

BHA GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

BHAGI 12.1
Dtd 1 April 2023

To: Managing Executives
From: Chief Executive
Subject: PROVISION OF VETERINARY REQUIREMENTS- GENERAL AIMS

General Aims

1. The Racecourse Veterinary Surgeons will, as necessary:
 - provide veterinary care
 - arrange transport of injured horses to Centres of Excellence, where appropriate in line with the Welfare of Animals (in Transport) Order 2006 and subsequent amendments as implemented in England and Wales, and as implemented in Scotland
 - euthanase animals on humane grounds.

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Definitions and Abbreviations for BHAGI 12

Circulation

Stewards
Assistant Stewards
Clerks of the Scales
Inspectors of Courses
Racecourse Association
Integrity Service Providers
Annex A

Definitions and Abbreviations for BHAGI 12

ARA	Annual risk assessment
BHA	British Horseracing Authority
BHAGI	British Horseracing Authority General Instructions
HA	Horse ambulance
Medical Staff	Doctors, nurses, ambulance personnel, physiotherapists and first aiders
PPE	Personal protective equipment – clothing and equipment used to ensure personal safety in the workplace e.g. gloves and weather/activity appropriate footwear/clothing
RMO	Racecourse medical officer
RCVS	Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
RP	Responsible person
RPO	Radiation protection officer
RV	Recovery vehicle
RVS	Racecourse veterinary surgeon
SO	Standing Orders of a racecourse which set out the particulars of its veterinary facilities and procedures.
SRMO	Senior racecourse medical officer
SRVS	Senior racecourse veterinary surgeon
VEMCOM	Veterinary and Medical Communication – radio network
Veterinary Staff	Veterinary surgeons, horse handlers, horse ambulance personnel
VHB	Veterinary holding box
VO	BHA veterinary officer
VTB	Veterinary treatment box
WATO	Welfare of Animals (in Transport) Order 2006 and subsequent amendments as implemented in England and Wales, and as implemented in Scotland

[The Welfare of Animals \(Transport\) \(England\) Order 2006 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)

BHA GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

BHAGI 12.2
Dtd 1 April 2023

To: Managing Executives
From: Chief Executive
Subject: RACECOURSE VETERINARY AND SAMPLING UNIT PERSONNEL AND VETERINARY FACILITIES - REQUIREMENTS AND DUTIES/STANDING ORDERS

Duties of the Managing Executive

1. Managing Executives are responsible for ensuring that:
 - a) a Licensed Racecourse maintains compliance with BHA General Instruction (BHAGI) 12 and the local Standing Orders (SO)
 - b) Any deviation from the BHAGI will only be permitted following discussion with the Designated Senior Racecourse Veterinary Surgeon (SRVS) and with written dispensation from the BHA to be included in the SO
 - c) An Annual Risk Assessment (ARA) is performed and that it forms the basis of the local SO
 - d) Where the ARA indicates higher levels of staffing, horse ambulances or Managing Executive facilities are required than those set out as minimum requirements below, there is compliance with such higher levels
 - e) If circumstances change and veterinary arrangements fall below those required by BHAGI 12 or the local SO, the Stewards are advised as soon as possible
 - f) Horse Ambulances (HA) and Recovery Vehicles (RV) are roadworthy, have records of annual services (as a minimum) and are staffed by accredited personnel

Staffing

2. Managing Executives must ensure compliance with the minimum numbers of Veterinary Staff (who must not be licensed persons and must be qualified in accordance with Annex A) as follows:

	Flat	Jump
Veterinary Surgeons	SRVS and RVS	SRVS and two RVSs
Horse Handlers (see paragraph 10)	One	Two

Ambulances

3. Managing Executives must ensure provision of the minimum resources, as follows: one horse ambulance and one recovery vehicle, both towed by four-wheel drive towing vehicle (see Annex B for specifications)

Facilities

4. Managing Executives must ensure provision of the minimum facilities as follows:

- a) Veterinary Treatment Box (VTB) which is compliant with Annex C (para a)
- b) Veterinary Holding Box (VHB) which is compliant with Annex C (para b)
- c) Casualty Storage Container compliant with Annex C (para c)
- d) trot-up facility compliant with Annex C (para d)
- e) screens compliant with Annex C (para e)
- f) veterinary drugs and equipment which is compliant with Annex C (para f)
- g) a vehicle in which the RVS(s) can follow races (which must be different from that in which the doctor travels)
- h) water provision that is compliant with Annex C (para g)
- i) veterinary first aid kit compliant with Annex C (para h)

Sampling Unit

Managing Executives must

5. appoint competent and suitably trained person(s), familiar with the racecourse layout and its system of internal communications, as the Sampling Unit Security Assistant (SUSA) to attend the Sampling Unit (SU) and perform duties described in Annex D
6. must appoint competent and suitably trained person(s) (the Catcher), familiar with the racecourse layout and its system of internal communications, to supervise horses selected for testing from the point of communication from the Stewards to the Sampling Unit in accordance with the instructions in Annex D. For racecourses that hold Group 1,2,3 or Grade 1 races sufficient Catchers to supervise the first four horses plus one additional horse must be provided.
7. Sampling Unit specifications are listed in Annex D

Duties of Veterinary Staff

Registration and Qualifications

8. All SRVSs and RVSs must be registered with the BHA Veterinary Department and must re-register annually using the online link
<https://www.cognitoforms.com/BritishHorseracingAuthority/racecourseveterinarysurgeonregistrationform>

