

As Swine Flu reaches pandemic proportions across the globe, a new scientific advance aims to protect horses (and hounds) from similar viral threats.

With recent warnings from the British Horseracing Authority (BHA) that the UK's horse population is under constant threat from diseases such as strangles and equine flu the timing seems perfect for the launch of a revolutionary new environmental defence that promises to significantly reduce the risk of equine infections spreading.

Equi-Shield is released as a 'mist' in horseboxes, trailers and stables, instantly coating all surfaces with a microscopic layer that destroys any viruses, germs or bacteria. It is effective against equine flu, ringworm, swine flu, bird flu and is being tested now for strangles. It even destroys the MRSA virus whilst being perfectly safe for animals and humans. It has been proven that people in the equine industries are more susceptible to cross contamination from horses.

Penny Cruttwell BHSI, a specialist showjumping trainer, was so impressed with the system that she became a director of Brandwell Ltd., the company bringing the product to market. Brandwell is a unique training centre that thinks 'outside the horsebox' and, as a specialist in coaching and horse management, Penny recognises that sanitation is paramount to healthy horses, "**Cases of Swine-Flu have now reached pandemic proportions in the human population and even threatened both players and staff during the Wimbledon championship. We must remember that horses are athletes too and spend a lot of time in close contact with each other and being transported in confined conditions**".

Equi-Shield is supplied as a simple canister that releases the protective mist into the air. Thirty minutes after release the surfaces are totally dry and protected.

Explaining the technology Penny adds "**In simple terms Equi-Shield destroys microbes in the same way that soap bubbles 'pop' when they land on the lawn. It just creates a surface environment that microbes can't survive on. And it stays there, actively destroying dangerous microbes for up to 30 days. This is a massive advance in allowing us all to fulfil our duty of care to the animals we work with and protect, our clients expect nothing less**".

Christine Brander is Managing Director of Brandwell Ltd. "**Equi-Shield significantly, and permanently, reduces cross-contamination threats from microbial diseases. We are working closely with experts at the highest level. Put simply, Equi-Shield is the first broad-use application of Residual Barrier Technology (RBT) in the protection from equine diseases**".

Christine has a long interest in horses and is obviously excited about the possibilities ahead for animal welfare "**It means that a stable, horsebox or closed environment can be totally protected from any surface-based transmission of diseases such as equine flu, herpes or Ringworm for a significant period after application. This is a major and exciting health-protection advance in the housing and transportation of horses**".

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Christine Brander is also a director of Die-Pat Holdings, a company with four decades of experience working closely with the food and hygiene industries.
