



**DESERT INTERNATIONAL HORSE PARK**  
**EQUINE BIOSECURITY PROTOCOLS**  
**2024/2025 SEASON**

**Requirements and Best Practices for Accessing and Competing  
at the Desert International Horse Park**

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## PART I: Mandatory Requirements for Accessing the Desert International Horse Park

### 1. Entering the Desert International Horse Park (DIHP)

- a) All horses entering and staying at the Horse Park must be entered in the horse show, registered/recorded (with a USEF, FEI, and/or Equine Canada horse ID number), and have an assigned DIHP 2024/2025 back number.
- b) Horses competing exclusively in FEI classes and accessing the Horse Park must go directly to FEI stabling and follow FEI entry protocols.
- c) **All CALIFORNIA owners/trainers must submit the following documents to enter the Horse Park a minimum of 48 hours in advance of arrival for all horses entering the Horse Park:**
  - i) **Equine health declaration document** signed by the owner/trainer, within 5 days of horse(s) arrival at DIHP, stating each horse indicating has not had a fever (defined by greater than 101.5°F) or disease within the 72 hours before arrival, has not been exposed to or treated for a fever of unknown origin within the past 30 days. Any horse tested for EHV-1 in the 30 days has tested negative twice for EHV-1 in the last 30 days by an accredited testing facility.
  - ii) **No USDA-accredited CVIs are required for horses originating/residing in the State of California to enter Desert International Horse Park at this time. No Coggins tests are required to be submitted for California horses.**
  - iii) **USEF vaccination declaration document** signed by the owner/trainer for each horse that the horse is compliant with all vaccination requirements of USEF GR 844 (supporting documents required to be in hand). GR 844 requires that at Federation-licensed competitions, horses more than seven (7) months of age entering the grounds must be accompanied by documentation of Equine Influenza Virus and Equine Herpes Virus (Rhinopneumonitis) vaccinations within six (6) months before entering the stables. **No grace period for expired vaccinations will be allowed.**
  - iv) After completing a mandatory arrival submission, the requested documents may be uploaded onto our document submission platform. Entrants will be required to read and acknowledge the practices and protocols in place at the Horse Park. See page 5 for the aforementioned portal links on our website.
- d) **All Out-of-State/Non-California and International horses must submit the following documents to enter the Horse Park a minimum of 48 hours in advance of arrival for all horses entering the Horse Park:**
  - i) **Official State Issued or Approved International Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI)** with an inspection date, by an accredited veterinarian, within seven (7) to ten (10) days of arrival for out-of-state horses and 14 days for international horses. For horses entering from outside the State of California, a CVI and a valid Coggins test performed within the previous 12 months are required to enter the state. Health certificates issued in Canada that meet USDA requirements for entering the United States will be accepted for entry into the DIHP. **Every CVI must include the following statement:**
    - (1) **"I declare that the horse listed below is not demonstrating any signs of EHV-1, has not had any known exposure to EHV-1 in the past 30 days, and is not coming from a property with known EHV-1 positive cases."**
  - ii) **Equine health declaration document** signed by the owner/trainer, within 5 days of horse(s) arrival at DIHP, stating each horse indicating has not had a fever (defined by greater than

101.5°F) or disease within the 72 hours before arrival, has not been exposed to or treated for a fever of unknown origin within the past 30 days, and any horse that has tested for EHV-1 in the 30 days has tested negative twice for EHV-1 in the last 30 days by an accredited testing facility.

- iii) **USEF vaccination declaration document** signed by the owner/trainer for each horse that the horse is compliant with all vaccination requirements of USEF GR 844 (supporting documents required to be in hand). GR 844 requires that at Federation-licensed competitions, horses more than seven (7) months of age entering the grounds must be accompanied by documentation of Equine Influenza Virus and Equine Herpes Virus (Rhinopneumonitis) vaccinations within six (6) months before entering the stables. **No grace period for expired vaccinations will be allowed.**
- iv) When the above documents are submitted, entrants must read and acknowledge the practices and protocols at the Horse Park.
- e) **All owners/trainers must sign up for a scheduled arrival time via [www.deserthorsepark.com](http://www.deserthorsepark.com) at least 48 hours in advance. Upon arrival, the Driver must present a list of horses on board that matches the documentation submitted to the Horse Park. Depending on the risk, as determined by DIHP, USEF, and CDFA, all arriving horses may receive a visual inspection for signs of infectious diseases.**

Click [here](#) to access the online **arrival submission platform**.

