

BHAGI 12 Guidance Notes

Introduction

These guidance notes have been written to be read in conjunction with BHA General Instruction 12- Veterinary Services on Racecourses. It is hoped that they will provide clarification to some of the changes suggested.

Annual Risk Assessment (ARA)

The RCA have produced some guidance notes to assist the process of veterinary Annual Risk Assessments which can be accessed [here](#). The ARA should be conducted by the SRVS and CoC with input from the VO liaison. If you do not have access to the RCA Members' Area, please ask your racecourse to provide you with the document or contact the RCA.

Scenario Training

Templates will be available to assist scenario training. The purpose of scenario training is to ensure that all staff are prepared and practiced in managing a variety of situations that might occur on the racecourse, for example:

- Location of screens and putting them up in correct position
- Management of screening in high winds
- Management of a horse trapped in a fence
- Management of a jockey trapped under a horse
- Recumbent horse in inaccessible place

The SRVS training that will be organised will cover scenario training and provide templates.

It is likely that to make the most of scenario training, it should be conducted on a non-race day. There is potential for racecourses to group together to perform scenario training.

Racecourses should record the attendance at scenario training, in whatever format works best for the racecourse, and should be able to provide the information to the BHA if requested.

Standing Orders (SO)

Standing Orders should be written for each racecourse. There is guidance included in BHAGI 12 Annex I which gives the headings of each section that should be included, the unique variation of each racecourse will necessitate adaptation and individualisation. Further assistance can be obtained from your VO liaison.

Horse Handlers

Horse Handlers should be selected by the CoC in conjunction with the SRVS. They should be experienced and competent horse people, versed in the management of fractious, injured thoroughbred racehorses and capable of attending the scene of an incident quickly. They should be physically able to restrain an injured or recumbent horse and provide assistance to the attending RVS. It is recommended that CoCs and RVSs consider using Horse Handlers as veterinary vehicle drivers as well.

Senior Racecourse Veterinary Surgeon (SRVS) Requirements

Each racecourse must nominate on their racecourse licence one SRVS who must be

responsible for the administration of the RVS team on the racecourse (Designated SRVS). It is expected that the Designated SRVS will attend at least 75% of race fixtures. In their planned absence, the SRVS must, in conjunction with the CoC, appoint a replacement SRVS for the day (Race Day SRVS) who must fulfil the SRVS requirements set out in Annex A.

Training

SRVS specific training will be approved by the BHA and advertised to the RCA. In the first instance, all those RVSs that currently act as SRVSs will be expected to attend the specific SRVS training course by 2025 in order to fulfil BHA requirements. The course will be designed to cover the elements of a race day, specific to the role of SRVS including communication, incident planning and management.

Horse Ambulance and Recovery Vehicle

Horse Ambulance and Recovery Vehicle Personnel Requirements

Horse Ambulance and Recovery Vehicle Personnel will need to be accredited and registered with the BHA. Accreditation will be obtainable in two ways:

- a. Experienced service providers can be accredited by CoC or SRVS based on historical demonstration of competencies. It will be expected that the service provider ensures that all personnel representing them are capable of meeting these competencies.
- b. Individual Racecourses can request accreditation of any staff expected to be able drive the Horse Ambulance or Recovery Vehicle. Accreditation can be achieved at annual scenario training and be given by the SRVS or VO on demonstration of the list of competencies below.

Horse Ambulance Personnel/ Recovery Vehicle operator competencies:

- a. Ability to drive vehicle and trailer in a sympathetic manner suitable for transporting injured horses
- b. Ability to manoeuvre vehicle and trailer to reach difficult positions for extracting horses, e.g., up narrow horse walks, into parade ring
- c. Knowledge of access points to all horse areas of all racecourses that are attended
- d. Knowledge of location of Casualty Storage Container of all racecourses that are attended
- e. Demonstrated ability to use winch/ slings/ front unload
- f. Ability to assist in screening of injured horses
- g. Ability to assist in rolling injured or dead horses

