

Please review the Bio-Security measures for all BCQHA Approved Events:

Go to WWW.BCQHA.COM for a listing of event dates and contact information.

Specifically we recommend all owners/ exhibitors to consider the following “housekeeping” measures:

- * **Post your emergency contact information on each horse’s stall, especially 24/7 phone numbers, throughout the show.**
- * **Don’t bring your horse to the show if it is showing signs of a contagious illness or disease.**
- * **Don’t store feed in the alleyways - every horse that passes will have their nose in it.**
- * **Don’t leave manure around in wheelbarrows where other horses may come in contact with it; remove manure to designated locations.**
- * **Do not store bedding in alleyways.**
- * **Do not leave pails in alleyways.**
- * **Do not share grooming equipment or tack.**
- * **Do consider installing cleanable divider/ separators on the open sides of your horse’s stall to avoid muzzle contact with the horse next to you**
- * **If you groom your horse in the aisle, tie only to your own horse or tack stall**

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 co-mingling of a large number of horses from different areas, states 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 ABCDs 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 safely 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 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 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 safe detergent, rinse and allow walls to dry.

The literature has shown that physically scrubbing surfaces with soap and water followed by rinsing removes about 90-95% of bacteria and viruses.

“D” refers to day-to-day hygiene. This refers to many day-to-day activities at the 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. Good ventilation and temperature control can help to reduce stress on the respiratory tract and circulation of germs/pathogens.

Although it is impossible to restrict traffic around your horse, it is possible to limit direct contact to only essential people. Don’t let unfamiliar people pet or handle your horse because they may have just been

touching another horse that was sick. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers or disinfectant wipes are an effective means to reduce the amount of germs on your hands.

Do not loan or borrow equipment including buckets, towels, brushes and mucking equipment. If you need to borrow equipment appropriately disinfect it prior to using it on your horse and on return.

Avoid taking your horse to community water or grazing areas. Communal water hoses can be a source of contamination, thus bring your own hose. In general, do not submerge the end of the hose into the bucket because the end could be a potential way to transmit germs from bucket to bucket. Monitor your horse's temperature several times a day.

Be aware of other horses stalled near your horse. Listen for coughing and observe for nasal discharge because this may be a sign of an infectious disease. Don't let your horse touch other horses, especially nose to nose, because this is a common way to spread contagious organisms.

Wearing rubber-soled shoes allows for proper disinfection of your footwear. Consider keeping rubber slip-ons to wear only when around your horse thus preventing tracking of germs from the show grounds to your horse.

Bio-Security does not stop once you leave the show grounds. Before leaving the show grounds, clean and disinfect tack, boots, equipment and grooming supplies. Once at home, change your clothes and boots prior to handling resident horses. Isolate the returning horse from your resident horses for 14 days and monitor for clinical signs of an infectious disease. Appropriate bio-security is important for the traveling show horse. As the saying goes, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

In today's changing show world, competitors have to be more diligent in the "housekeeping" and care of their equine partners in showing (i.e. the BCQHA). Competitors and owners must be on guard to protect their horse(s) from the elements around them that may present a danger of communicable diseases.

We ask that competitors and owners keep in mind that our Show Secretary has a primary role in organizing the classes, entries, and recording the day-to-day activities for both BCQHA and AQHA. The Show Manager is responsible for over-seeing the day-to-day events of the show and for animal welfare.

This brochure has been designed to help you, as competitors and owners, to be aware there is always a certain element of risk to having livestock move about our country. We, as Show Management, have set up these guidelines for horse owners and competitors to adhere to and follow for the benefit of all involved.

We ask that should your horse(s) show signs of contagious illness following any of our shows, you immediately contact the Show Manager to initiate the appropriate action of informing the owners/exhibitors, in order to protect the other horses that were at the show facility.

It is your responsibility as an owner or exhibitor to report any and all accidents, incidents, or illness in the barns, warm-up pen, or arena, directly to the Show Manager.

Go to WWW.BCQHA.COM for a complete listing of contact information.

Your Show Manger can bee reached at

PH. # _____

It is important for everyone to be good guardians of all our equine partners!

Should a contagious issue/event arise prior to a BCQHA sponsored show, health alert information will be circulated via our BCQHA website, Facebook pages, and E-Newsletter.

BCQHA
BRITISH COLUMBIA QUARTER
HORSE ASSOCIATION

THE ABCs OF BIO-SECURITY FOR THE TRAVELING SHOW HORSE.



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