9. Ambulance Providers must be registered with the BHA Veterinary Department and must re-register annually using the following link
<https://www.cognitoforms.com/BritishHorseracingAuthority/ambulanceandrecovervehiclepersonnelregistrationform>
10. Horse handlers must be competent horse people suitably experienced to assist and selected in conjunction with the RVSs and must re-register annually using the following link
<https://www.cognitoforms.com/BritishHorseracingAuthority/horsehandlerregistrationform>
11. Staff may not work at a Licensed Racecourses if currently suspended by a regulatory body or have a conviction for animal cruelty

Non-Race Day Duties of the Designated SRVS

12. Annually:
 - a) In consultation with the Managing Executive, appoint a panel of suitably qualified Racecourse Veterinary Surgeons
 - b) In conjunction with the Managing Executive and the VO liaison, conduct an ARA
 - c) Update the SO reflecting the ARA and any personnel changesPre-meeting:
 - d) When there are horses on site outside of racing hours and there are no veterinary surgeons in attendance, you must ensure that an RVS, or VS of sufficient equine experience, is available to attend an emergency and that their telephone number is prominently displayed in the stables' office

Race Day Procedure

Duties of the Managing Executive

13. The Managing Executive must ensure all aspects of race day veterinary care are compliant with BHAGI 12 and local SO and must confirm this with the SRVS before racing commences.

Duties of the Veterinary Staff

14. On race days a member of the veterinary staff must:
 - a) Arrive promptly at the designated time which is 60 minutes before the first race

- b) Be dressed in appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to be able to deliver veterinary care and be clearly identifiable by uniform or other means
- c) Check that their equipment is compliant with BHAGI 12. Any equipment or drugs for use on the racecourse must be in date, serviceable and maintained in line with manufacturers' recommendations
- d) Report any equipment deficiencies immediately to the SRVS
- e) Attend a briefing not later than 45 minutes before racing
- f) Read, understand and be compliant with current BHAGI, SO and other relevant documentation
- g) Act at all times according to their clinical decision making and not allow financial operational considerations to override this judgement
- h) Ensure that they do not have any conflict of interest with any other activity or duty on a race day
- i) Respond to all on course incidents, if it is safe to do so, within one minute
- j) Stay in communication with the SRVS by two-way radio (VEMCOM) or mobile phone
- k) Keep accurate records of all veterinary treatment given and ensure this information is submitted to the BHA Veterinary Officer and Clerk of the Course or designated member of the managing executive
- l) Not divulge any information to any party that could be construed as a breach of confidentiality
- m) At least one RVS must remain on the racecourse for a minimum of 30 minutes after the last race has finished and must check in at the Stable Office before departing

Duties of the RVSs

15. On race days an RVS must:

- a) Be compliant with paragraph 8 and local SO
- b) In the temporary absence (late arrival) of the SRVS, on the directions of the Managing Executive, assume the responsibilities of the SRVS
- c) At least one RVS must attend any starting stalls test
- d) During racing follow the deployment of staff as indicated in the SO and as instructed by the SRVS
- e) Provide veterinary care
- f) Examine any horse at the direction of the VO with consideration for any conflict of interest
- g) Arrange transport of injured horses to Centres of Excellence, where appropriate
- h) Euthanase animals on humane grounds

- i) Be familiar with the correct use of by-pass equipment at fences and stop-race procedures
- j) When a horse has been selected for anti-doping sampling but requires treatment for an injury, refrain from administering any medication without first consulting the VO, unless the welfare of the horse would be severely compromised by delay

Duties of the SRVS on Raceday

On race days the SRVS must:

16. General:

- a) Be compliant with all Duties of the RVS
- b) Supervise all aspects of veterinary care for injured horses including supervision of horse ambulance personnel
- c) Advise the nominated representative of the Managing Executive if the SRVS has any doubts about the safety of racing, or the adequacy of veterinary cover and ensure these concerns are relayed to the Veterinary Officer/ Stewards as soon as possible
- d) Use the attached Aide Memoir as guidance (Annex H)

17. Prior to Racing:

- a) Not later than 60 minutes before the time of the first race report to the Managing Executive
- b) Not later than 45 minutes before the first race, carry out a veterinary briefing and radio check with RVSs, head ground staff or representative, ambulance personnel and horse handlers, VO and farrier, and deploy veterinary staff
- c) Confirm deployment and incident management with the SRMO
- d) Confirm with the other members of the team the availability of all necessary equipment for the treatment of casualties and carrying out euthanasia

18. During every race:

- a) Remain in radio communication with the nominated representative of the Managing Executive, and on-site veterinary staff
- b) Ensure an RVS attends any Starting Stalls test prior to racing
- c) Deploy veterinary resources as per the SO ensuring Veterinary Staff are available to cover the following key areas- pre-parade ring, parade ring, horse walk, start, pull-up, unsaddling/ winner's enclosure

- d) Ensure that there is an RVS present at the start, out of their vehicle and identified to the Starter, prior to horses arriving at the start. This RVS must remain in place to witness the race commence.
- e) Any horse withdrawn at the start for veterinary reasons or for behaviour that may have resulted in injury to the horse, must be assessed by the RVS who must advise to the Starter the most appropriate method of returning the horse to the stables (by horse ambulance, ridden at walk or trot, led in-hand mounted or unmounted). A horse withdrawn for veterinary reasons must not be allowed to canter back from the start.
- f) Designate and specify in the SO, a reliable individual as 'spotter' (who may be non-clinical and may be the Clerk of the Course) to observe racing from a vantage point and relay information regarding fallers and injured horses to the SRVS to help in deployment of veterinary resources
- g) Keep the nominated representative of the Managing Executive informed of events

19. After the last race:

- a) Check that all veterinary treatments are recorded and submitted to the VO and Clerk of the Course
- b) Ensure that the trainer or senior representative of injured horses and/ or their own veterinary surgeon receives information (ideally in person or by phone, otherwise by email) regarding the nature of injury, any further veterinary attention required and a copy of the VO19
- c) Ensure that, when appropriate, injured horses are transported to Centres of Excellence in accordance with the Welfare of Animals (in Transport) Order 2006 and subsequent amendments as implemented in England and Wales, and as implemented in Scotland
- d) Carry out incident(s) de-brief with veterinary staff, Clerk of the Course, VO and/ or medical team where appropriate, and alter the SO when necessary

Duties of horse ambulance and recovery vehicle personnel:

20. Annually:

- a) must supply evidence of annual attendance at a racecourse scenario training
- b) must provide a certificate of trailer service within the last 12 months.

