

In this newsletter we are focusing on equine influenza vaccination as it is still a major part of the preventative health care for horse, ponies and donkeys. In order to compete in most disciplines it is a requirement (please see the next page to see some of the major organisation requirements, but be aware, these are subject to change).



Equine Influenza

Is it true older horses don't require vaccinating if they have been regularly vaccinated when they were younger? Unfortunately this isn't the case. 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.



Why do vaccinated horses still get flu?

Vaccination does not prevent horses contracting the disease, but primes the immune system to fight off the disease, leading to mild symptoms and shorter duration of illness and crucially vaccinated horses spread the disease much less.

If my horse isn't going anywhere and doesn't interact with other horses, does it still need vaccinating?

With outbreaks of influenza, it has been shown how difficult

it is to keep a horse in complete isolation, with airborne spread, contact from farriers, physios, vets and other horse owners playing a part. Horses moving to and from your yard can also potentially bring flu back with them and horses hacking past your field can also pose a risk, so we strongly advise vaccinating for flu as well as tetanus.

What are the signs to look for of flu? Symptoms include high temperature, nasal discharge and cough. Horses may also show inappetence and lethargy.

Why is treating flu not simple? Influenza can spread incredibly quickly so isolating cases and, any horses that have had direct contact, is very important. Influenza can have serious complications and potentially impact the horse for the rest of its life, particularly foals, older horses or, if they have PPID. Influenza

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Organisation	V1-V2 interval	V2-V3 interval	Boosters
Proteq Flu (vaccine manufacturers)	28-42 days	5 months	within 12 months
British Horseracing Association	21-60 days	120-180 days	within 6 months
FEI	21-92 days	within 7 months	within 6 months and 21 days of competition (non competing yearly)
British Dressage	21-92 days	150-215 days	within 6 months and 21 days of competition (non competing yearly)
British Eventing	21-92 days	within 7 months	within 6 months and 21 days of competition (non competing yearly)
British Show Jumping Association	21-92 days	150-215 days	within 12 months
Endurance GB	21-92 days	within 7 months	within 12 months
British Riding Club	21-92 days	150-215 days	within 12 months
Hurlingham Polo Association	21-92 days	150-215 days	within 6 months and 21 days of competition (non competing yearly)
Pony Club	21-92 days	150-215 days	most recent booster within 6 months of competition Area level and above. Otherwise within 12 months

Please be aware these details may be changed by each organisation, so it is your responsibility to ensure your horse is eligible to compete in your chosen discipline.