

Traveling Abroad Tips

1 Year from Travel:

- Have valid Equine and Human Passport
- Have clarification on Qualification rules (if traveling for World Championships)

3 Months from travel date:

- Have vaccines up to date in horse/pony's passport. Most airlines/countries recommend vaccines done within 90 days. (Flu/Rhino/WN/EEE, WEE, TET)
- Check validation sticker date on Passport. Make sure it is good through return date from Europe to the USA. (Revalidations can be done at any time via the USEF)

2-3 Months from travel:

- Set up travel date with Flight agent of choice. Dates vary due to flight availability. They will begin paperwork, start the carnet and hold a spot for horse/pony.

**Don't hesitate to ask any and all questions to your Flight Agent. They know the minute things change and will give you advice as things change.

1 Month from travel (within 30 days)

- Domestic Health Certificate for traveling from home state to state of flight departure is needed
- EIA/Coggins tests are now required within a 30-day window. Confirm with Flight Agent if any changes to protocol have been happened.

10 days from Travel

- International Health Certificate needs to be drawn and sent to USDA per the instructions of flight agent. It is only valid for 10 days so it's recommended to take delays into considerations and count from 7 days. (Flight agents will confirm days/dates)
- Export blood test requirements vary with the year and USDA requirements.
- If horse/pony has not been imported, drawing import blood upon export is recommended
 - Flight Agent will give you blood tests to test for, paperwork and advise your vet where to send them.
 - Tests include Dourine, Glanders, Piroplasmosis, EIA and may include different tests as well, depending on the changes in the USDA.

Day of Travel (Most flights require horses/ponies to be at preflight quarantine a minimum of 12 hours prior to departure)

-Travel preparation: These might have to be repeated if laying over before flight. Example: traveling a long distance from respective home barn to layover barn, then layover barn to airport quarantine.

- Gastric support of your choosing (Examples: oral probiotics, beet pulp-based hydration mashes, alfalfa/chaff meals/outlast, omeprazole, ranitidine, sucralfate if recommended by treating vet) This also helps to prepare for hay and feed changes within the trip.

-Half sized meals, wet meals just before travel

-Water additives to promote drinking if preferred (Horse Quencher, electrolytes, hydration hay)

-Oral electrolyte tubes if flying in extreme heat or horse/ponies are prone to slow water intake while traveling.

Travelling Tips and Things to Consider:

-Horse clothing:

-Best to keep body temperatures cool, especially when traveling in summer. Easily accessible sheets/coolers are a bonus upon arrival to prevent chills from extreme temperature changes

-Shipping Boots/Bandages:

-Most Flight companies forbid hind leg bandages or boots on horses that have never flown before. If someone that is responsible for horses (owner/groom) takes responsibility for anything that might go wrong, they will allow it. But when in doubt, leave it off.

-Fly them as they are used to traveling long distance, **don't change what works**. Naked, bell boots, full boots, just front boots, bandages, etc.

- Flying in protective head gear, fleece protection recommended.

-Ensure well-fitting halters, leaving no option for slipping out while in transit.

-Braided tails are personal preference. Tail guards aren't highly recommended as the neoprene can cause rubs, heat and irritation as they generally will be wearing them on the container for 12-18 hours.

-Upon landing, once horses are accessible, have a wet meal (wet feed ration, beet pulp mash, handimash/replenishmash/stress free, etc.) available to them before they continue on the next transport to final destination.

-Have a Travel/Arrival Bag (can double as 'Oh St, emergency' bag)**

-Suggested contents

-1-2 thermometers

- Electrolyte paste/probiotic paste
- Ziploc bag of chosen water additive to encourage drinking
- NSAID paste for emergencies
- Vet materials for wounds (gauze, vet wrap, elasticon, rubber gloves, general, non-doping antibiotic cream)
- Duct tape, electrical tape
- Brush/comb/towel for long delays
- Oral sedation

****Flight companies will always have an attendant on board that has oral Dexamethasone in case of emergencies.**

****If any treatment is necessary, make sure the Team USA vet is notified directly so they are aware of treatments given and medical forms can be processed if needed**

Equipment Packing:

*Plastic rolling trunks with locks and large duffle bags are the easiest/most efficient way to pack. Number trunks and make a key so you know what is where. DO NOT LABEL TRUNKS WITH ANYTHING OTHER THAN NAME/PHONE NUMBER.

-For essential supplements, meds and balancers, etc. do a day count on how much you need before you pack. (Example: keep track of how long one supplement lasts for 1 horse, 2 horses, 5 horses.) Always allow about 1-2 weeks extra as delays and schedule changes are possible.

-Preferred/Favorite Grooming supplies, products are recommended to bring from USA as many things are not accessible or much more expensive in the EU. A day count for how long each product lasts is also suggested. (Example, for 1 month you may need a gallon of one product but only a quart or spray bottle of another)

****Limit change as much as possible. This includes, programs, procedures and products**

****To avoid unexpected reactions, do not change products just before a competition. Example: Using a new fly spray could cause an allergic reaction and could contain testable ingredients.**

Carnet Tips: **Your biggest Allie is your Flight Agent. (There are no dumb questions)

-When filling out the carnet, list trunks/equipment with a **general description**. Include the word "Used"

Example: 2 plastic tack trunks, used horse tack/equipment and supplies.

1 duffle bags with used horse blankets.

1 suitcase with used competition clothes.

1 hat box

1 Whip container

*When filling out your carnet, you can always subtract, but you can't add.

Example: If you need 2 tack trunks, list 3. If you have 4 duffle bags, list 6

-Carnets will ask for value, weight and origin. Give a lower value, and weight doesn't have to be exact, they will weigh when loading on container. (a tack trunk can be 300-500lbs with harness, etc.)

Shoeing:

-Have One full set of shoes and one spare set. (European stud holes don't always match American studs. Have spare shoes to ensure your studs match)

-If you can organize your farrier schedule to match with the WC, that is the least risky. If not, allow 2 weeks minimum for a new farrier incase changes are needed.

Feed:

-If shipping feed is essential for your horse, ingredients must be sent to your agent for Government approval from the Destination Country. If allowed, the feed will be weighed and you'll pay per kilo. If necessary, it is worth the fee if feed is too risky to be changed.

-If you choose to switch feed, bring a few feedings to switch over. Find a feed which is comparable, (note that most EU feeds are much lower in fat than American feeds so fat will need to be added or weight of daily ration increased)

Drugs/Medications:

-A drug box is allowed, but best not list it on carnet. Pack it within another tack trunk. Have essentials as discussed with veterinary staff.

-In case of a longer stay/emergency in the EU and US Team Vet can't be present until WC, have basic medications with you (Discuss details with Team Vet and Personal FEI Vet)

****Be Very clear on FEI Drug Rules.** Discuss with US Team Vet to maintain clarity and transparency

-Example:

-General Antibiotics (SMZs, Equisol, Doxy)

-Gastric Support (Omeprazole, Ranitidine, Sucralfate)

-NSAID's (Banamine, Ketophen, Metacam)

- Joint/Glucosamine supplementation (Adequan/Legand/Pentason)

- Bandaging materials/needles/syringes/oral syringes

- If Applicable, Ask Federation/ Team Vet about doing FEI PreTesting for unknown forbidden substances in supplements, products etc.