

AAEP Healthy Horse Protocol: Biosecurity Guidelines for Racetrack Entry and Stabling (2020)

The following guidelines were developed by the AAEP Infectious Disease Committee in order to establish uniform health protocols regarding the entrance of horses to a racing venue as well as the ongoing monitoring of health status while at the facility.

Prior to Departure to Racing Venue:

- Temperatures should be taken and recorded twice daily at least three days prior to movement to the racing venue.
- Horses should be observed by a licensed veterinarian in consultation with the horse's caretaker for clinical signs including, but not limited to, discharge from the eyes or nose; cough; diarrhea or abnormal manure; erratic or unusual behavior; abnormal stance; abnormal movement such as wobbly gait or incoordination; inability to move the tail; or straining to urinate.
- Any horse with a temperature over 101.5°F or any signs of illness must not be shipped to a racetrack or training center. A veterinarian should examine the horse and then implement the appropriate biosecurity measures in accordance with AAEP biosecurity guidelines.
- Horses stabled where there are sick horses—cases of infectious, contagious or communicable disease such as described above in bullet 2—should not be moved unless veterinary examination and clinical history determine that it is safe to do so.
- Horses moving interstate must meet the entry requirements of the destination state, racing commission, and individual racetrack or training center. Requirements for interstate movement can be found by contacting the office of the state veterinarian in the state of destination or by visiting <https://www.interstatelivestock.com>. Entry requirements can change and should be checked prior to scheduling shipment to another state.
- Horses should be observed for any signs of disease prior to loading on the trailer. Only healthy horses shall be loaded onto the trailer.
- Racetrack operators and veterinarians should routinely consult the Equine Disease Communication Center (EDCC) website or EDCC app to see the current status and location of disease outbreaks. This tool assists with making informed decisions on whether to ship, accept or exclude horses from other locations.

Entry to Racing Venue: Recommended Facility Requirements:

- Only horses deemed to be healthy will be permitted to enter a racing venue. At the time of offloading, a designated individual shall inspect the animal. Animals that can't be inspected at the time of arrival and offloading should be placed in isolation stabling until such inspection can be performed.



- Any horse displaying an obvious sign of illness, including but not limited to, discharge from the eyes or nose; cough; diarrhea or abnormal manure; change in behavior; abnormal stance; abnormal movement such as wobbly gait or incoordination; loss of tail tone; or straining to urinate should not enter the general stabling area until examined by a veterinarian. A clinically abnormal horse should be diverted to a veterinary hospital, approved isolation facility or back to its origin, depending on the circumstances and severity of signs.
- Following arrival at a racetrack or training center, horses should be promptly examined by an attending veterinarian for signs of illness. Horses with a temperature over 101.5°F must be reported immediately to the official veterinarian.
- In the event that ambient temperature or stress of transport may have contributed to an elevated temperature, the attending veterinarian should request re-evaluation of any horse with a temperature over 101.5F (e.g. retaking the horse's temperature) within two hours of arrival.
- Within 24 hours of entry at a racing or training facility, the attending veterinarian is responsible for observing the horse for clinical signs of disease and reviewing temperature recordings.
- Horses must show proof of vaccination by a licensed veterinarian within the prior 12 months for EEE/WEE/WNV and tetanus. In addition, Rabies vaccination is strongly recommended pursuant to the AAEP's vaccination guidelines.
- Horses must show proof of vaccination by a licensed veterinarian within the prior 6 months for equine influenza and equine herpesvirus (EHV1 and EHV4).
- All horses entering must present a valid negative Equine Infectious Anemia Test (AKA Coggins test) dated within the last 12 months unless otherwise mandated by the local racing jurisdiction or state laws. A more recent Equine Infectious Anemia test (AKA Coggins test) may be required if the horse originates from an area of high risk.
- All horses must present, at arrival, a valid Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (health certificate) issued by a licensed accredited veterinarian within 14 days of arrival. (When necessary due to health risk concerns, the time frame for issuance may be shortened to require an examination within 72 hours of shipment).
 - Racetrack management should issue notifications when arrival health requirements are changed.
 - Equine Infectious Anemia test (AKA Coggins test) should be available to state animal health officials upon request.
- A horse failing to meet entry health requirements or not accompanied by the necessary documents as outlined above will be refused entry to the racing venue.



While Stabled at the Racing Venue:

- All horses should be observed daily, and temperatures taken and recorded twice daily by the trainer or a member of the trainer's staff.
- Temperatures shall be taken prior to any medications or exercise in the morning and in the afternoon.
- Any temperature above 101.5°F will be reported immediately to the attending veterinarian who should perform an appropriate exam.
- Horses displaying clinical signs should be evaluated by a veterinarian. Any horse deemed to pose an infectious disease risk as determined by veterinary examination shall be moved to isolation stabling.
- Horses potentially exposed to a horse that has signs of infectious disease should have increased monitoring for possible infection and their movement limited if applicable.
- Owner/trainers shall maintain proper vaccine protocol in horses residing on the racing venue. Vaccination protocols may vary based on geographic area. At a minimum, horses shall be vaccinated annually for EEE/WEE/WNV, rabies and tetanus and every six months for influenza and equine herpesvirus (EHV1 and EHV4) (equine rhinopneumonitis).
- Be aware that humans and objects can transmit infectious diseases, therefore care should be taken to minimize horse-to-horse contact, horse-to-human-to-horse contacts, and sharing of equipment. Any shared equipment should be cleaned and disinfected between use on different horses.
- During an infectious disease outbreak, all responsible parties will adhere to disease control measures implemented by racing jurisdiction and/or state veterinarian authority.
- When an infectious disease is suspected or diagnosed, owners, trainers and veterinarians should consult the Equine Disease Communication Center website or the EDCC app to be aware of current outbreaks and to utilize EDCC fact sheets and biosecurity recommendations.

Approved by AAEP board of directors in 2020.

