

Weekly Education Topic

Veterinary - Quarantine Procedures

As always with our Herd Health related topics, it is best to consult a licensed veterinarian with any horse-specific questions. In this segment, we are sharing what SAFE does for our own horses, and every horse is different.



Quarantine basics

- Keep quarantined horses away from other horses (no shared fences, stalls far away from others).
- Disinfect everything that the quarantined horse comes in contact with (stall, water buckets, cleaning supplies, etc.).
- Before and/or after interacting with the quarantined horse, spray boots and clothes with Rescue solution, and wash hands.
 - Rescue is a veterinary grade disinfectant. It is an accelerated hydrogen peroxide (AHP) product and should only be used when diluted with water. Ask your barn staff if more is needed.
- A quarantine jacket may be worn in cases of severe infectious illness or unknown severe illness.
- Designated tools will be stationed at quarantined paddocks.

Quarantine procedures are situational

New Horse Quarantine

- If the horse is a new intake and is unknown to us, we will quarantine for 21 days.
 - We do this to protect our herd from potential unknown diseases, so these paddocks/stalls must be cleaned last, so as not to spread anything from this horse to our herd.
- In a perfect world the "new" to us horses would allow us to take vitals and temp 2x a day to make sure no fever is present. Generally, the horses coming in won't allow this, so we conduct careful visual observation daily to see if they become sick.

Clean First / Unvaccinated Quarantine

- If a horse is unvaccinated, we need to quarantine until they are fully inoculated (vaccine and booster if necessary) then we wait 10 more days until we can lift the quarantine.
- This form of quarantine is to protect the unvaccinated horse from our herd, so we clean these areas first.
- This often works in combination with the new intake quarantine.
 - Ex: the new horse will be on the 21-day quarantine but at the same time (in most cases) be getting vaccinated and boosted. In this case, we will clean last for the first 21 days and then clean first until the vaccinations are effective.

Sick Horse Quarantine

- For horses who are actively symptomatic, we will quarantine for as long as symptoms are present.
 - In cases of illness, we are in close communication with our vets as to when it is safe for horses to be removed from quarantine
- In the case of an unexpected illness (ex. Not a new horse quarantine) we will place any surrounding horses living in paddocks with shared fence lines on precautionary clean last quarantine, and watch them closely for development of symptoms.

Return from Training / Offsite Quarantine

- If the horse is coming back from training or from a known barn, we quarantine for 14 days.
 - This is also to protect our herd, we treat just like new intake.

Summary of quarantine procedures

Clean Last

- Use designated tools.
- Spray boots and clothes when exiting quarantine paddock.
- If necessary to take quarantine muck cart across the property, spray wheels prior to leaving immediate area around quarantine paddock. Keeping the muck cart outside the paddock eliminates the need to spray the wheels.
- Wash hands.
- Do not enter any other paddocks.

Clean Last and Leave

- Same procedure as 'clean last' for cleaning the quarantine paddock, with the addition of then leaving the property with minimal exposure to other areas such as the barn, arenas, and hay storage areas.

Clean First

- Ideally, someone who has not already entered any paddocks should be assigned a clean first quarantine.
- Wash Hands.
- Use designated tools.
- Spray boots and clothes before entering quarantine paddock.
- Spray muck cart wheels before taking it into quarantine paddock or leave it outside the paddock.