

Have you vaccinated your equine?

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Have you had your equine vaccinated recently? Vaccinating your equine for deadly diseases may prove to be very beneficial for your equine friend. Vaccinations are typically given to animals to help prevent disease. Diseases are considered to be any condition in an equine or animal that impairs its normal function. Diseases can increase costs, reduce performance and even limit growth in young horses. It's quite easy to prevent many of these harmful diseases by annually vaccinating your equine. Vaccines are given to equine to help the animal develop immunity towards specific diseases. Immunity refers to the ability of an animal that has been exposed to a certain disease to be able to combat or fight off the disease if exposed a second time. Antibodies are formed in order to fight off the disease. However, if your equine is not vaccinated the immune system cannot make antibodies for protection against the disease. There are many types of vaccines that can be given to protect equine against infectious diseases. Several factors to consider when developing a vaccination protocol for your equine include age, environmental factors, stress level, potential for exposure to other equine, and reproduction status. It's best to consult with your veterinarian about developing a suitable vaccination program for your equine. Also, for more information check out the American Association of Equine Practitioners' website on vaccination guidelines at http://www.aaep.org/vaccination_guidelines.htm

Some recommended core vaccines¹ would include:

Rabies

Tetanus

Eastern/Western Encephalomyelitis

West Nile Virus

Influenza

Some recommended risk based vaccines² would include:

Equine Herpesvirus (Rhinopneumonitis)

Potomac Horse Fever

Strangles

Botulism

Vaccines to consider for equine being used for breeding purposes would include:

Equine Herpesvirus (Rhinopneumonitis- for pregnant mares)

Equine Viral Arteritis Virus

¹Core based vaccines- according to the AAEP are vaccines that protect from a disease in an endemic region and pose a risk to public health”

²Risk based vaccines- these vaccines are given according to a “risk-benefit” analysis, which may vary regionally or from population to population according to the AAEP.

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