



Basics on Horse Vaccination

In Europe the most usual vaccinations given to horses are for

- Tetanus and
- Equine Influenza (flu).

The effects of Tetanus, or Lockjaw, is fairly well known and understandably feared.

Caused by the bacterium 'Clostridium tetani' present in the soil, it enters the bloodstream via an entry wound. Symptoms include a rise in temperature, dilation of the nostrils and difficulty in swallowing. The condition rapidly progresses to convulsions and the horse is unable to swallow – hence the common name 'Lockjaw'. Tetanus is almost always fatal.

Equine Influenza is rarely fatal, but it is debilitating and unpleasant, needing a period of several weeks convalescence for the horse to recover.

A respiratory infection, horses with flu tend to get depression, a high temperature and a cough – similar to human strains. Blood samples may show a degree of muscle damage. In rare cases liver or even heart damage may be caused, although this is neither likely, nor common.

The good news is that you can vaccinate your horse against both conditions.

Vaccination Frequency

Equine Flu: a primary course of two jabs, four to six weeks apart, followed by another six months after the second jab. Annual boosters are required after the initial course.

Tetanus: a primary course of two jabs, about a month apart, then a third jab one year later. Followed by a single jab, once every two or three years, depending on the vaccine.

Finally

Vaccination requirements for horses may differ per Region or country. Always consult your vet first. He/she will be able to explain how vaccines work as well as tell you about any side effects.

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