

# Wildlife, Bird and Rodent Control Measures

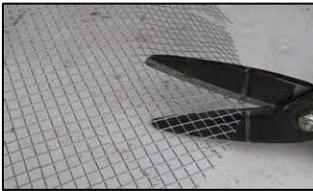
## Eliminate Openings for Rodents or Birds

- Seal any openings greater than ¼-½ inch in stalls, storage areas and food bins with a durable material.



Photo by Haley Casbeer

- Use sealing material that wildlife, birds and rodents cannot easily penetrate by gnawing or pecking, such as concrete, brick, sheet metal, aluminum or wire mesh. Avoid use of plastic sheeting, wood or rubber sealing materials, which rodents can penetrate.



- Equip all drain pipes and floor drains with metal grates to prevent rodent entry into buildings.
- Place gravel around the stabling area to discourage rodents from burrowing into buildings.

## Removal of Hiding, Nesting and Resting Sites

- Store all equipment in stabling area off the ground or on easily moveable racks to allow routine cleaning around and under equipment.
- Stack unopened grain sacks on raised pallets positioned with adequate spacing around them to allow inspection for signs of rodent activity.



- Maintain water level in troughs deep enough to prevent birds from standing in the water.

## Eliminate Potential Food Sources

- Store open feed in sealed containers, preferably made of metal with tight fitting lids



- Clean up spilled feed immediately.
- Empty trash cans daily.

## Use of Rodents Traps and Bait

- Before the event, place rodent traps and baits around the premises to reduce the number of rodents. Set traps close to walls, in dark corners and behind objects, such as machinery, in any areas where there is evidence of rodent activity. Place rodent baits in areas not accessible to children or other animals.
- Use rodent baits according to the label instructions. Place rodent baits in areas protected from exposure to weather elements.
- Inspect rodent traps regularly and dispose of dead rodents promptly. Refresh rodent bait as necessary.

For additional guidance, contact a wildlife and pest control professional to assist with plan development.

# Cleaning and Disinfecting Recommendations for Equine Events

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## Overview

Disease prevention at an equine event is typically easier and more cost-effective than addressing an outbreak situation; therefore, development and implementation of a biosecurity plan, which includes cleaning and disinfection (C&D) protocols, is essential for all equine events. Routine C&D protocols for a facility will differ from those necessary to control an infectious disease outbreak. C&D protocols will vary depending on the situation and the specific event.

Complex interactions influence the effectiveness of C&D protocols. Success of a C&D protocol depends upon the infectious disease agent, the various surfaces to be disinfected, the disinfectant, disinfectant concentration and surface contact time and environmental conditions.

## Implementing a Cleaning and Disinfection Plan

There are four steps for an effective cleaning and disinfection plan: assessment, cleaning, washing and disinfecting. Train all employees on the proper implementation of the C&D protocols emphasizing thorough cleaning and safety. Clearly explain the C&D protocols in the training and post signs around the event venue to reinforce the training.

## Assessment

An initial facility assessment will help determine the areas of disease risk that require cleaning and disinfection biosecurity measures. At an equine event, horses contact numerous surfaces, such as water buckets/troughs, equipment, fences and stall; therefore, consider all areas contacted by horses as contaminated and address in a C&D protocol.

## Cleaning

The presence of organic material on surfaces can harbor infectious disease agents for extended periods of time and protect them from the action of chemical disinfectants. Research demonstrates that cleaning contaminated surfaces eliminates 90% of the bacteria on a surface. The goal of cleaning is to remove all organic material, such as manure, soiled bedding and dirt, since

the presence of organic matter inactivates many disinfectants, making them ineffective.

## Washing

After removal of organic matter, clean the surface completely with a detergent and rinse with a low pressure hose. Use of high pressure water (pressure washer) is not recommended for cleaning stalls since this distributes dirt and infectious agents into the air and onto adjacent surfaces. Manual scrubbing further reduces the number of microorganisms adhering to surfaces. Thorough rinsing is important because soaps and detergents can also inactivate many disinfectants. Allow surfaces to dry before application of the disinfectant.

## Disinfectant Selection

A basis for disinfectant selection is finding the most useful, efficacious and cost-effective product. An ideal disinfectant is one that is broad spectrum, non-toxic, non-irritating, non-corrosive, relatively inexpensive and works in variable weather conditions. No available disinfectant is suitable for all situations. Selection of the proper disinfectant depends on the potential infectious disease agent(s), the type of surface to disinfect, weather conditions and product safety. Consult a veterinarian to determine the infectious disease agent(s) of concern.

For routine disinfection, a disinfectant with broad spectrum anti-microbial activity is appropriate. Disinfectants are classified by their chemical nature; each class of disinfectant has unique characteristics, toxicities, safety concerns and level of efficacy. Commercially available disinfectants are classified as alcohols, aldehydes, biguanides, halogens/hypochlorites, halogens/iodine compounds, oxidizing agents, phenols, and quaternary ammonium compounds. Carefully read and follow label instructions when using any chemical disinfectant.

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) define disinfectants (antimicrobials) as pesticides. Be certain to use all EPA-registered antimicrobials in accordance with California worker safety regulations.