



Management of horses returning to the Bailiwick from high risk areas of Europe

With immediate effect, all equidae (horses & ponies) returning to the Bailiwick of Guernsey from, or having travelled through, the countries listed below will be required to comply with post-import isolation conditions. This is due to the current outbreak of Equine Herpes Virus (EHV) in Europe.

France	Spain	Portugal	Belgium	Italy
Austria	Poland	Netherlands	Germany	Slovakia

1. Before importation, the intended 'isolation premises' of imported horses must be approved by the States Veterinary Officers (SVOs). The SVOs may need to visit and inspect the 'isolation premises' before they can provide approval. Horse import permits will not be issued unless the SVO's have approved the 'isolation premises'.
2. Upon arrival in Guernsey, horses must be transported directly to their 'isolation premises'.
3. The returning horse must be isolated from all other equidae. Potential exceptions to this include horses that have travelled in the same vehicle and horses present at the destination under the same ownership. All of these horses; travelling companions or shared ownership, must remain in an 'isolation group'.
4. To be considered isolated, the isolated horses must be kept in buildings that are physically separated from other horse buildings by a public highway or equivalent. These are the 'isolation premises'.
5. Isolated horses must be attended to by separate owners, staff and riders who are not in contact with horses on other (non-isolated) premises.
6. To minimise risk of disease spread within an isolation premises, biosecurity measures on the property must include:
 - a. hand-sanitising facilities, so that staff can clean their hands between handling each individual animal,
 - b. foot dips outside every stable,
 - c. separate coveralls outside each stable that are changed between caring for different horses,
 - d. separate tack, equipment, feed bowls for each horse,



- e. facilities for disinfection of mucking out equipment must be in place.
7. All horses on the isolation premises, including those which have not travelled in Europe recently, must have close clinical monitoring with twice daily temperature recording. Temperature records should be kept and made available for review by the owners' private veterinary practitioners. Horses that have a fever must be examined by a veterinarian as soon as possible.
8. All horses on the isolation premises must remain on the isolation premises for 10 days or more after the arrival of the last horse(s) that have returned from Europe.

These isolation measures will remain in place until the current outbreak of EHV will remain active in Europe. However, post-import isolation of horses is the first principle of basic biosecurity and should routinely be practiced to manage infectious diseases, including 'Strangles'.