



## **COVID19 Coronavirus Measures for WWAED Equine Dentists that choose to work 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020**

Equine dentistry should still be performed to ensure that the welfare of the animal is maintained. It is still possible to perform equine dentistry safely, so, should any of our members choose to undertake work in this time, we have defined a set of good practise guidelines. These guidelines are based upon common sense and our experience from the previous lockdown. These guidelines will help to minimise risk and ensure that all work is performed responsibly.

- ✓ If anybody at a location is self-isolating, is classified as vulnerable or has clinical signs consistent with COVID-19 Coronavirus, then any visit should not take place.
- ✓ Initial discussions should be made via telephone to ascertain:
  - The medical status of personnel at the yard
  - Reason for the visit
  - Dental history of the horse
  - The logistics of the yard – layout, parking
  - Optimum visiting time
  - Opportunity to arrive and go straight to the animal and not need to knock, be greeted or have to wait around on the yard
- ✓ When the dentist arrives at the yard, they will not shake hands and will maintain a social distance of around 2 metres. This includes around the horse and around their vehicle. This is not meant personally but will help ensure that any potential for the spread of the virus is minimised.
- ✓ There should only be one person to handle the horse, who should wear suitable PPE (in line with government guidelines), and if the disposition of the horse allows, the equine dentist may be happy to handle the horse themselves. This should be agreed in the initial phone call.
- ✓ All dentists should utilise their existing hygiene processes and may introduce extra measures. These could include changing of clothing, gloves, towels and disinfecting all equipment. Masks or face coverings should be worn in line with government guidelines.
- ✓ Your equine dentist is advised to use sanitiser wherever possible to reduce the need to utilise the washing facilities at the yard. The dentist should sanitise before entering the yard and when leaving the yard and before and after each horse
- ✓ Your dentist will manage all their equipment including carrying to and from the vehicle.
- ✓ Payment should be via bank transfer or card machine, wherever possible. All payment equipment should be sanitised before and after every use.
- ✓ The WWAED would like to reassure all horse owners that all WWAED equine dentists will follow good practise procedures in order to minimise the spread of COVID-19 Coronavirus and to protect everybody while still ensuring that your horse gets the treatment that they need.

**There is a nationwide lockdown beginning 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020 to help reduce the spread of the COVID19 Coronavirus and these measures will allow any equine dentists who provide treatment to a horse, during this period, to play their part.**