

## **Biosecurity Advice from the Society vets regarding the Colt Inspections on**

### **6 April 2019 at Beaulieu Road**

In light of the current Equine Influenza outbreak we feel that we have had to review our biosecurity measures for this event. Obviously in an ideal scenario all ponies would be fully vaccinated against flu however we know this is not the case and certainly the “mature” stallions at Cadland are unvaccinated. Under these circumstances we feel that it would be unwise to mix the two-year-olds and yearlings coming from “outside” the forest with the herd of stallions based at Cadland. It was felt that any inspections of the stallions at Cadland could be performed there without having to jeopardise our potentially immunologically naïve “forest run stallions” therefore we are recommending that this group of stallions **do not** attend the event at Beaulieu Road.

### **Further recommendations for any pony attending the Beaulieu Road event:**

All owners will have to sign a “health declaration” which states the animal has not had any cough/nasal discharge or mixed with any animals which have exhibited these clinical signs in the last 7 days.

- We will require the temperatures of all animals attending to be taken on the morning of the event and any animal with a temperature > 38.5 degrees will be sent home. This temperature check will be added to the health declaration form. The vets will oversee a health-check including the owners taking temperatures before the colts are presented for their colt inspection.
- We recommend that ponies are presented for inspection directly from their lorry or trailer and owners do not use the communal pens.
- The vets will have a “zero tolerance” policy and any pony displaying any signs of a respiratory disease will be asked to leave the event.

These recommendations are by no means fool proof and there is always going to be a risk of infection spreading when we mix groups of largely unvaccinated young stock from all over the country.

### **Verderers Stallion Committee Decision on Forest-run Stallion Passing 2019**

At a meeting drawn up to discuss the biosecurity issues highlighted by the NFPBCS vets the Verderers Stallion Committee has announced that the Verderers would not formally inspect any of the stallions currently enrolled into the stallion scheme at the stallion passing this year. This means that 6 three- and four- year-olds, 2 five-year-olds, and possibly one other not currently at Cadland, which would normally be inspected will effectively be given a free pass into the 2019 scheme.

We will plan to inspect all young animals up to and including 6-year-olds at the 2020 passing.

Vetting for the two 5-year-olds will be arranged between their owners and Seadown.

This means that only all 2-year-olds and any new mature stallions offered for Forest will be inspected at Beaulieu Road.