

Respiratory Health in Stabled Horses and Ponies

To prevent respiratory health in stabled horses and ponies the following is advised:

- Ensure stables are well ventilated with good air circulation. The top stable door should always be kept open.
- Avoid drafts.
- Ensure you use good quality bedding and forage. Low dust bedding materials include good quality straw, shredded wood fibre, dust extracted wood shavings, paper or hemp.
- Ensure correct drainage of urine and other liquids. Urine contains ammonia which can be an irritant to the respiratory system.
- Ideally, muck out fully every day.
- Ideally, do not muck out while the pony is in the stable and allow any dust to settle before putting the pony back in the stable.
- Maximise turnout time.
- Keep the muck heap a reasonable distance from the stable.
- Damp down hard feed.
- Avoid storing hay and bedding in common air space with a pony's stable.
- Ideally, avoid grooming in the stable.
- When travelling, ensure the pony has enough length of rope to lower its head.

Based on the BHS advisory leaflet Horse Respiratory Health. Further information on this and other equine welfare matters can be found at: www.bhs.org.uk