

DIRECTIVE NO. 1 - 1998

Effective immediately, the following cleaning and disinfecting procedures are to be implemented at all racetracks and licensed farms.

PROCEDURES

I. Cleaning

Removal of organic debris (urine, feces) and washing of surfaces which have been exposed to organic debris should precede any disinfection practice. Cleaning is the most labor intensive part of the cleaning and disinfecting process.

Pre-disinfection cleaning will determine the efficacy of the disinfection process, as most disinfectants are inactivated by organic debris. Disinfectants should be applied only after removal of contaminated organic matter (urine, feces). Washed surfaces should be allowed to dry before applying disinfectants. Disinfectants should be allowed to dry on treated surfaces and not washed off.

Steam cleaning is effective in killing some viruses and bacteria, especially when detergents are used. However, steam cleaning may also aerosolize infective organisms. For this reason, steam cleaning is recommended primarily in empty barns before the general application of disinfectants. Steam cleaning in quarantine barns should only be done after all sick horses have left the barns.

II. Disinfecting

The use of disinfectants which have the broadest spectrum of activity, including efficacy on porous surfaces with organic debris and handler/horse contact safety, is ideal. No single disinfectant will satisfy all considerations. Disinfectant properties should be evaluated in regard to the intended areas of use:

Phenols and related compounds (cresols)

EXAMPLES: 1 Stroke Environ (Calgon Vestal), Tek-Trol (Bio-Tek Industries, Inc.)

Phenolic disinfectants are bactericidal, fungicidal and virucidal (including Rotavirus) at 1 - 2% concentrations and are not inactivated by organic debris. Disinfectant properties are enhanced by warm temperatures, and diminished by cold temperatures and moisture. Contact with skin is corrosive and the use of goggles and rubber gloves is recommended for handlers.

AREAS OF USE: Quarantine/isolation barns and stalls, routinely.

Hypochlorites (bleach)

EXAMPLE: Chlorox (5.25% sodium hypochlorite, The Chlorox Co.)

Sodium hypochlorite is effective against most bacteria, viruses (influenza, herpes, and adenovirus; not rotavirus), and fungi at a 1:32 dilution (only in the absence of organic material. Disinfectant properties of sodium hypochlorite are inactivated by organic material and diminished by alkaline materials (lime) and moisture. Contact with skin is irritated.

AREAS OF USE: Nonporous surfaces free of organic debris such as commonly used equipment and cleaned solid surfaces.

Alkalies (lime)

Hydroxides of sodium and calcium are effective against many bacteria when application changes the local environment to a pH greater than 9. Contact with skin is caustic.

AREAS OF USE: Not recommended for use as a disinfectant due to the limited spectrum of efficacy and potential for contact irritation. Practical use of lime would be as a drying agent only.

Quaternary ammonium compounds

EXAMPLES: Roccal-D (Winthrop), Omega (Airkem)

Quaternary ammonium compounds are effective against most bacteria, some fungi, but no viruses. Disinfectants properties are diminished by organic, porous or fibrous materials as well as soaps, proteins, fatty acids, and phosphates.

AREAS OF USE: Nonporous surfaces free of organic debris such as equipment when chlorine bleach or other similar disinfectant is unavailable.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTING OF COMMON AREAS AND EQUIPMENT

1. Detention barns, back paddock stalls and open barns:

Daily cleaning of stalls:

Clean manure and soiled bedding, if applicable, from stalls after each horse.

Spray disinfectant (Chlorox, 1:32) on stall surfaces at the end of each day.

If applicable, add fresh bedding at the start of each day.

Dark days, weekly, or end of meets:

Completely strip stalls of all bedding, if applicable.

Steam clean all stalls and common walkways using a phenolic disinfectant, and allow the disinfectant to dry completely (do not rinse).

or

Steam clean all stalls and common walkways using a detergent cleaner and spray Chlorox (1:32) or a phenolic disinfectant on clean surfaces, allowing the disinfectant to dry completely (do not rinse).

If applicable, add fresh bedding after stall surfaces are completely dry.

2. Equipment:

Organic materials should be cleaned from commonly used equipment (feed racks, buckets, tack) and sprayed with disinfectant (Chlorox 1:32) in between horse use.


Equipment caked with organic material should be disinfected with phenolic compounds, only.

Towels and blankets should be soaked in chlorine solution, washed and dried prior to re-use.

3. Barns:

Between meets, the common horse contact surfaces (such as aisles fences) should be steam cleaned preferably with phenolic disinfectants.

Dated: 9/2/98



Frank Zanzuccki, Executive Director