Registration

Horse Ambulance service providers and CoCs must ensure that all personnel required to operate a Horse Ambulance or Recovery Vehicle are registered with the BHA using the following link <https://www.cognitoforms.com/BritishHorseracingAuthority/veterinaryregistrationforms>

Horse Ambulances and Recovery Vehicles servicing and certificates of roadworthiness

Managing Executives are responsible for ensuring that Horse Ambulances and Recovery Vehicles are serviced regularly, at least every 12 months, and are able to supply evidence of service and roadworthiness. The following government website provides information regarding the laws of towing and trailers <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for->

[horsebox-and- trailer-owners.](#)

Veterinary Holding Box (VHB)

The VHB should be located in close proximity to the Veterinary Treatment Box (VTB). Its purpose is to safely hold horses either awaiting treatment, following initial assessment, and requiring further monitoring, or for horses that have been bandaged/ splinted and are awaiting onward transport. It is likely that it may double as an elective euthanasia box and this should be borne in mind when selecting it. If it is to be used for elective euthanasia, it should be able to be secured and with doors wide enough to remove a casualty.

Trot-up Area

The ideal trot-up facility should be 25-30 meters in length, 2-3 meters wide, on flat, level ground and placed in a discrete area where stabled horses will not be upset by the regular examination of other horses. The surface should be non-slip and forgiving in the event that a horse falls. The BHA and RCA are working with the IOC to develop more specific guidelines. See page 5.

Equipment for Removing Trapped Horses

The use of strops and strop guides for moving recumbent and/or trapped horses will be demonstrated at the ARVS CMS and other training courses. 2 x “7m strops” and 1 x “standard strop guide” is the required minimum equipment and should be available on all racecourses. This equipment is regarded as vital in the management of these challenging situations. Further information about how to obtain this equipment can be obtained from the RCA.

Radiography

The remit of RVSS is that they will provide first aid to injured racehorses. Radiography is an essential tool in certain circumstances whereby it is necessary to determine the full extent of an injury so as to provide accurate information to connections regarding the possibility of treatment or otherwise. As such, the expectation is that radiography must be available to RVSS within a reasonable timeframe and ideally within one hour of determining the need to use radiography, if not already on the racecourse. It is understood that there are ramifications of radiation protection that all courses must consider in line with their individual decision on provision of radiography and CoC and SRVS are advised to contact their local radiation protection officer for advice.

Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006 (WATO) and associated devolved legislation in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland

There are legal requirements that transporters and horsebox drivers must abide by when transporting horses. These are outlined on the government websites below. Particularly relevant is the information regarding the transport of injured or ill animals. The legislation allows for the transport of lame or ill animals only under veterinary supervision and to seek diagnosis or treatment. It also stipulates that transport must be to the nearest suitable site for veterinary treatment.

[The Welfare of Animals \(Transport\) \(England\) Order 2006 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

[Commercial animal transport: guidance - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

[The Welfare of Animals \(Transport\) \(Wales\) Order 2007 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

[WELFARE OF ANIMALS DURING TRANSPORT GUIDANCE NOTES.pdf](#)

