# **Equine Immunizations**

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The key to keeping your horse in the best health possible is to institute an effective preventative medicine program. Along with parasite control, proper immunizations are the key in preventing disease before it occurs. This is especially critical in regards to an immunization program since many of these diseases have no treatment regimen available, and others are difficult and expensive to treat with a generally poor prognosis.

The need for protection against certain diseases also depends on the use of the horse (broodmare, show horse), exposure factors (does it travel, or is it kept at a public stable), and location within the Commonwealth. Your veterinarian is the ideal professional to determine the type of program that is best suited to your farm and your pocketbook.

There are constantly new products being introduced, such as the recent intranasal vaccines that have been developed against influenza and strangles. How these should be adapted into your program is a subject that you and your veterinarian need to discuss to keep your horses at the peak of health.

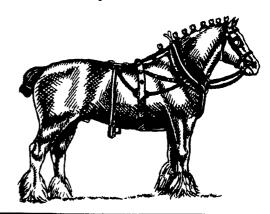
The following are the most commonly used vaccines in Pennsylvania: 1) Tetanus, 2) Botulism, 3) Rabies, 4) Rhinopneumonitis, 5) Influenza, 6) Encephalomyelitis-both Eastern and Western types, 7) Potomac Fever, 8) Strangles, 9) Rotavirus, and 10) Equine Viral Arteritis.

There are no vaccines presently available in horses for Lyme Disease, Equine Protozoal Myelitis, or Equine Infectious Anemia (Swamp Fever). Unfortunately for some diseases, such as Eastern and Western Encephalomyelitis, there are no consistently successful treatments so vaccination is your only protection.

Rabies, which also has obvious public health implications for you and your family, is untreatable in the horse with a 100% mortality rate. Rhinopneumonitis infections can cause abortions in pregnant mares.

Although vaccinations should be a routine part of your horse's preventative health care program, their importance is anything but routine. Please contact your veterinarian for further information.

Source: Unionville Equine Associates.





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