Plan and manage hygiene and bio-security when carrying out equine dental procedures



Overview

This standard covers planning and managing hygiene and bio-security when carrying out equine dental procedures. You will take all necessary steps to work at the best standard of appropriate hygiene at all times, taking all practicable steps to avoid cross infection between horses and to humans, and playing your part in the biosecurity of the establishments you visit.

You will need to have prepared protocols for all your practical hygiene procedures for both the premises you visit and your own premises, and for your vehicle, equipment and self. You will be able to assess the risks involved and address them through adapting your working practices and communication with others. You will have knowledge about specific infectious diseases and devise measures to avoid spreading disease and avoid compromising the biosecurity of the different premises you visit.

As someone who works with horses you should be an advocate of good biosecurity practices in the equine sector.

This standard is for those who carry out equine dental procedures. Users of the standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies, and that they work within the limits of their authority, expertise, training, competence and experience.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:	P1	devise a hygiene protocol and carry out a system of hygiene, including disinfection, for:
		P1.1 yourself
		P1.2 your equipment
		P1.3 your vehicle
		P1.4 your base premises
	P2	ensure that the hygiene system is applied:
		P2.1 during a procedure
		P2.2 between horses
		P2.3 between premises
		P2.4 at the end of the working day
	P3	make sure that the hygiene system includes:
		P3.1 hygienic methods of working
		P3.2 cleaning of instruments, clothing, instrument boxes, vehicles and floors
		P3.2 disinfection of all those items
		P3.2 safe disposal of contaminated disposable items
		P3.5 safe storage and handling of contaminated non-disposable items
	P4	select and use appropriate disinfectants and/or sterilisation as part of your hygiene system
	P5	choose, obtain and correctly use personal protective equipment that promotes hygiene and bio-security
	P6	choose and obtain equipment that facilitates cleanliness and hygiene
	P7	take into account features on equipment that may limit cleaning and disinfection
	P8	recognise signs of good health in horses
	P9	recognise signs or symptoms in a horse that suggest that it might have an infectious disease
	P10	adapt your working practices and precautions to deal with particular known or suspected disease risks
	P11	recognise when any signs or symptoms you may have observed in a
		horse should be brought to the attention of a veterinary surgeon
	P12	comply with any statutory requirements for reporting suspicions of notifiable disease
	P13	comply with any statutory requirements for disinfection or for disposal of certain contaminated items
	P14	comply with any statutory requirements for disposal of chemicals
	P15	communicate risks to hygiene and bio-security to others on the premises
	P16	work in accordance with the Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966) and the

limits of your own authority, expertise, training, competence and

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experience

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Knowledge and understanding

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You need to know and understand:	K1	the definitions of sterilisation, disinfection and cleaning, and when they should be used
	K2	the reasons for cleaning and disinfection in your work
	K3	how to devise hygiene protocols for your own work
	K4	the reasons for the importance of cleanliness and of cleansing before disinfection
	K5	types of personal protective equipment that may assist cleanliness and disinfection and how to obtain such equipment
	K6	how to use personal protective equipment correctly, including: K6.1 how to clean it
		K6.2 how to store it safely when contaminated
		K6.3 if disposable, how to dispose of it correctly
	K7	the characteristics which may be necessary for consideration when selecting a disinfectant
	K8	the particular characteristics of appropriate disinfectants, including their:
		K9.1 mode of use
		K9.2 dilution rate
	K9	speeds of action of disinfectant at the temperatures most likely in use in your work
	K10	the generic names of common disinfectant chemicals that are: K10.1 suitable for equine dental work K10.2 unsuitable for equine dental work
	K11	the information that will appear on a properly labelled disinfectant and how to interpret it in practical terms for your work
	K12	any adverse effects or potential hazards of disinfectants that you use and information you should give to other persons concerning risks
	K13	any legal requirements for safe handling or disposal of disinfectants, and how these can be met
	K14	any legal requirements for disinfection protocols
	K15	legal requirements for the disposal of contaminated items, and how to meet them
	K16	design features of equipment that may hinder cleansing and disinfection, and practical ways of either avoiding or dealing with such features
	K17	additional or different precautions that you may require in your protocol if suspected infectious disease is encountered
	K18	signs or symptoms that give rise to suspicion of infectious disease in a horse, and the more common diseases that might be involved and who

the requirements of the Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966) in relation to

K19

needs to be informed

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your role K20 the signs or symptoms that would require you to report your observation to a veterinary surgeon and what diseases are notifiable K21 ways in which infection may be transmitted, both in general and in relation to specific common diseases and how this affects the precautions which should be taken K22 the definition of the term zoonotic and common zoonotic risks when working with horses K23 the definition of bio-security and the need for it in premises you visit, and how to maintain it while carrying out your work K24 the limitations of techniques (such as attempted disinfection of vehicle tyres) popularly applied in bio-security, and the uses of effective techniques and protocols K25 how biosecurity measures might vary according to geographical area and current disease situations K26 sources of information which will keep you up to date with any infectious disease that may currently be of extra concern, and how best to use them K27 the importance of communicating concerns and observations to others, with due regard to client confidentiality and legal requirements K28 your legal and professional liability and the importance of appropriate insurance cover

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Glossary

Horse

For the purpose of this standard the term horse includes donkey, ass, mule, hinny, pony and other equidae.

Animal welfare legislation

England and Wales - Animal Welfare Act 2006 Scotland - Animal Health and Welfare Act 2006 Northern Ireland - Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

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