

BHC 10/06/19

Update Biosecurity project

- I spoke about this briefly at the last BHC meeting.
- The Equine Biosecurity project which has been set up, with advice from the Behavioural Insights Team (BIT), has the objective of using behavioural interventions in a pilot trial to assess their potential to improve biosecurity on yards.
- The BIT have worked in various sectors, including some work with Defra on bovine TB. They use social science methods to investigate for example, why, despite a lot of advisory information being available, people either do nothing or do the wrong thing.
- A great deal of information is available on disease control in the equine sector and they are helping us try to understand while well meaning people don't follow it.
- The Equine Disease Coalition supported a project to work with BIT to investigate this further in the equine sector.
- World Horse Welfare is working with Redwings, the British Horse Society, Blue Cross and has had advice and support from Caroline Crew (AHT)
- Work to date has included developing a framework of behaviours related to equine biosecurity and using these to develop a questionnaire.
- This initial survey, which looked at the attitudes of horse owners to a number of management practices including vaccinations, facilities, visitors and emergency procedures, has been completed with 2.5K responders.
- We are now carrying our focussed visits to a small number of livery yards to gain more information on any barriers preventing horse owners/yard owners adopting more biosecure practices.
- To date we have carried out ~ 8 visits, interviewing the yard owner/manager and two liveries. The visits are spread through England, Wales and Scotland.
- The results from the visits will be discussed with the BIT to identify suitable behavioural interventions for a pilot trial.
- It is anticipated that the trial will begin later in the year.

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