

Equine Respiratory Health Checklist

Find out if you are doing everything you can to keep your horse's respiratory system healthy

- Turnout Time:** The optimal situation is to allow your horse to live outside full-time. If that isn't possible, make sure he gets some turnout time each day.
- Bedding:** If your bedding seems dusty, test different types of straw, shavings or alternative types until you find one that works.
- Hay:** Check each load of hay as dust levels may vary based on cutting or time of year. If you get a dusty load, wet down the hay before feeding. (Note: if your hay is dusty and has a moldy smell, don't feed it.)
- Hay Storage:** The best place to store hay is in a separate building from your horses. If that isn't possible, keep it stored as far from your horses as possible.
- Ventilation:** Keep barn doors and windows open to allow air circulation. Remember that horses tolerate cold much better than humans do, so keep the doors open as much as possible, even in winter.
- Vaccinations:** Vaccines are available for some common respiratory diseases such as influenza, rhinopneumonitis and strangles. Consult your vet to find out which vaccinations are appropriate for your horse.
- Personalized equipment:** Don't share buckets or grooming tools with horses that your horse is not regularly in contact with. Many respiratory ailments are contagious between horses.