



BRITISH THOROUGHBRED INDUSTRY'S COMMITMENT TO CONTINUOUS ENHANCEMENT IN SANITARY AND BIO-SECURITY STANDARDS

The British thoroughbred industry, alongside its primary trading partners, France and Ireland, has long maintained sanitary and disease control standards well in excess of those required under existing or upcoming EU law.

These are underpinned by a commitment to international [Codes of Practice](#) published by the UK's Horserace Betting Levy Board which are the international standard. The industry also adheres to the [International Agreement on Breeding, Racing and Wagering](#) set down by the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA). In turn, this has facilitated the frictionless and safe movement of over 20,000 Thoroughbreds annually between these three countries, governed previously by the Tripartite Agreement.

The British Thoroughbred Industry remains wholly committed to maintaining and further improving these standards for international movement in the future. Its Horse Welfare Board's [strategic plan 2020-2024](#) for the welfare of horses bred for racing:

“recognises and emphasises that effective disease prevention, control and treatment, and robust biosecurity are essential in ensuring the welfare and quality of life of horses bred for racing. This is of the utmost importance and an area in which the industry performs well at macro level...The Horse Welfare Board has confidence that policies relating to disease control are informed by the latest information and opinion....The Animal Health Trust (AHT)¹, with its Levy-supported equine disease surveillance programmes and strong record of international collaboration, underlines the strength of investment in veterinary research made possible by the Levy....We underline the importance of continual disease control, research and surveillance and of the need to make changes and improvements as appropriate, e.g. in acting on credible new research and data, or in ensuring that protocols addressing new and evolving vector-borne diseases are collated, readily implementable and effective. We also emphasise the need for the industry to retain its focus on, and investment in, this area”.

Development and promotion of our pioneering work in areas such as e-passports, digital solutions for vaccination records and movement recordings will help underpin and raise equine health and welfare standards.

In order to protect the trade in Thoroughbreds which is of such value both to the UK and to many EU Member States, it is our intent to work through the Sanitary and Phytosanitary joint committee, established under the EU/UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement, to seek agreement, based on the principle of reciprocity, on reducing the non-tariff barriers to trade.

Further barriers will result from the implementation of the EU's Animal Health Law in its present form which we are also working to address, maintaining and further improving sanitary standards.

¹ The British Thoroughbred industry is in the final stage of a commercial tender for an enhanced disease testing and surveillance programme, following the closure of the AHT in 2020.