Click [here](#) to access the online **document submission platform**

- f) Upon arrival, documents will be matched to the horses on the van. Temperature charts will be provided and should be placed on each stall door. The trainer/owner is responsible for adding the horse's name and back number to each temperature chart. DIHP personnel will inspect the temperature charts regularly.
- g) **Horses leaving the property and returning must complete updated arrival submissions and declarations of health statements for re-entry as follows:**
  - i) Horses leaving and returning within five (5) days of leaving DIHP may return with updated declarations and/or vaccination records, assuming the vaccinations are valid through the circuit. An additional inspection of the horse may occur upon entry.
  - ii) **If the horse competes as a daily haul-in, temperature checks must be conducted off-grounds and available upon request throughout the competition. In addition, an updated declaration of health for all horses must be completed each week. Horses may be inspected daily. All daily haul-in horses are required to have a temporary stall on site. Haul-in horses are no longer allowed to be left alone in our parking lots or remain on trailers during their stay at DIHP.**
  - iii) **Horses leaving one circuit week and returning for another circuit week, you must complete a new arrival submission and document submission including a new declaration of health and vaccination forms.**
- h) **If documents aren't available for pre-submission, they may be presented at the gate, which can delay inspection and unloading. If documentation is missing or unavailable, DIHP reserves the right to refuse entry to the Horse Park or to require the horses to proceed to a designated area until the completed documentation is submitted -- up to a maximum of 24 hours. After 24 hours, any horses not meeting documentation requirements must leave the Horse Park.**

## PART II: Requirements for Monitoring Horses at the Horse Park

### 2. Monitoring Your Horses While at the Horse Park

#### a. INITIAL MONITORING REQUESTED DURING ARRIVAL AT THE HORSE SHOW

- i. Temperature checks for horses will not be conducted upon arrival at the front gate of the Horse Park. Additionally, 3-day temperature logs are not required to be presented at the front gate.
- ii. Upon arrival at the designated barn/tent, the DIHP temperature chart with all required information should be placed on the stall door for verification. Horses may change stall locations, but the temperature chart must also be moved.
- iii. Once a horse is settled in, a first temperature check should occur before leaving the stall for initial work. This initial check should occur within 3 to 6 hours of arrival.
- iv. If an initial temperature check reveals a fever (defined as 101.5°F if the horse is not on an NSAID or 101.1°F if the horse is on an NSAID or other temperature-suppressing medication), then DHIP should be notified, and the horse should remain in the stall until a subsequent temperature is taken by the show veterinarian or the biosecurity officer.  
The show vet and biosecurity officer must be informed of the initial elevated temperature by a USEF mandatory fever reporting rule effective December 1, 2024. Non-compliance would be a violation of this USEF rule. DIHP may test for EHV-1 after the first or second temperature check if other clinical signs are present. DIHP reserves the right to isolate and/or test any horse with a fever and/or clinical signs for EHV-1 or other infectious diseases.

#### b. DAILY MONITORING OF HORSES DURING THE HORSE SHOW

- i. Twice daily temperature checks, morning and evening, are requested during the horse's stay at the horse park and should be recorded on the temp chart located on the stall door of each horse. Temperatures should be taken before any exercise.
- ii. Trainers/owners are required by the USEF mandatory reporting rule to notify the show vet and the show office of a horse with an elevated temperature per a new mandatory USEF rule (defined as 101.5°F if the horse is not on an NSAID, or 101.1°F if the horse is on an NSAID or other temperature-suppressing medication). If a horse has an elevated temperature, it must stay in its assigned stall. If the horse has no other clinical signs, it will likely be required to stay in its stall, and a temperature will be taken 4-6 hours later. If the horse remains febrile (exhibiting an elevated temperature as described above) or shows signs of infectious disease, the show veterinarian or biosecurity officer must be notified immediately.
- iii. DIHP reserves the right to isolate and test any horse with a fever and/or clinical signs for EHV-1 and other infectious diseases. At any time, if the DIHP show veterinarian, the biosecurity veterinarian, and/or competition management deems that a febrile horse

may pose an infectious disease risk, the horse shall be moved to isolation to protect the health of the horse and the general health of the equine population on the competition grounds. If the trainer and/or owner refuse to send the horse to DIHP isolation, the horse and its cohorts may be asked to leave the competition grounds immediately by DIHP management. All isolation horses will be released upon the collective decision of the DIHP show, biosecurity veterinarian, competition management, and USEF.

- iv. During the next seven (7) days, the show vet or horse show biosecurity officer will oversee the temperature check of all horses in the trainer's cohort to ensure no additional fevers develop. If additional horses are febrile or displaying clinical signs of infectious disease, additional horses may be required to report to the isolation area.