21. During race days horse ambulance personnel must:

- a) Be compliant with paragraph 9 and local SO
- b) Attend veterinary briefing no later than 45 minutes before the first race
- c) Ensure that horse ambulances are present on course at least one hour before the first race and are available for immediate use from at least 15

minutes before the start of the first race or the time of a stalls test unless transporting an injured horse

- d) Be positioned as per the SO with engines running during racing
- e) Be fully familiar with driving routes to VTB and casualty storage container
- f) Be qualified and insured to drive the horse ambulance on a public highway
- g) Not leave the racecourse for 30 minutes after the last race or until stood down by the SRVS
- h) Be prepared to transport injured horses to centres of excellence if required

Duties of horse handlers:

22. During race days horse handlers must:

- a) Be compliant with paragraph 10 and local SO
- b) Attend veterinary briefing no later than 45 minutes before the first race
- c) Follow instructions of the SRVS regarding deployment
- d) Wear appropriate PPE for handling injured racehorses

Race Day Protocols

23. Euthanasia

- a) Prior to euthanasia, a second opinion must be sought wherever possible
- b) Connections must be communicated with prior to euthanasia taking place, wherever safety of personnel and the welfare of the horse is not compromised
- c) RVs should perform euthanasia in accordance with [BEVA guidelines for humane destruction](#) and Industry's [Euthanasia Guidelines](#)
- d) Euthanasia must be carried out using chemical means
- e) Horses must be screened on all sides with consideration taken into the view from above and the use of drones
- f) The horse should be identified by microchip
- g) All movements of the casualty, for example, from the racecourse into the recovery vehicle and from the recovery vehicle into the casualty storage container, must be performed discretely and with compassion, the horse must be covered by tarpaulin at all times
- h) The carcass must be immediately transported and unloaded into a locked, secure storage facility
- i) RVs must report any horses that have been euthanased to the BHA Veterinary Officer and Clerk of the Course as soon as reasonably practicable

24. Radiography

Must be available within a reasonable timeframe and ideally within one hour of determining the need to use radiography, if not already on the racecourse

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Circulation

Stewards
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Veterinary Officers
Racecourse Association

Registration and Disciplinary Procedures
Veterinary Provisions
Veterinary Facilities
Sampling Unit
Sampling Room Security Assistant (SUSA)
The Catcher
Dispatch of Samples (by DHL)
Role of the Managing Exec. or their Nominated
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Registration and Disciplinary Procedures**Registration Procedure**

On a yearly basis all Managing Executives must ensure all Veterinary Staff (Including Horse Handlers And Horse Ambulance Personnel) are registered with the BHA. Failure to provide the requested information will result in removal of the individual from the BHA Register. The online system can be accessed at:

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/BritishHorseracingAuthority/veterinaryregistrationforms>

Requirements

	SRVS	RVS	Horse Handler	Horse Ambulance Personnel
Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons	R	R		
Qualified for at least 5 years	R	R		
Significant experience and continued regular clinical involvement with horses	R	R		
Experience with treatment of thoroughbred racehorses	R*	O		
Physically and mentally able to access and administer treatment to injured and fractious horses in unpredictable environments.	R	R	R	R
Attendance at BHA approved Casualty Management Seminar within the last 5 years	RE	RE		
Completion of BHA approved mentoring scheme		R*E		
SRVS approved training within the last 3 years (note 2)	RE	O		
Day spent on a different racecourse with another SRVS within the last 2 years (note 3)	RE	O		
Scenario training on course in last 12 months (note 4)	RE	RE	R	R
Professional Indemnity Insurance for work at racecourse	R	R		
Public Liability Insurance	R	R	R	R

R – Required O – Optional E – Evidence required on request

*For new applications from 2023 onwards

Note 1: New applicants for SRVS on Licensed Racecourses must meet the following criteria:

- An RVS who has officiated at a minimum of 30 race meetings.
- Has acted as a probationary SRVS for at least 3 meetings and has been assessed whilst acting as an SRVS by a BHA appointed assessor and the applicant's performance is found to be satisfactory
- Has undertaken an approved SRVS course

SRVSs must act as Senior for at least 4 race meetings over 2 years to retain their SRVS status.

Note 2: SRVS specific training courses will be approved by the Department of Equine Health and Welfare and further information can be obtained from Association of Racecourse Veterinary Surgeons (ARVS) website (www.arvs.org.uk).

Note 3: SRVSs should record race days spent with another SRVS on the RVS registration form annually.

Note 4: As a minimum, clinicians must undertake annual practical training on at least one racecourse where they work to rehearse clinical scenarios including scene safety, immediate veterinary care and casualty extraction and major incident rehearsals. The training should include Horse Ambulance Personnel and other relevant staff, e.g., racecourse employees. Documentary evidence of this must be made available on request.

Disciplinary Procedure

Veterinary Staff are reminded that under the terms of their registration with the BHA, if they have any concerns regarding the health (physical or psychological) or competence of themselves or their colleagues which may interfere with fitness to practise, they should report this as soon as practical to the Managing Executive and the Department of Equine Health and Welfare. Any disciplinary investigation by a regulatory body should be reported by the individual to the Managing Executive and the Department of Equine Health and Welfare.

