



Woodside & Woodside North Equine Clinic Update



**Call your
veterinarian if you
notice any of these
signs:**

- 1. Thick nasal discharge**
- 2. Fever >101.5**
- 3. Cough**
- 4. Diarrhea**

How to make a foot bath:

1. Plastic pan or bin wide enough to fit an adult's foot and shallow enough to step into easily
2. A plastic doormat
3. Disinfectant- Bleach (3/4 cup)
4. Water (1 gallon)

Biosecurity– Keeping your horse safe

By: Dr. Jane Snead and Dr. Rachelle Ludwick

Following good biosecurity practices is one of the most important things you can do to prevent your horse from catching contagious diseases. The primary goal with biosecurity is to reduce the chance that bacteria, viruses, or other germs will be carried to or from your horse or property. Here are a few simple steps you can take to protect them.

1. **Vaccination and General Health:** Vaccines can be a crucial aspect in controlling infectious diseases. Any of our veterinarians would be happy to help you maintain your horses' good health and recommend an appropriate wellness program.

2. **Keeping Yourself Clean:** A horse's caretakers are an important route for transmission of contagious diseases. Handwashing is a highly effective way to prevent disease spread. Wash or disinfect hands with an alcohol-based antiseptic before and after handling your horse. As we continue into cold winter months when warm water may not be readily available, placing hand sanitizer pumps next to your horse's stall works quite well. The tread in your boots is another place infectious agents may hide. Spray or dip your boots in disinfectant before and after entering your horse's stall, and change your boots before and after you leave the barn to reduce spread of contaminants from horse shows or the environment. Bring an extra change of clothes to the barn in case your clothing becomes contaminated with nasal secretions or fecal matter.

3. **Leaving the farm:** Horses that leave the farm to compete, train, breed, or go to the veterinary hospital can be exposed to many different disease agents. It is advisable to not ship your horse with horses from other farms and to use your own trailer if possible. When at your destination, don't let your horse touch noses with other horses. Avoid sharing equipment such as: buckets, brushes, sponges or hoses with horses from other farms. Also never place the end of a shared hose into your horse's water bucket. It is recommended to hold the hose above the bucket in

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order to fill it. Always remember to thoroughly wash your hands after interacting with other horses. Tip: Keep a record of where your horse has traveled.

4. **Returning to the farm:** It is ideal to clean and disinfect tack, boots, equipment, and grooming supplies before returning home. Horse trailers should also be cleaned and disinfected between each use. Protecting the horses that did not travel is important. It is best to keep returning horses separate from other horses for at least two weeks.

5. **New additions to the farm:** Bringing a new horse to the farm is one of the most likely ways for disease to spread. Keeping new horses isolated from others for 30 days is strongly recommended. The horse should be checked daily for any signs of illness, including monitoring the horse's temperature, food and water intake. New horses should have separate pitchforks, grooming tools, and feed and water buckets. Care for a new horse should be provided last each day.

6. **Quarantining a sick horse:** If your horse gets sick, completely separating it from healthy barn mates is essential. It is ideal to place the sick horse in an isolation stall in a separate building. If this is not feasible, isolate the stall as much as possible by removing surrounding horses and placing a foot bath at the entrance/exit of the stall. Sick horses should be handled and treated last and hands should be washed upon leaving the horses stall. Please seek our advice on how long to keep the sick horse isolated.

7. **Stall disinfection:** When cleaning a stall after a sick horse has been in it, it is important to remove and dispose of all organic material in the stall (manure, shavings, hay, buckets, toys). Spray down all surfaces thoroughly with water and generic soap. Scrub down all wall surfaces and remove cobwebs and any other residue material. Then scrub/spray down surfaces with a 1:10 bleach:water solution and allow the solution to dry completely.

8. **Environmental germs:** Insects, birds, and rodents can all spread diseases to horses. There are some examples of effective insect and rodent control methods:

- Keep weeds cut down
- Prevent and remove pools of standing water, including those formed from rain or wash stalls and in unused buckets
- Use fly traps or fly spray
- Store feed in closed, rodent and insect proof bins
- Empty and clean water troughs at least weekly.



Our practice devotes its charitable giving efforts to the AAEP foundation. The foundation is committed to supporting education, research and benevolent efforts for horses and their caretakers. If you'd like more information or to donate to the Foundation you can visit the website at [AAEP Foundation](#).

Sincerely,

Woodside & Woodside North Equine Clinic

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