

VACCINATIONS

Vaccines stimulate an immune response by tricking horses' bodies into believing that they are being attacked by a disease and creating antibodies and killer cells which will enable a strong, quick immune response should natural infection pursue.

EQUINE INFLUENZA

The equine influenza (EI) virus is endemic in GB and spreads rapidly between individuals. Even horses that do not leave their home or mix with other horses may be at risk because the virus can spread over very long distances in airborne droplets.

The disease is commonly fatal to foals, donkeys and mules.

CLINICAL SYMPTOMS IN HORSES

Fever
Lethargy
Inappetance
Nasal /ocular discharge
Deep dry cough

SOME HORSES WILL DEVELOP

Myositis (muscle disease)
Myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle)

FEW HORSES DIE DUE TO

Pleuropneumonia
Purpura

There are 4 different equine influenza vaccinations on the market that are authorised, and in common use by equine vets in the UK.

Only one of these vaccines, that used by New Forest Equine Vets, has been updated to include the Florida Clade 2 strain of flu which has been responsible for almost all outbreaks in the UK since 2011. It is the only vaccine that complies with OIE regulations.

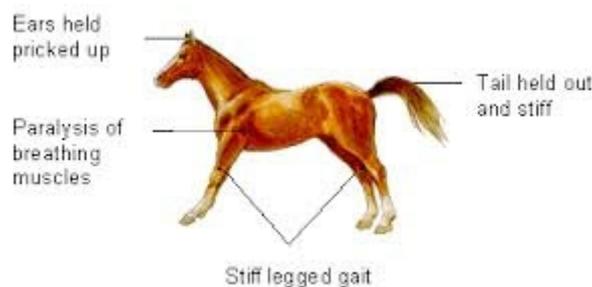
At New Forest Equine Vets we have invested in this influenza vaccination, because we are committed to providing the best preventative healthcare to our clients and patients.

TETANUS

Tetanus (T) is rare in GB, but is usually fatal, with only a small number of horses surviving with intensive treatment and hospitalisation.

It is caused by toxins from *C.tetani*, bacteria commonly found in the digestive tract of animals and therefore widespread in soil. Disease occurs when toxins enter the body via a wound, which may be as tiny as an ulcer in the mouth. All unvaccinated horses are therefore at risk of tetanus, regardless of whether they travel or mix with other horses.

The primary course consists of two vaccinations 4-6 weeks apart. Immunity has developed by two weeks after the second vaccination and it is advisable to wait until such a time until your horse undergoes any dental treatment.



EARLY SIGNS

- Inability to feed off the ground
- Mildly stiff gait
- Exaggerated 'startle' response
- Anxious face (retracted lips, flared nostrils, erect ears)
- Third eyelid becomes visible

AS SYMPTOMS PROGRESS

- Stiff gait
- Rigidly extended neck and legs (sawhorse stance)
- Arching of the neck
- Tail head held high
- Inability to swallow (food/saliva discharge from the nose)
- Absence of urination + defecation → bloat → colic

CULMINATING IN

- Recumbency (inability to stand up)
- Conscious tonic-clonic spasms which can → fractured legs
- Death due to paralysis of respiratory muscles

VACCINATION SCHEDULES

ENSURING YOUR HORSE IS PROPERLY PROTECTED

Livery yards and competition authorities generally require that horses are vaccinated against equine influenza (EI) to comply with Jockey Club Rules which stipulate that:

- the 2nd Vaccine is administered 21-92 days after the 1st vaccine.
- the 3rd Vaccine is administered 150-215 days after the 2nd vaccine.
- the first annual booster is administered within 365 days of the 3rd vaccine
- boosters thereafter are administered within 365 days of the last vaccination.

These dates, however, are different to the dates recommended by the vaccine manufacturers to provide effective immunisation.

To comply with the 'rules' and ensure proper protection against equine influenza (EI) and tetanus (T), at New Forest Equine Vets we recommend the following schedules:

Equine Influenza and Tetanus

1st vaccine: From 6 months of age

2nd vaccine: 4-6 weeks later

3rd vaccine: 5 months later

Annual boosters: EI only within 365 days then alternate between

EI and EI T every year

* Horses competing under FEI regulations must in addition be vaccinated against EI within 6 months of the 3rd vaccine and then receive EI boosters every 6 months.

Tetanus

1st vaccine: From 6 months of age

2nd vaccine: 4-6 weeks later

Annual boosters: 2 years later then every 2nd year

ENSURING FOALS ARE ADEQUATELY PROTECTED BY MATERNALLY DERIVED ANTIBODIES

Vaccination schedule for broodmares (EI and T) to provide immunity to the foal

Vaccinated pregnant mares:

Booster 4-6 weeks before foaling.

Unvaccinated pregnant mares:

2nd vaccine 4-6 weeks before foaling

1st vaccine 4-6 weeks before 2nd vaccine



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