

BIOSECURITY

INFECTION CONTROL FOR OWNERS



Biosecurity - the procedures or measures put in place to protect humans and animals against infection. Some animal diseases are zoonotic which means they can spread between animals and humans.

It is important to have measures in place to help reduce the risk of introduction and spread of infection and to help keep you, your donkeys and other pets safe.

WAYS INFECTION CAN SPREAD



Physical contact – Direct contact between animals such as when playing, mutual grooming or feeding together.



Aerosols - These are produced when a donkey sneezes or coughs, in a similar way to humans who have a cold or flu. Fine suspended particles can be spread through the air and directly inhaled by others or can be inhaled when coming into contact with infected feed or bedding.



Fomites - Fomites are objects or materials that are contaminated and are likely to carry infection. This could be faeces, mucous, blood and even your clothes and footwear if stroking or cuddling an infected animal. Dirty grooming kits, head collars, buckets and tools can also carry infection.



Vectors - The most common vectors are biting insects. This is a seasonal threat as they die off in the winter but your donkey may well encounter other vectors, such as birds, wildlife, vermin or other visiting mammals.

HOW TO PREVENT INFECTION SPREADING



Always practice good hygiene. Wash hands and ensure outerwear and footwear is clean before moving from one group of animals to another.



Ensure any visitors have clean outer clothing and footwear and check that they haven't been in contact with infected animals.



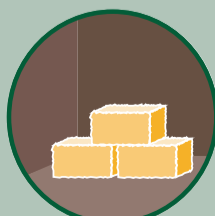
Always wash hands before and after handling any animal or touching objects that have been in contact with animals.



Quarantine new or sick animals with their companion, practice strict biosecurity, use separate tools and equipment for that group. Make sure that any infection they may have cannot spread to any other animals. Ensure all equipment is disinfected after use.



Wash your hands before eating or drinking or if you have been touching objects that have been in contact with animals. Do not eat or drink near them.



Protect food and water where practical, from vermin and other wildlife, as they may spread disease.