practices (clean footwear and clothing, washing hands).

Horses—

- ✓ Ensure that resident horses are well vaccinated prior to bringing any new additions back home.
- ✓ Ideally, keep new additions in an isolated, separate facility (barn) for 3-4 weeks upon arrival. If this is not possible, keep at least one empty stall in between new horse and resident horses.
- ✓ Do not allow nose to nose contact with other horses during the first 3-4 weeks.

Environment/Facility/Equipment—

- ✓ When trailering animals home, unload animals directly to their isolation area.
 - ✓ Clean and disinfect trailers after transporting all animals.
 - ✓ Use separate halters, leads, grooming equipment, tack and feed buckets for each horse.
 - ✓ Keep wheelbarrow tires, pitch forks and feeding equipment clean and free of manure.
-