Failure to comply with the requirements of the annual registration process will result in the temporary suspension of the registration of the veterinarian. Racecourses which employ an individual as a member of the Veterinary Staff who is not on the current BHA Register will be in breach of BHAGI 12.

Registration of a racecourse veterinary surgeon is at the discretion of the Department of Equine Health and Welfare.

In the event of information being received by the Department of Equine Health and Welfare which raises concern about a practitioner, the BHA's Investigation Process will be followed.

Following investigation, the possible outcomes include:

- i) no action
- ii) written warning
- iii) conditions placed on ability to practice on a racecourse
- iv) suspension or removal from the BHA Register

Concerns that are not of clinical significance, e.g., repeated lateness, should be dealt with at a local level on a contractual basis by the Managing Executive.

Veterinary Provision

Horse Ambulance and Recovery Vehicle Requirements

Horse ambulance providers must comply with the following requirements and give details to the Managing Executive of:

- their staff and their ability to perform the role (see training requirements guidance)
- annual service records and roadworthiness of the trailer and vehicle
- the functionality of working parts

Horse Ambulance Specification

- i) low trailer with four low ground pressure/ turf tyres to minimise damage to the racing surface and also be roadworthy
- ii) long shallow ramps, front and rear, to allow straight loading and unloading. Ramps should have a shallow gradient with a minimal 'lip'. The surface should be non-slip, with no obstructions on the ramp. There should be no gap between the ramp and trailer body. The ramps must be easily accessible and allow for timely loading and unloading of the horse
- iii) two easily moveable padded telescopic partitions extending to the floor. Partitions should contain access panels to allow access to the horse for attachments of slings, etc.
- iv) slings with a winch attachment available to support and/or raise horses
- v) padded drag mat with eyes at both ends and a winch to allow recumbent horses to be loaded and unloaded
- vi) padded roof with minimum headroom of seven feet
- vii) soft suspension to improve ride on rough terrain
- viii) adequate interior lighting and external lighting for both ramps, recessed into body of trailer for protection
- ix) screens must be carried of minimum 8' x 24', preferably in two screens, with viewing windows cut into them
- x) distinctive livery
- xi) adequate ventilation when used at appropriate speed on public roads
- xii) an electric winch, capable of pulling 1 tonne onto the ambulance within two minutes
- xiii) CCTV enabling the injured horses to be observed from the towing vehicle, unless there are exceptional circumstances such as the provision of an alternative towing vehicle due to ground conditions
- xiv) Signs indicating that no personnel will be permitted to travel in the Horse Ambulance with the horse

Towing Vehicle

The Horse Ambulance should be towed by a four-wheel drive vehicle, with large footprint tyres, capable of operating on the racecourse without causing significant damage whilst also being capable of road use to transport an injured horse to a designated referral centre.

Personnel

The Towing Vehicle and Horse Ambulance should be attended by experienced personnel who:

- i) are suitably trained and accredited by the BHA
- ii) are familiar with the layout and access points on the racecourse
- iii) are familiar with the workings both of the HA and the towing vehicle
- iv) have verified the functionality of the working parts of the trailer and towing vehicle before racing commences
- v) hold a full UK Driver's Licence
- vi) are capable of manoeuvring the towing vehicle and HA to all horse areas of the course
- vii) are experienced Horse Handlers, capable of assisting a Veterinary Surgeon at the site of an incident
- viii) are equipped with appropriate PPE to perform their role safely
- ix) are able to provide onward travel of an injured horse to the nearest Centre of Excellence

Recovery Vehicle

Racecourses are advised to consider the advantages of providing two horse ambulances that are able to perform dual roles. Otherwise, by 1st April 2024 Recovery Vehicle specifications for Licensed Racecourses are below:

- i) be of similar external dimensions as the HA
- ii) low trailer with four low ground pressure/ turf tyres to minimise damage to the racing surface and also be roadworthy.
- iii) tarpaulin of sufficient size to cover casualty
- iv) screens must be carried of minimum dimension 8' x 24', preferably in two screens with viewing window cut into them
- v) distinctive livery
- vi) an electric winch, capable of pulling 1 tonne onto the HA/ RV within two minutes.
- vii) four-wheel drive towing vehicle
- viii) sealed floor to prevent leakage of fluids

Veterinary Facilities

Veterinary Treatment Box

Each course must provide a designated Veterinary Treatment Box, not used for any other purpose. The box must fulfil the following criteria:

- i) be a designated box not used for any other purpose
- ii) be of a suitable size which as a minimum should be 15 feet x 15 feet (4.57 meters x 4.57 meters)
- iii) clearly signed as the Veterinary Treatment Box
- iv) located within or in close proximity to the Racecourse Stables
- v) be easily accessible by HA
- vi) be sited such that injured horses can be loaded onto onward transport without having to be walked far
- vii) have access to a loading ramp, ideally in close proximity
- viii) have an adjacent preparation area with a kitchen sink, hot and cold running water, workbench, cupboards
- ix) be provided with a non-slip floor that can be readily cleaned (ideally seamless rubber screed up the walls to the height of nine inches)
- x) have good drainage
- xi) have adequate lighting for viewing the lower limbs of horses
- xii) be provided with facility for cooling horses
- xiii) a 13-amp power point placed near the door to the VTB
- xiv) have access to a supply of ice
- xv) be Level 2 cleaned and disinfected in accordance with BHAGI 7.2 after every meeting
- xvi) be provided with appropriate waste disposal streams

Veterinary Holding Box

Each course must provide a designated box, not used for any other purpose, in the immediate vicinity of the primary VTB for holding and monitoring injured horses. The box must fulfil the following criteria:

- i) be of a suitable size (minimum of 12 feet x 10 feet (3.66 meters x 3.05 meters)
- ii) by 1 April 2024 be provided with a non-slip floor that can be readily cleaned (ideally seamless rubber screed up the walls to the height of nine inches)
- iii) have a doorway of sufficient size to remove a recumbent horse
- iv) can be fully enclosed and lockable if necessary
- v) with good access for HA and RV

Casualty Storage Container

Racecourses must provide a designated facility out of public view that is secure, lockable and fully enclosed from all sides, including a roof, to store any fatalities temporarily before further disposal. Access should allow for screening of horses that are winched in/out. Appropriate cleaning facilities must be available.

