

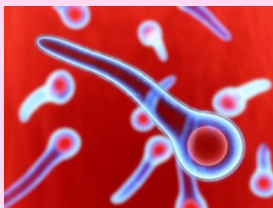
## What is it?

There is no soft way to put this, Tetanus, is a **fatal** bacterial infection, where toxins produced by the bacteria attack the horse's nervous system. The condition is also referred to as 'lockjaw', because as the disease progresses, the mouth clamps shut so the animal cannot eat or drink. Once a horse is unable to stand, there is less than a 20% chance that the horse will survive, because of the disease.

However we can vaccinate to prevent tetanus.

## Symptoms:

- Abnormal sensitivity to sound or touch
- Stiff gait
- Prolapse of the third eyelid, which may cover half the eye
- Very rigid ears that stick up
- Tail sticking out rigid
- A worried expression, with retraction of the eyelids and flared nostrils due to muscle spasm
- Inability to open the mouth
- Regurgitation of food and water from the nostrils and drooling of saliva from the mouth as swallowing becomes more difficult
- Partially chewed hay may be held in the mouth
- Colic
- Muscle spasms
- Convulsions



## Cases of Tetanus

Fortunately it is rare, as so many horses are routinely vaccinated, however, our vets have sadly seen these cases and can tell you how heart breaking they can be!

## Treatable?

Unfortunately, tetanus is very likely to be fatal.

Those cases that are saved, usually, have had to undergo intense hospitalisation.

If your horse hasn't been vaccinated for tetanus, we can give tetanus antitoxin during a surgical procedure, or, in the event of a wound, to try to prevent tetanus.

However due to the very limited self-life of tetanus anti toxin, the cost of this one-off treatment is **more** than the cost of **14** tetanus vaccinations, which could have covered your horse for more than 25 years.

The tetanus anti toxin only provides cover for 3 weeks.

## Vaccinating older horses

As an animal ages, their immune system can weaken, so the older equines are likely to be more susceptible to the diseases we vaccinate against. Therefore it is so **important** we **keep vaccinating** our friends in their "mature" years.



## Preventative Measures

It is impossible to completely eliminate your horse's exposure to tetanus, as it is caused by Clostridium Tetani, which is present everywhere in the environment.

As soon as your horse gets any wound, it is at risk of tetanus. These wounds can be anything that breaks the skin, to ulcerations in the horse's mouth; which can be caused by sharp enamel points, so you may not even see the wound that puts your horse at risk. Hence, the importance to vaccinate your horse against tetanus and, keep up with dentals.



## Vaccination Course



- **1st vaccine:** from 4 months old (if the foal's mother is vaccinated — 1st vaccine at 6 months old)
- **2nd vaccine:** 4-8 weeks after the date of the first
- **3rd vaccine:** 1 year after the date of the second
- **Booster:** every 2 years

- ◆ For pregnant mares a booster vaccine is recommended 4-8 weeks prior to foaling.

If your horse is vaccinated for influenza, then they will most likely be vaccinated for tetanus as well, as a combined vaccination is often used at no extra cost to you.

Very few organisations require tetanus to compete but, for animal welfare, it is recommended that horses and donkeys are vaccinated for tetanus.

coming soon!

**Within the next couple of months, we will be launching a WORMING PACKAGE, full details will be announced prior to the launch.**

**In April, we will host an event for all clients interested in EQUINE BEHAVIOUR AND CLICKER TRAINING, date to be announced.**

**Please do keep an eye on the website, Facebook and Instagram.**



**Weigh Scales** our nurses are here and happy to help you monitor your horse, pony or donkeys weight. If you would like to bring your equine friend in to use this free service, please call to book a date and time\*.

*\*Please be aware this must be booked in advance*

**Holiday's, Business Trips, or Anytime Away**, if you have someone looking after your horse, pony or donkey whilst you are away, then **please let us know they are authorised to act on your behalf.**

Whether this is long term, or just over specific dates, we need to know to be able to give the best care we can in your absence.

Please inform us in advance of your time away, either by telephone, or email.

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