



INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONTROL IN EQUINE VETERINARY PRACTICE

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INTRODUCTION

- Changing World
- Growth in Infectious Disease
- Zoonosis and Barrier Protection
- Duty of Care
- Risk Assessment
- Guidelines
- Environment

INFECTION CONTROL PLAN

- General Principles
- Protocols

PRACTICE PROTOCOLS

- Admissions Protocol
- Admissions Checklist
- Classification of Patients
- Hierarchy of patients
 - Patients in the stables
 - Isolation
 - Quarantine
 - Routine Clinical Examination

I.D.C. KIT

- Overalls
- Gowns
- Surgical mask
- P2/N95 mask
- Goggles / Face shield
- Cap
- Ground sheet
- Shoe covers / good gum boots
- Sanitising wipes
- Clinical waste bags
- Plastic fishing tackle box
- Hand wash/gel/brush
- Band aids
- Small sharps container
- Disposable plastic buckets
- Disposable pen
- Antiseptic spray bottle
- Virkon / MSD sheet
- Sample collection bottles
- Vet nurse

Veterinary Procedures

- Blood Collection and Injections including Peritoneal Taps
- Stomach Tubing
- Endoscopy of the Upper Respiratory Tract and Urinary Systems
- Obstetrics and Dystocia's
- CSF Taps on Neurological cases
- Gas Anaesthesia and Intubation
- Dentistry
- Castrations
- Trephining Sinuses
- Post Mortems

Blood Collection and Injections

- Standard Precautions
- WHS risk assessment
 - Vacutainers v Syringe & Needle
 - Restraint
- Sharps protocols
 - Use correct container

STOMACH TUBING

■ HAZARDS

- Human exposure to respiratory secretions as droplets or as fomites
- Downstream infection risk to other horses
- Methods to clean and disinfect tubes
- Don't put the tube in mouth
- Always take standard precautions with normal horses

Endoscopy of URT

Hazards

- Same as for stomach tubing but this procedure will usually take longer . Examples would be examination of guttural pouches, thermocautery of the soft palate .Injection of Ethmoid haematomas.Collecting biopsy samples from the pharyngeal area.
- Longer exposure so use proper barrier protection

Endoscopy of the Urinary System

- Catheterisation to empty the bladder
- Passing the endoscope
- Viewing the endothelium of the bladder takes time
- Viewing each ureter opening to isolate a kidney problem.

Endotracheal Intubation

Hazard

- Probably only standard precautions as hopefully the animal being anaesthetised would not be infectious
- Don't place the tube on the floor of the induction room prior to placing it in the trachea

Gaseous Anaesthesia

Hazard

- Contamination between animals
- Contamination during cleaning

Cleaning Equipment

- Tubing
 - Soda lime canister
 - Re-breathing bag
 - Ventilator
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- Best way to clean and disinfect?

Equine Dentistry

- Take standard precautions and only attend to clinically normal horses in the way of routine dental floating
- Hazards .This procedure can initiate infectious aerosols,splashes of saliva and blood
- Potential for cuts and abrasions to hands
- Keep non essential people away

Equine Obstetrics

- Risk Assessment
- Standard or Additional precautions

- Abortion Why ?
- Dead Foal Why ?
- Retained Foetal membranes ?

Equine Castrations

- Standard procedures for standard castrations
- Orchitis requiring surgical removal of one or both testicles then additional procedures are needed

TREPHINING SINUSES

- These procedures are frequently conducted on the standing animal
- Potential for droplet and aerosol production
- Potential for ground splashes and clothing contamination

Post Mortems

- High Risk Precautions
- Special gloves to protect from self inflicted knife injury (eg, chain mail glove on non-knife hand)
- Keep non essential people away
- Is a PM necessary?
- Will a partial PM be adequate?
- Protect Wildlife and the Environment

VISITORS

- People becoming infected from ill horses
 - People bringing pathogens into the stables
 - People transmitting pathogens between horses
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- Visitors to adhere to same protocols as staff
 - Visitors to sign agreement to do this prior to entry

FREE RANGING VECTORS

- Rodent
- Insect control
- Native animals and birds

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

- Sharps injury
- Hazard. If it occurs and is not reported

STABLE HYGIENE

- Bedding materials
- Managing manure
- Feed and water utensils
- Wet and soiled bedding
- When to renew bedding
- Patient movement

CLEANING PROCEDURES

- HAZARDS Risk of aerosol and physical dispersion of infectious material
- Hosing can be a high risk procedure
- Run off needs to be monitored/treated/disposed
- Some droplet formation always occurs
- Follow world standards?

Disposal of Waste

- HAZARD
- Excretions may infect people and other animals
- Disposal within the clinic
- Disposal at the horses environment
- Disposal at a waste disposal site
- Need to manage risk in each case

I.D.C. Committee

- Every multi-person practice
- A rep from each tier of staff
- A considered approach to all hazards
- Protocols in place
- Keep track of performance
- Continual improvement
- Utilise the buddy system
- A training role
- Share info
- Client and public education
- Legal requirements for VSBs

CONCLUSION

- IDC is not a complicated science
- It is time for a culture change
- Veterinarians are health professionals
- There are community expectations
- As individuals we have a duty of care which not only includes our working environment but also our homes and family