Trot-up Facility

By 1st April 2024, racecourses must provide a suitable area and surface to allow examination of horses in hand at the trot. Specifications to be agreed with VO liaison and BHA Inspector of Courses. Please reference the Guidance Notes.

Screens

Each course must:

- i) ensure screens are deployed to any recumbent or injured horse
- ii) position screens in sufficient numbers and provide sufficient capable attending personnel to be able to fully screen on all sides (360 °), within an appropriate time frame, a recumbent or severely injured animal occurring anywhere on racecourse property, with consideration of the view from above
- iii) provide screens of lightweight material, a minimum of eight feet in height and with a total length of 48 feet preferably as two screens
- iv) provide screens that have viewing holes cut into them at eye height so that screen holders can monitor procedures and be prepared to move out of the way if necessary
- v) place screens in high profile areas such as the Winner's/ Unsaddling Enclosures, the Parade Ring, horse walks, the finishing straight and pull-up. A set of screens should be in situ at every obstacle sited in close proximity to the public enclosures
- vi) be of sufficient number that more than one equine casualty can be attended to simultaneously
- vii) organise screening practice sessions involving relevant personnel on an annual basis or as frequently as necessary to ensure that casualties will always be screened quickly and effectively

Veterinary Drugs and Equipment

- i) Racecourse Veterinary Surgeons (RVS) must provide sufficient materials to enable:
 - adequate support of injured limbs through Robert Jones bandaging, casting, application of splints etc.
 - appropriate management of wounds
 - treatment of circulatory disorders
 - management of commonly encountered medical conditions in the horse

- ii) RVS bags should contain, as a minimum, the equipment to:
 - chemically euthanase horses
 - sedate horses
 - provide analgesia to horses
 - manage cutaneous haemorrhage of horses

- iii) Veterinary vehicles should be provided with sufficient equipment and drugs for managing injured horses. In particular RVSs must be able to:
 - Restrain
 - Euthanase
 - Sedate
 - Analgesia
 - Anaesthetise
 - Support an injured limb appropriately
 - In addition, equipment to safely move or roll recumbent or trapped animals should be available.

Water Provision for Cooling of Horses

- i) Water provision should reflect the time of year, number of runners, ambient temperature and humidity, and length and type of racing. For further advice please refer to the RCA Guidance Documents.
- ii) A minimum of 400L water (stored in open tanks or butts) and sufficient 10L (preferred to 15L) buckets to apply the water, in each of the following locations:
 - (1) Stable Yard
 - (2) Winner's Enclosure
 - (3) Unsaddling
 - (4) Pull Up
- iii) Tanks and/ or butts must be able to be re-filled between each race or sufficient water stored to ensure replacement is available
- iv) There must be provision of water for cooling on horse walks
- v) Mobile water of sufficient volume to manage an overheated horse must be available to reach any part of the course as required
- vi) There must be sufficient buckets available in the unsaddling area so that there is at least one bucket per runner in each race.
- vii) Water must be cool to ensure adequate cooling is possible
- viii) The ARA should consider the management of overheated horses occurring in any of the horse areas

Veterinary First Aid Kit

An equine Veterinary First Aid kit should be kept in the Stables' Office to enable triage of injured horses in the event that the RVS is not on site. It should contain, as a minimum, an Animalintex poultice or equivalent, some antiseptic solution and cotton wool, and a selection of dressings, gamgee and bandages. Some equipment for removing shoes must also be available.

Sampling Unit

1. A Sampling Unit is to be provided, and is to consist of the following (enhanced arrangements are detailed in brackets and apply to those racecourses listed below):

RACECOURSES AT WHICH ENHANCED ARRANGEMENTS ARE REQUIRED

Aintree	Kempton Park
Ascot	Newbury
Ayr	Newmarket
Cheltenham	Sandown Park
Doncaster	York
Epsom Downs	
Goodwood	
Haydock Park	

- a) two (four) loose boxes, not less than 12 feet x 12 feet (3.66 meters x 3.66 meters).

Note: All Sampling Unit boxes built after 31st March 2023 must measure at least 14 feet x 12 feet (4.26 meters x 3.66 meters).

