



BRITISH HORSERACING AUTHORITY

JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE: Veterinary Officer
REPORTS TO: Senior Veterinary Officer (Region)
LAST REVIEWED: March 2023

ROLE PURPOSE:

An equine veterinary surgeon dedicated to safeguarding the integrity of horse racing and promoting the highest standards of welfare of the racing Thoroughbred.

DIMENSIONS:

Departments – Equine Regulation, Safety and Welfare

PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

General Management and Leadership Responsibilities

- Oversee a team of Equine Welfare and Integrity Officers (EWIOs) on Raceday
- Provide professional input as required to other BHA Raceday teams

Role Specific Responsibilities

Raceday

- **Horse Identification**
 - Oversee microchip identification of all horses by EWIOs
 - Oversee the identification of horses and address any discrepancies
- **Control of infectious disease**
 - Scrutiny of equine passports to establish Equine Influenza vaccination status
 - Vigilance for horses exhibiting symptoms of endemic diseases (e.g. Equine Influenza, Ringworm etc.) and for those exhibiting symptoms of exotic diseases.
 - Appropriate management of symptomatic horses
- **Clinical examinations**
 - Download the fixture's Welfare Report to establish a list of runners with previous significant clinical history
 - Conduct clinical examinations on horses that meet agreed criteria
 - Observation of runners in the Parade Ring and on the way to the Start to ensure fitness to race.
 - Conduct post-race clinical examinations on injured horses, underperforming horses and those where welfare may have been compromised.
 - Monitor veterinary facilities and personnel, ensuring that all injured horses are examined and treated appropriately and in a timely fashion before leaving the Racecourse.
 - Ability to provide emergency back-up veterinary cover as required.
 - Record all Raceday injuries to maintain an accurate injury database.

- Facilitate Post Mortem Examinations as required.
- **Anti-doping and Medication Control**
 - Oversee the routine sampling of horses, ensuring Standard Operating Procedures are met
 - Ensure that Sampling Unit personnel know and perform their duties to a high standard
 - Provide guidance as to restrictions on substances, treatment and equipment on racecourse premises
 - Monitor hygiene in Racecourse Stables, highlighting potentially contaminated boxes to the Stable Manager
- **Communication**
 - Notify line manager (or Director of Equine Regulation, Safety and Welfare) of potentially controversial matters arising on Raceday.
 - BHA Raceday Teams-
 - Raceday Team briefing (testing strategy, at risk horses, fractious horses)
 - Report relevant findings of clinical examinations discreetly
 - Advise Starters as required regarding withdrawal of at-risk horses
 - Provide evidence in Stewards Enquiries when requested
 - Racecourse Veterinary Surgeons
 - Ensure timely, accurate and discreet communication regarding injured horses
 - Connections
 - Ensure Connections of injured horses are updated appropriately
 - Act as a conduit between Racecourse Veterinary Surgeons and Trainers to establish the outcome of racing injuries.

Non Raceday

- Visit licensed yards:
 - Out of Competition Testing
 - International Runner/Permanent Import Testing
 - Late Foal Registration Testing
 - Investigation of intelligence-based welfare concerns
- VO liaison duties – provide support to allocated Clerks of Courses to ensure that the veterinary aspects of BHAGIs are met.
- Attend Point to Point fixtures to perform regulatory duties (sampling, identification/vaccination checks, inspection of veterinary facilities)
- Involvement in clinical research projects associated with advancing equine welfare in the horseracing industry
- Continuous Professional Development to maintain a high standard of clinical expertise and knowledge of equine veterinary medicine, including attending the Casualty Management Seminar (Association of Racecourse Veterinary Surgeons) at regular intervals.
- Critically appraise colleagues to encourage and maintain high standards and consistency within the Equine Health & Welfare department.

As the needs of the business change rapidly this role will change accordingly, therefore this document should be viewed as guidelines which are subject to change.

PERSON SPECIFICATION:

QUALIFICATIONS/EDUCATION

- Membership of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
- Postgraduate equine-specific qualification desirable

EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

COMPETENCIES

- Considerable relevant equine veterinary experience and clinical competence
- Specific interest in equine welfare
- A keen interest and understanding of the British Horseracing Industry
- A thorough knowledge of those BHA Rules and Instructions that relate to veterinary integrity and equine welfare
- Awareness of the key objectives of the BHA
- Awareness of current animal welfare legislation
- Excellent communication skills
- Ability to manage and resolve conflict
- Ability to influence and persuade a variety of stakeholders to obtain consensus
- Ability to supervise professional colleagues and racing participants and provide leadership when required
- Ability to manage own time effectively
- Computer literate
- Good administration skills

PERSONAL QUALITIES

- Acts with integrity and honesty at all times
- Reliable
- Solution-focused
- Resilient
- Compassionate
- Diplomatic
- Discreet approach to sensitive information
- Able to work with minimum supervision and maintain high levels of self-motivation
- Excellent inter-personal, motivational and team working skills, with a proven ability to form and work successfully in partnerships
- Willingness to follow agreed protocols to maintain a consistent team approach
- Ability to maintain a culture that is in line with BHA Values and Code of Conduct

CIRCUMSTANCES

- Full valid driving licence
- Requirement to travel to all British Racecourses (usually regional focus)
- Occasional obligation to stay away from home for major meetings and operations
- The nature of horse racing dictates that duties will be performed during weekdays, evenings, weekends and holidays and therefore will require the job-holder to work outside of normal working hours.