## **PART III: Desert International Horse Park Biosecurity Practices**

### **3. Biosecurity Practices During the Horse Show**

#### **a. Overall Biosecurity Practices**

- i. A nighttime curfew will be in place each evening at 9:00 p.m. Noise must be kept to a minimum in the barn/tent area, and unnecessary lights will be turned off.
- ii. Hand sanitizing stations will be maintained by the Horse Park at each barn/tent entry and ringside. All individuals working with horses are encouraged to clean their hands as frequently as possible.
- iii. To the best extent possible, tack, rider clothing, horse tools/rags, etc., should be dedicated to a unique horse and not shared across horses.
- iv. Grooms, riders, and trainers should keep space between horses throughout the property and avoid sharing rags, buckets, etc., between horses.
- v. The Horse Park will clean and disinfect common areas, including wash racks, shade structures, hoses, etc.
- vi. Signage will be located throughout the Horse Park detailing best practices and required protocols.
- vii. DIHP will also perform vector control throughout the barns, tents, and other populated areas.

#### **b. Biosecurity Practices Across Trainer Cohorts**

- i. Access to each barn/tent should be limited to individuals with horses in the respective barn/tent.
- ii. Grooms, trainers, and riders should take every precaution to avoid contamination across trainer groups. This includes not sharing any tack, cleaning material, brushes, etc., even when it's the "nice" thing to do.
- iii. When crossing trainer groups, grooms/trainers/riders are encouraged to change clothes and practice basic cleaning procedures, such as washing and/or disinfecting hands, boots, etc.

#### **c. Biosecurity Practices at the Ring and/or Other Common Areas**

- i. Grooms/riders/trainers should try to keep space between horses.
- ii. Extreme caution should be taken by those handling/riding horses to avoid contamination between horses. To the extent possible, tack should not be shared across horses. Riders moving from one horse to another horse should clean their hands with soap and water

- or disinfectant. Materials used to care for horses, e.g., towels or rags for wiping noses, should not be shared between horses.
- iii. Cleaning/sanitizing stations will be located throughout the competition area for grooms/trainers/riders to use.
  - d. **Biosecurity Practices for Third-Party Providers (including vets, grooms, farriers, braiders, night check, equine spa service, horse exerciser etc.)**
    - i. All third-party providers operating within the Horse Park are required to disinfect their tools and work areas before moving between barns, tents, and trainer groups.
    - ii. Braiders, vets, farriers, and night checkers are required to clean and disinfect their hands, clothing, and shoes between horses.
    - iii. Night check is required to disinfect their shoes between barns/tents and use PPE if working with an individual horse.
    - iv. Equine spa service vendors must sanitize spas after each usage, have separate handling equipment for each horse, and require spa employees to sanitize hands, clothing, and shoes between horses.
    - v. The IDA horse walker will be available for use by trainers/horses on the property. Only horses from the same barn may use the horse walker at the same time. IDA is required to disinfect the horse walker when subsequent horses are from a different barn..
    - vi. All third-party providers shall maintain a list of horses worked on, which must be provided to management or state officials upon request in the event of an infectious disease incursion.
  - e. **Biosecurity Practices at Vet and Farrier Stations**
    - i. Cleaning stations will be set up at the vet clinic and the farrier station.
    - ii. Vets and farriers are required to clean and disinfect (including shoes) between horses.
    - iii. The Horse Park will regularly clean and disinfect the vet clinic and farrier station using a long-term disinfectant.
  - f. **Rules for FEI**
    - i. Standard [FEI protocols](#) for FEI competing horses must be followed, in addition to adherence to DIHP protocols.

## **PART IV: Procedures in the Event of a Positive EHV-1/EHM Horse(s)**

### **4. What Happens If a Horse Tests Positive for EHV-1?**

- a. Should a febrile horse test positive on a rapid test for EHV-1, the horse will be moved to an isolation barn. A confirmatory PCR test will be conducted, and the horse will be in isolation while waiting for the results.
- b. A horse must have two negative EHV-1 tests separated by seven (7) days to be released from isolation. Once that has occurred, the horse will be returned to its stall and is free to return to exercise and competition at the discretion of the horse owner/trainer/horse vet. The trainer/owner of a horse testing positive for EHV-1 may elect to have the horse undergo isolation at home, subject to adherence to recommended guidelines from the show veterinarian and biosecurity officer.