- b) a room for Office and Service Area between them, or along the rear, with direct access to both loose boxes (a room for Office and Service Area along the rear with direct access to all four boxes which is preferred, or the room may be in the middle of the line of boxes with direct access to two adjacent boxes and indirect access to the outer boxes through the adjacent one)
- c) a copy of the respective instructions from the BHAGI relating to the SUSA and Catcher must be available in the Sampling Unit Service Area
- d) for all Sampling Units constructed after 1st January 2001, a separate wash-down, with hot and cold water supply, non-slip floor and a tie-ring at least 5 feet 6 inches (1.66 meters) from the floor
- e) the Sampling Unit must be locked and secured when unattended

Loose Boxes

2. Each Loose Box is to have:

- a) a standard stable door with bolts on the inside
- b) a hinged or sliding door, giving access to the service area, with a peep hole to enable the sampling procedure to be observed

- c) Good artificial lighting contained in wall fittings out of a horse's reach with a dimmer switch to control the lighting level
- d) adequate ventilation
- e) windows high enough to be beyond a horse's reach or fitted with shutters on the inside
- f) non-slip flooring

Note: Sampling Units constructed after 31st March 2023 must have rubber flooring

- g) a tie-ring at least 5 feet 6 inches (1.66 meters) from the floor; placed so that a horse can be tied with its left side towards the door to the Service Area
- h) padding over unavoidable projections
- i) absence of mangers, pendant lights, protruding hooks, fasteners, nails, removable drain covers, etc.
- j) any beams or pipes high enough not to be a risk to a horse's safety

Office and Service Area

3. The Office and Service Area, which is to be not less than 120 feet square (11.1 meters square), is to have:
 - a) fasteners fixed to the doors from the loose boxes
 - b) good locks to the outside door
 - c) good artificial lighting
 - d) an impervious and easily cleaned floor
 - e) a sink, preferably of stainless steel, with good supplies of hot and cold water and drainers (a double drainer stainless steel sink with hot and cold water supply)
 - f) separate hot and cold water taps or low level sink for filling stable buckets
 - g) at least twelve feet (3.66m) run of working top (minimum of an 18 feet (5.45m) run of working top flanking the double drainer stainless steel sink) not less than 15 inches (38 centimeters) wide, with shelving below part of the working top and shelving above part of it
 - h) corrosion resistant and wall mounted coat hooks for the hanging up of tack and coats, etc.

- i) a table and two chairs, or extra 6 feet (1.82m) run of working top for documentation and stools
- j) a space heater
- k) a suitable fire extinguisher
- l) fridge freezer (a separate refrigerator and freezer unit), with suitable locking padlock on the refrigerator which must be kept securely locked at all times
- m) four (six) brackets, screwed to the wall to hold urine collectors.
- n) television enabled to receive the racing channels

Equipment for Sampling Unit

- 4. Each Sampling Unit is to have the following equipment
 - a) one urine collector with telescopic handle
 - b) three (four) large sponges and three (four) sweat scrapers
 - c) disposable paper towels and soap dispensers
 - d) disinfectant approved by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) (see BHAGI 7.2), and a watering can or other applicator for spraying
 - e) plastic waterproof container, such as a small plastic dustbin, labelled 'Disinfectant', in which sponges, scrapers and other equipment can be disinfected
 - f) two nylon head collars with rope
 - g) four (eight) stable buckets, two black for washing, two of different colours e.g., one red, one blue for drinking (four black for washing, four of different colours e.g. one red, one blue, one yellow, one green for drinking)
 - h) two approved pattern wooden or plastic stable forks;
 - i) one watertight rubbish bin.
 - j) fork, broom and manure waste disposal container for the removal of soiled bedding after each use;

Maintenance of Sampling Unit

- 5. The Sampling Unit is to be used solely for the collection of biological samples at the direction of the Stewards and is not to be used for other purposes between

meetings. The Loose Boxes are not to be used for treating or housing injured or sick horses, and are not to be used for saddling horses, except with the permission of the VO.

6. The Sampling Unit, its equipment and Loose Boxes are to be kept scrupulously clean, hygienic and in good condition. One (three) loose box(es) is (are) to be bedded with paper and the second (fourth) with wood shavings free from contaminants. An adequate reserve of paper and shavings is to be available for each meeting.

Disinfection

7. Level 2 disinfection (in accordance with BHAGI 7.2) of the Loose Boxes of the Sampling Unit will usually only be required after each day's racing. The Veterinary Officer will inform the Clerk of the Course if additional disinfection is necessary.

Security

8. Access to the Sampling Unit is subject to strict control. Each Sampling Unit is to have a sign prominently displayed outside, not on the door, which states 'No Entry to Unauthorised Personnel'. The Sampling Unit must be kept securely locked at all times when not in use.

Sampling Unit Security Assistant (SUSA)

The Sampling Unit Security Assistant (SUSA) will:

1. Be directed by the Managing Executive, except when on duty at the Sampling Unit, when they will be directed by the relevant BHA Official
2. Be required to have received one day training with another SUSA, prior to assuming the role
3. Be on duty at the Sampling Unit no later than fifteen minutes before the first scheduled race. It will be the responsibility of the SUSA to open the Sampling Unit if it has not been opened already by the relevant BHA Official
4. Remain on duty until permission to leave has been given by the relevant BHA Official. While on duty the Sampling Unit is not to be left unattended. Permission to leave is only likely to be granted after the last sample has been sealed and labelled. The SUSA may be responsible for the secure locking of the Sampling Unit after it has been vacated
5. Assist the relevant BHA Official in maintaining the integrity of the Sampling Unit as required and directed. This may include, but is not limited to, filling buckets for washing down, providing buckets of drinking water (changed for each horse), and disinfecting sponges and scrapers after each use
6. Ensure that sampling kits are not handled at any stage by any person other than a VO or EWIO
7. Ensure that only Trainers, their Representatives, or visitors authorised by BHA Officials enter the Sampling Unit
8. Ensure that the visitor record component of the Sampling Unit Daily Record Book is completed and signed
9. Ensure compliance with the policy prohibiting smoking, vaping eating or drinking in the Sampling Unit
10. Observe horses whilst they cool-off outside the Sampling Unit as required
11. Notify the relevant BHA Official of anything that may affect any horse in the Sampling Unit or any report from the Catcher

