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General Equine Herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1) Biosecurity Measures

Anytime horses are congregated at equine events, horse owners increase the chance that their horses may be exposed to an infectious disease agent. By following these simple guidelines you can help minimize that risk.

- Consult your veterinarian to establish an appropriate vaccination program for your horse(s)
- Tie your horse(s) to your trailer. If using a stall, clean and disinfect it, if possible, before stalling your horse. Always use clean, fresh bedding.
- Minimize your horse(s) having direct contact with unknown horses, especially nose to nose contact.
- Use your own water and feed buckets. Avoid letting your horse(s) drink from a communal water trough. Fill water buckets from a faucet.
- Do not share grooming equipment or tack. If you must, then wash and disinfect it before returning to your own horse(s).
- Avoid petting and touching other horses in order to minimize the risk of transferring a disease back to your horse. If you must handle other horses then wash your hands or use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid letting strangers pet your horse especially if they have horses of their own.
- Before returning home from an event clean up your equipment (boots, tack, grooming supplies, buckets, etc.) to help reduce the risk of transporting an infectious agent back home. Consider washing and disinfecting your trailer when you return home.
- If possible, isolate your returning horses for 2 weeks or at least prevent nose to nose contact with your other horses.

Don't forget to consult your veterinarian concerning these and other steps you can follow which may reduce the risk of your horse acquiring an infectious disease while traveling.

Biosecurity suggestions for event organizers:

- Minimize nose-to-nose contact between horses where possible.
- Minimize spread by human hands (limit public access, provide hand sanitizer, establish restricted areas in front of stalls and trailers, post hand-washing signs).
- Minimize spread by shared tack (post signs advising participants not to share equipment).
- Solid, high-walled stalls are ideal to minimize spread of infectious nasal droplets.
- For multi-day events, consider implementation of a "No Fever" Policy. For more details see the following references:

http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/AHID/equine_herpes_virus.shtml

http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/ahfss/animal_health/equine_herpes_virus.html

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