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# Vaccinations

## INFLUENZA

Influenza or flu is a highly contagious virus that spreads via the respiratory system quickly in the horse. Signs include lethargy, exercise intolerance, fever and nasal discharge. Vaccination against influenza reduces the clinical signs and viral shedding seen with this virus.

Horses and foals can be vaccinated from 5 to 6 months of age onwards, depending on the vaccine make.

- **FIRST INJECTION:** given day 1
- **SECOND BOOSTER:** given between 21-92 days after first vaccine
- **THIRD BOOSTER:** given between 150-215 days after second vaccine
- **ANNUAL BOOSTER:** given before the date of the last vaccine.

(For example – if the third booster vaccine or last years vaccination was given on the 29.03.2013, then the next vaccine is due before 29.03.2014. If the vaccine is given on 30.03.2014 or later, then the vaccine program is considered to be out of date and the initial course of 3 injections must be restarted.)

## TETANUS

Clostridium Tetani bacteria causes tetanus, an often fatal disease once contracted through open wounds from the soil. It causes rigid paralysis of the muscles, leading to an inability to move, eat and swallow.

Horses and foals can be vaccinated from 5 months of age. However, if the foal is at high risk from tetanus, in cases where there have been recent outbreaks or where the mare has not been vaccinated herself, then the vaccination course can be started from 3 months old.

- **FIRST INJECTION:** day 1
- **SECOND BOOSTER:** 4-6 weeks later
- **THIRD BOOSTER:** 1 year later
- **BOOSTER:** given every 2 years.

## HERPES

Herpes vaccination helps protect the horse from the strains EHV1 and EHV4. It is often used in broodmares to minimise the risk of abortion during the later stages of pregnancy or in youngsters and competition horses to reduce the chance of respiratory infections, nasal discharge occurring.

- **BROODMARES:** give in the 5th month, 7th month and 9th month of pregnancy
- **YOUNGSTERS:** can be vaccinated from 5 months of age with a second booster in 4-6 weeks. Further boosters are then required every 6 months.

## STRANGLES

Strangles is a bacterial infection called Streptococcus equi equi and causes profuse nasal discharge and swelling of the lymph nodes around the throat. It is highly contagious, but the majority of horses will clear the infection by themselves with very little help. The vaccine helps reduce the clinical signs seen with Strangles and lowers the chance of lymph nodes abscessation.

Horses can be vaccinated from 4 months of age.

- **INITIAL COURSE:** after the first injection, a second booster is given 4 weeks later.
- **BOOSTERS:** due every 3 months thereafter. The injections are given in the top lip rather than in the neck or chest muscle.