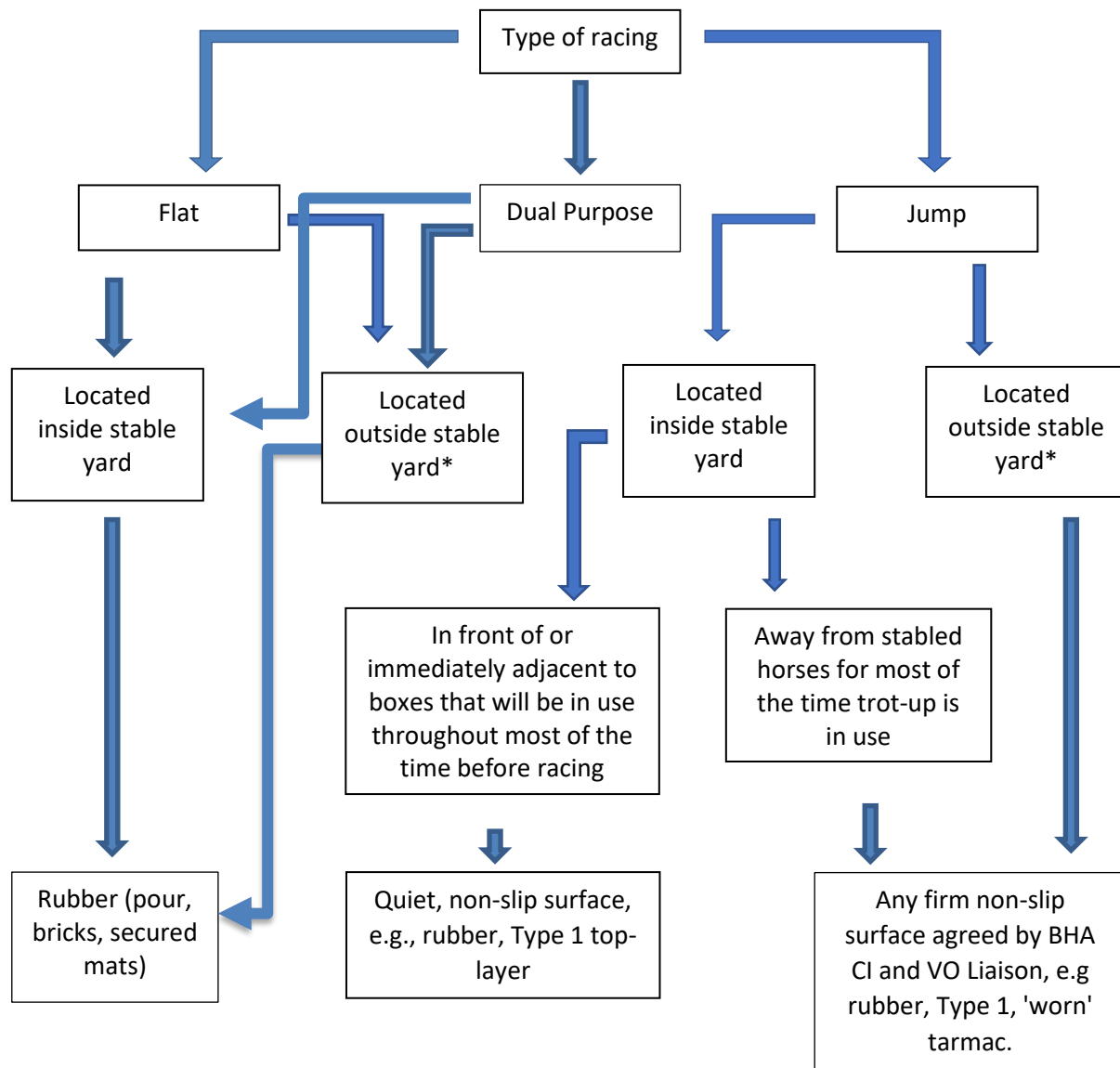
Water Provision

Further information regarding water provision and hot weather guidance can be found on the Members' Area of the RCA Website in the Veterinary Guidance document folder. If you do not have access to the RCA Members' Area, please ask your racecourse to provide you with the document or contact the RCA.

Trot-up Specification- Guidance for Racecourses

All strips must be a minimum of 25m long x 2.5m wide.

The gold standard is 30 meters x 3 meters, level rubber surface with sufficient 'holding' area to accommodate horses awaiting examination.



*Trot-up strips outside stable yard must be fenced appropriately. As a minimum areas should be surrounded by running rail. If the strip forms an extension to the yard it must have security fencing of at least 8' high. The most suitable areas will be relatively quiet to reduce causing excitement and nervousness to horses. Consideration should be given to privacy- whilst trot-ups need not be hidden from the crowd, it should not be a spectacle.