The Catcher

1. After each race, the Catcher will be notified, either directly or by radio, as to which horse(s) is(are) to be tested.
2. The Catcher should be notified by being told the name, the race card number and finishing position of the horse(s) to be tested and must, on every occasion, repeat back the same information to the person notifying them.
3. As soon as is practicable after receiving notification, the Catcher will tell the person responsible for the horse that it has been selected for testing.
4. When the horse is ready to leave the unsaddling area (or otherwise), the Catcher is to escort the horse to the Sampling Unit, until handed over to the SUSAs and EWIOs.
5. The Catcher must report to the relevant BHA Official or SUSAs if anything unusual happens on the way to the Sampling Unit, for example:
 - a) if, having informed the person leading the horse selected for sampling that it has been selected, they are unable to keep the horse under observation prior to arriving at the Sampling Unit
 - b) the horse eats or drinks anything between the point at which the person leading the horse is informed that it has been selected for sampling and arriving at the Sampling Unit
 - c) the horse does not proceed directly to the Sampling Unit from the unsaddling area
 - d) the horse is handled by any person other than its Trainer or their Representative

Dispatch Of Samples By DHL

Delivery of sample collection kits from LGC ASSURE to the racecourse

1. Before a meeting, DHL or other designated courier will deliver sample collection kits to each racecourse. The sample bags will contain sufficient kits for the forthcoming meeting(s) in accordance with the sampling policy. Should the kits not arrive by noon on the day before racing, and none are stored in the Sampling Unit (SU), then the representative of the Managing Executive should immediately contact the Logistics Unit (LU) at LGC ASSURE by telephone (see paragraph 7 for contact details) to arrange an urgent delivery.

Samples collected from the racecourse for delivery to LGC ASSURE

2. DHL will collect the samples for each day's racing during normal office hours (9am – 5pm) on the next working day unless alternative operating hours for the racecourse are notified to LGC ASSURE LU. DHL do not collect on Saturdays, Sundays or public holidays, and therefore samples obtained on a Friday and Saturday will normally be collected on a Monday. On occasion an alternative designated courier may be used to return the samples.

3. A collection 'job' is logged with DHL by the LU. For meetings that take place over several days, a DHL collection for a single 'Blue Bag' will be ordered for each working day after the day's racing. For festivals, a specific collection plan is often in place which will be communicated before the meeting begins

Example 1: Meeting with races on Monday and Tuesday:

- collection ordered for Monday samples (1 bag) on Tuesday and for collection of Tuesday samples (1 bag) on Wednesday.

Example 2: Meeting with races on Thursday, Friday and Saturday:

- collection ordered for Thursday samples (1 bag) on Friday and for collection of Friday and Saturday samples (2 bags) on the following Monday.

Non-collection of samples

4. If, on the second working day after the day of racing, the racecourse is still awaiting collection of the samples, the representative of the Managing Executive should contact the LU or the BHA Veterinary Administrator.

Abandonment of racing

5. If a day's racing is abandoned, the representative of the Managing Executive should ensure that the empty sample collection kits are retained for the next meeting. If this is the last meeting of the season, collection of the unused kits will be automatically arranged by LU.

Storage of Samples

6. Samples must be kept in the refrigerator in the locked SU (or other locked building) until dispatch.

Contact Details

7. The LU has given a contact name and telephone number for each racecourse to DHL. If this information needs to be checked or amended, the representative of the Managing Executive should contact the LU supervisor 01638 724406 and email fordham.sas.logistics@lqcgroup.com. The LU supervisor should also be contacted if any special arrangements are considered necessary which might be helpful for the smooth operation of DHL arrangements.

Role of the Managing Executive or their Nominated Representative

The Managing Executive must:

General Duties

- a) Ensure any amendments to official guidance from the BHA, RCA and other parties is communicated to the Veterinary Staff (VS)
- b) Appoint a suitably qualified Designated Senior Racecourse Veterinary Surgeon SRVS
- c) In consultation with the Designated SRVS, appoint a panel of Racecourse Veterinary Surgeons (RVS)
- d) In consultation with the Designated SRVS, ensure that a suitably qualified alternative SRVS is available for race days (Race Day SRVS) when the Designated SRVS is unavailable.
- e) Confirm registration of RVSs, Horse Handlers and Horse Ambulance and Recovery Vehicle providers with the BHA Veterinary Department
- f) Support training of RVSs, Horse Handlers, screen teams and Horse Ambulance and Recovery Vehicle providers including scenario training session
- g) Ensure all RVSs are familiar with the correct use of the bypassing equipment at fences and attend a practical demonstration of the use of this equipment before the first Jumps meeting of each season
- h) Consider written contracts for the following if operational on the racecourse - RVSs, Horse Ambulance providers
- i) Ensure exemptions (from BHAGI 12) are agreed by the BHA
- j) Prepare a Major Incident Plan considering the impact on the horses and racecourse stables' area
- k) In conjunction with the Designated SRVS and Veterinary Officer liaison for the racecourse, annually complete the following matters:
 - i. Undertake an ARA of their course, with reference to veterinary provision, to ensure that the minimum standards set out in the BHAGI 12 are adequate to safely cover their courses in respect of the local geography. The ARA must take into account historical incidents
 - ii. Review the local SO

On race days

- a) Appoint a nominated representative for all veterinary matters who would normally be the Designated SRVS but in their absence an equally qualified alternative Race Day SRVS may be appointed
- b) Ensure that the requirements and procedure outlined in BHAGI 12 are complied with

- c) Inform the Stewards as soon as possible if the required Veterinary Staff or horse ambulances are not present or if there is non-compliance with BHAGI 12
- d) Satisfy themselves that all VS attending jump race meetings are conversant with applicable bypassing procedures
- e) Advise the Stewards and Veterinary Officer if the requirements and procedures outlined in BHAGI 12 are not being complied with and, in the judgement of the SRVS, horse welfare would be compromised.