- c. Additional biosecurity protocols will be implemented for the cohort (barn/tent) of the positive horse as necessary. Temperature checks will be monitored by the show vet and/or the show biosecurity officer for seven (7) days or at the discretion of the biosecurity officer. Access to the cohort (barn/tent) may be limited and enforced by the Horse Park. Foot baths and additional stall disinfectant applications may be available at the discretion of Horse Park. These precautions may remain in place if necessary for seven (7) days, assuming no additional febrile horses have been identified. Asymptomatic horses within the cohort will be free to exercise and compete during this period.
- d. Should additional horses from the cohort become febrile, they will be tested for EHV-1 at their stall via a rapid test. If the horses test negative, the horses with an elevated temperature must stay in their stall until a subsequent negative test by an accredited laboratory occurs 48 hours later. If the second test is negative and the febrile horse has no abnormal clinical signs, a discussion between the show veterinarian, biosecurity veterinarian, and competition management in conjunction with USEF will determine how to proceed.
- e. Should a second horse in a cohort test positive for EHV-1, the entire cohort will be under Horse Park quarantine until seven (days) after the positive horses have cleared isolation and no other horses in the cohort are febrile or are showing clinical signs. All horses in the cohort will be required to stay in their stalls. Positive horses will be relocated to isolation. Horses will be monitored until no additional fevers have been identified and all positive EHV-1 horses from that cohort have been cleared. During this time, the Horse Park will conduct additional monitoring of the barn/tent. The Horse Park quarantine procedures include fencing around the barn/tent, security, and limited access. Exercise arrangements may be limited and will be made at the discretion of the Horse Park.

## **5. What Happens if We Have a Case of EHM?**

- a. If a febrile horse (or EHV-1 positive) demonstrates additional clinical signs consistent with EHM, the horse will immediately be moved to an isolation tent, and the USEF and CDFA will be notified. The horse will be subjected to a rapid EHV-1 test. Should the horse test negative, the horse will remain in isolation until a confirmatory PCR test has occurred 48 hours later by the CDFA lab.
- b. During this time, the barn/tent will be placed under precautionary biosecurity protocols, including foot baths, vet-monitored temperature checks, and further limited access.
- c. If the horse tests positive for EHV-1, the CDFA will immediately test it for EHM. If the horse tests positive for EHM, the CDFA will assume responsibility for quarantine and other protocols until the Horse Park is cleared.

## **6. What Happens if a Horse Shows Signs of Vesicular Stomatitis (VS)?**

- a. The affected horse will be immediately moved to our isolation area, and all cohorts will be examined for similar lesions. The CDFA and USEF will be notified, and the affected horse will be tested for VSV. All further actions taken by DIHP will be determined upon consultation with the CDFA and USEF.

## Part V: Working Together to Keep Horses Safe to Keep Horses Safe

### 7. DIHP – Our Part

- a. The DIHP has hired a biosecurity officer who is a licensed veterinarian. Importantly, our biosecurity officer is not on the grounds to treat horses. The show vet, East-West Equine Sports Medicine, is responsible, along with your vet, for treating your horses. The biosecurity officer will guide the implementation of protocols, obtain feedback, assist when needed, and ensure all involved, from Horse Park staff to participants, are doing what is necessary daily to ensure the health and well-being of all horses on Horse Park grounds.
- b. We will ensure the Horse Park is regularly cleaned and sanitized, especially in high-traffic areas. Importantly, all stalls have been disinfected and tested before horse arrival. Whenever the occupant of a stall changes, we will repeat the disinfecting process. You can be assured they are as clean as we can make them. Please let us know if you find something that is not clean or have concerns.
- c. We will implement rigorous vector management control to reduce the risk presented by flies, gnats, etc.
- d. We will ensure we are ready if a horse gets sick with EHV-1. We have learned much about the best practices for treating horses and know that our veterinary partners at East-West Sports Medicine are well-trained and prepared. We'll support them and ensure that all the supplies and medicine needed are on the grounds for immediate use.
- e. DIHP will report all horses entering isolation to the USEF as required. All positive cases of EHV-1 to USEF, and all cases of EHM to USEF and CDFA.
- f. Any decision to limit, postpone, or cancel a competition and subsequent decisions to resume competition will be made in consultation with USEF and CDFA.

### 8. Participants – Your Part

- a. If you suspect a horse with an elevated temperature may be sick, do not bring it to the Horse Park until things are resolved. If your horse becomes sick at the Horse Park, immediately alert the show vet, biosecurity officer, and competition management per USEF requirements. The single most important thing that can be done is to isolate sick horses as quickly as possible and care for them appropriately. It is good for the horse and good for all the other horses as well. The Horse Park staff are here to assist you.
- b. While at the Horse Park, practice common sense and good hygiene protocols.