

Veterinary Medicines and Materials Policy

Name of employer:	
Address:	
Contact details:	
Date:	

All veterinary medicines and material are kept labelled in a locked cabinet under the supervision of our designated person(s). A record of all medicine stocks is kept. Removal and use of medicines and medical equipment will be logged and signed for together with the horse details.

1. The following information will be used to assess the risks with medicines:
2. Hazard data sheets supplied with substances bought or prescribed
3. Manufacturer's guidance
4. Use-by dates
5. Veterinary instructions regarding use
6. These will be consulted for advice on handling, storage and disposal of medicines (and equipment). Employees must also follow the precautions identified in the COSHH risk assessments
7. Before any medication is used the use-by date should be checked, veterinary instructions followed and records of use kept. Only authorised staff can administer medicines and treatment
8. It is extremely important that a high standard of cleanliness is maintained when handling veterinary medicines and equipment and when dealing with sick or injured animals. Care must be taken to avoid cross-infection and contamination. Employees must wash their hands before and after touching any open wound or source of infection or skin eruption. Any clothing which becomes contaminated with veterinary preparations or with discharge from the mouth, nose, anus, genital or urinary tract, hooves or any wound or skin eruption, should be immediately isolated from contact with humans and animals and washed or discarded as soon as possible. Special instructions should be issued if a horse has to be isolated to prevent the spread of infection.
9. Once veterinary equipment has been used, it should be either safely discarded or sterilised before being placed back in the cabinet.

Veterinary Medicines and Materials Policy (continued)

10. If veterinary preparations are inadvertently spilled, the spillage should be thoroughly cleared up and the area cleaned in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. If the spillage cannot be cleared up straight away, steps should be taken to stop the spread of the spillage to prevent any other person, horse or equipment being contaminated by the spillage.
11. All people who come into contact with veterinary medicines or equipment should wash their hands thoroughly afterwards.

If any person inadvertently comes into direct contact with any veterinary preparation, or if any medication gets into the eyes or mouth, this should immediately be reported to a first aider so that appropriate treatment can be administered, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. If the contact is extensive or prolonged in nature, or if the medication is believed to be particularly harmful, then medical and veterinary advice should be sought immediately.