Where a Managing Executive has been found in breach of Rule (B)45 in respect of a matter or matters within the scope of the duties of the SRVS the BHA will normally notify the Managing Executive that they may not employ the SRVS in this capacity until they have successfully completed a further training for SRVSs agreed to by the BHA. Where such notification is given, the Managing Executive may continue to employ the person, but only as an RVS. This restriction will apply across all racecourse.

Standing Orders (SO)

Standing Orders (SO) are to be prepared for veterinary services on the racecourse following completion of the ARA and in consultation with the Designated SRVS and VO liaison, detailing:

- a) The organisation and operation of all of the veterinary services on the racecourse
- b) deployment and location of the RVS at the start, during and after each race and for a Starting Stalls Test
- c) redeployment of RVSs during or following an incident
- d) deployment and location of the Horse Ambulance and Recovery Vehicle.
- e) veterinary communication systems including flags, telephone and radio protocol, including back-up systems and confidentiality (consider the use of earpieces)
- f) bypassing procedures
- g) detailed plan of the racecourse clearly showing vehicle access points, parking points, location of VTB/ VHB screens and water provision
- h) procedure for the euthanasia of injured horses
- i) procedure for elective euthanasia
- j) procedure for radiography with reference to radiation safety guidelines
- k) procedure for endoscopy
- l) emergency management procedures sufficient to ensure that all personnel involved in veterinary care are aware of their duties
- m) preventative measures and contingency planning to manage equine warm weather/ exercise related incidents.
- n) a list of all the Veterinary Staff employed by the racecourse with primary contact details and those of the Horse Ambulance and Recovery Vehicle provider where appropriate
- o) list of Veterinary Centres of Excellence capable of receiving and treating racecourse casualties
- p) any dispensations from the BHA
- q) month and year updated.

Copies of the SOs, signed by a nominated representative of the Managing Executive, are to be issued to the VO, the RVSs and the drivers of the Horse Ambulance and Recovery Vehicle. A further copy is to be available in the Weighing Room. A copy of the current SO should also be sent to the Director of Equine Health and Welfare before the course's first meeting of the year (or by 1st March at the latest).

The Managing Executive must ensure that the SOs are complied with in all respects for every race meeting. In addition, a copy of this BHAGI is to be issued to the RVSs.

Note: The Managing Executive, under the Rules of Racing and in signing the Racecourse Licence Application Form, is responsible at all times for ensuring its employees, servants and agents (including self-employed and professional persons engaged to provide services) comply with and discharge their obligations and duties in accordance with the BHAGIs.

Race Day Aide-Memoire for SRVS

On arrival

1. Report arrival to the nominated representative of the Managing Executive
2. Collect radio and confirm the RVS frequency

60 minutes before racing – checks/ inspections

3. Confirm arrival of all Veterinary Staff
4. Ensure any starting stalls test is attended by an RVS
5. Confirm the equipment and supplies in the following locations are BHAGI 12 compliant, or delegate this role to another clinician
 - each RVS bag
 - the VTB
 - the Horse Ambulance
6. Ensure that all Veterinary Staff have previously been given a copy of the current SO and BHAGI 12
7. Not later than 45 minutes before the first race, carry out a veterinary briefing and radio check with all Veterinary Staff, Head Ground Staff and where available VO.

Briefing (to be concluded at least 45 minutes before the start of the first race)

8. Ensure that all Veterinary Staff, and where available VO, are in attendance
9. Ensure that the arrangements for each race are discussed, and that all Veterinary Staff are aware of the nature and location of their duties
10. Ensure that all Veterinary Staff are aware of the exact arrangements for bypassing on that race day
11. Ensure that RVSs are identifiable during racing
12. Ensure that communication arrangements are clearly understood and that all radios are working. RVSs are to be reminded that radio transmission is not a confidential network and therefore sensitive veterinary information should only be transmitted by telephone (landline or mobile).
13. Deploy Veterinary Staff

30 minutes before the time of the first race

14. Confirm with the nominated representative of the Managing Executive that veterinary arrangements comply in full with BHAGI 12 and the Standing Orders.
15. Contact the SRMO and ensure Medical and Veterinary deployment is agreed

During racing

16. Ensure that an RVS is available to attend the Parade Ring and remain in (or immediately adjacent to) the Parade Ring until all horses have left the area.
17. Ensure that an RVS attends every Start and, before every race, reports to the Starter on arrival to confirm that all veterinary arrangements are in place and that the race may proceed
18. Ensure that an RVS responds to every on-course incident, if it is safe to do so, within one minute
19. Ensure that an RVS supervises the pull-up area and is able to respond quickly to any incident until all horses have left the track
20. Ensure that an RVS attends the VTB or a clearly marked place after each race to be available should veterinary services be required.

After racing

21. Ensure that all horses that have received treatment have VO19 forms completed, that one copy is given to the connections and one to the VO.
22. Ensure full communication has occurred to the trainer or senior representative and/ or the home veterinary surgeon regarding the nature of injury and treatment and any ongoing care required.
23. Stand down Veterinary Staff
 - a) Ensuring that a RVS remains on site, in the vicinity of the stables, for a minimum of 30 minutes after the last race checks in with the stable office prior to leaving.
 - b) Horse Ambulance and Recovery Vehicle do not leave until cleared to do so

RACECOURSE VETERINARY GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

In order to assist Racecourse Managers, Clerks of the Course and Racecourse Veterinary Surgeons, the RCA has compiled a compendium of veterinary guidance Documents available at <https://racecourseassociation.co.uk/member-resources/>