

## Equine Vaccinations

Competition time for sport horses, ponies and racehorses is upon us and is a timely reminder to check that your horse is fully vaccinated.

Also at this time, your mare may be heading off to stud, so check with the stud their vaccination requirements.

Each vaccine has a primary 'set-up course' which should be followed according to its individual protocol. A booster vaccination is all that is required to then keep the vaccination up to date.

Foals can be started on a vaccination course from three months of age for most vaccinations.

Remember, prevention, by vaccination, is the key to maintaining your horse in good health.

**Tetanus** is caused by a bacterium called *Clostridium tetani* that lives as spores in the soil. When a wound, especially a puncture wound, is contaminated with these spores, they multiply and produce a toxin which causes the disease, characterised by muscle contractions, rigid limbs, convulsions and death.

The disease is not contagious to other horses or humans. We can give Tetanus antitoxin to give short term protection when a horse sustains a wound, but for long term protection you need the vaccine Tetanus toxoid.

The vaccine is very effective, and when you have seen the disease, you would never put off vaccination.

**Strangles** is a highly contagious disease that tends to occur as an outbreak, when non-vaccinated horses are brought together with a carrier. The strangles bacteria cause a purulent nasal discharge and abscesses in the lymph nodes around the neck. As well as horse to horse, it can be spread via feed mangers, tack and handlers.

Vaccination regime: Three doses of vaccine two weeks apart and then an annual booster. If high risk, vaccinate every six months. Start from three months of age.

**Equine Herpes Virus 1** Pneumequine vaccine covers mares against Equine Herpes Virus 1, which can cause respiratory disease and abortion.

Vaccination regime: Three vaccinations (discuss with us the timing) followed by an annual booster.

**Equine Herpes Virus 1,4** This vaccine is designed to reduce the severity of respiratory disease in non-breeding horses.

Vaccination regime: Two vaccinations, from five months of age, followed by a six-monthly booster.

**Salmonella** The disease is characterised by acute, profuse watery diarrhoea that can quickly lead to death. As it is common in foals, we recommend vaccinating the

# Vets on Riverbank

---



Equine & Farm Veterinary  
Services Ltd.

mare a month before foaling to ensure a level of protection to the foal. This disease can be transmitted to humans.

Vaccination regime: Foals require three doses of the vaccine and other horses two, and then an annual booster.