

UK Equine Disease Coalition Terms of Reference

The UK Equine Disease Coalition (“the Coalition”) is established to increase the UK level of preparedness for a major equine disease outbreak and will play a key role in addressing the health associated risks identified in the British Horse Council strategy. The Coalition will focus on key areas of risk that threaten the health of the UK horse population. It will enable the equine sector to use its knowledge and expertise to play a leading role in this area, whilst working closely with the GB Equine Exotic Disease Core Group and other relevant authorities (Government departments and Agencies).

The specific functions of the Coalition are:

- To review the key areas of risk that threaten the UK level of preparedness for a major equine disease outbreak, grouped under the following headings:
 - Movement of equines and their products
 - Mixing of animals
 - Globalisation and environmental changePlease refer to Annex 1 for specific examples of risks initially identified.
- To formulate a practical, cost-effective and cohesive strategy to mitigate the impact of the risk areas identified, wherever possible, considering both exotic and serious endemic disease threats operating at a local, regional and national level and building on any existing disease mitigation programmes
- To liaise with Defra, other Government Departments and all relevant organisations in the equine industry on how the strategy, or elements of the strategy, could be implemented, either voluntarily or with Government support
- To promote with the equine industry and Government an implementation programme to deliver the agreed plans
- To liaise with the GB Equine Exotic Disease Core Group during any ‘disease outbreak’ mode
- To work transparently, whilst respecting confidences

Meetings

The Coalition will meet on a regular basis (at least two times annually), either face to face or by teleconference. World Horse Welfare will provide secretarial support for the Coalition.

Membership of the EDC is open to veterinarians from government and non-government organisations involved in equine disease policy and in equine disease and health activities.

Costs

Members of the Coalition will be responsible for meeting their own expenses. If the Coalition, as a whole, needs to identify resources for any particular purpose they shall agree amongst themselves how the resources shall be found.

Annex 1 – Key risk areas that threatens the UK level of preparedness for a major equine disease outbreak

1. Movement of animals
 - a. Unregulated movements of equines especially through international dealers in low value animals
 - b. Regulated and unregulated markets including private sales
 - c. Welfare in Transport regulation

2. Mixing of animals
 - a. Livery yards
 - b. Equestrian Centres – including competitions, shows and events
 - c. Biosecurity at equine premises and other places where animals mix
 - d. Equine gatherings and associated transport

3. Global issues
 - a. Environmental change and impact on vector populations
 - b. Trade in equine products – including semen, embryos, meat and blood
 - c. Trade in non-equine related commodities – acting as fomites and/or vectors for disease spread