

# Brodhead Veterinary Medical Center

## Equine Vaccination Recommendations

*These are some generic recommendations. Each horse's vaccination schedule may be different due to your circumstances. We will tailor a vaccine schedule to meet your horse's needs. If you have any questions you may contact the clinic by telephone or email [jmertens@brodheadvets.com](mailto:jmertens@brodheadvets.com)*

*- Jason Mertens, D.V.M.*

### Highly Recommended Vaccinations - High Mortality Diseases

- **Tetanus**

- Clostridium tetani is prevalent in every horse's environment and horses are highly susceptible to the bacteria and toxin.
- Foals
  - Vaccinated mare – give shot at 6, 7, and 8 months of age
  - Non-vaccinated mare – give shot at 4 and 5 months of age
- Adults
  - Annual booster if vaccinated previously (2 shot series 1 month apart if first vaccination)
- Booster needed when deep wounds or punctures occur

- **West Nile Virus (WNV)**

- Transmitted by mosquitoes, so vaccination needed 1 month prior to when mosquitoes are present
- Foals
  - Vaccinated mare – give shot at 6, 7, and 8 months of age (may not need shots until following year depending on time of year)
  - Non-vaccinated mare – give shot at 4 and 5 months of age
- Adults
  - Annual booster 1 month prior to mosquito season (2 shot series 1 month apart if first vaccination)
  - Booster 6 months later if horse traveling south where mosquitoes are present year-around

- **Eastern & Western Encephalomyelitis (EWE)**

- Transmitted by mosquitoes, so vaccination needed 1 month prior to when insects are present
- Foals
  - Vaccinated mare – give shot at 6, 7, and 8 months of age (may not need shots until following year depending on time of year)
  - Non-vaccinated mare – give shot at 4 and 5 months of age
- Adults
  - Annual booster 1 month prior to mosquito season (2 shot series 1 month apart if first vaccination)

**We now have a vaccine containing all four of the above pathogens in one shot.**

### Recommended Vaccinations

- **Rabies**

- *Horses are at a low risk for contracting virus, but if your horse contracts rabies mortality is definite and everyone exposed to the horse will have to undergo costly rabies prophylaxis treatment. Vaccine is highly effective at preventing infection.*
- Foals
  - Vaccinated mare – give shot at 6 and 7 months of age
  - Non-vaccinated mare – give shot at 4 months of age
- Adults
  - Annual booster

- **Equine herpes virus type 1 and 4 (EHV)**

- *Vaccine will not protect against the neurological form of the disease, but has shown to reduce shedding of the virus.*
- Both cause respiratory problems and in addition type 1 causes abortions, foal death, and neurological disease (recently causing quarantines and health concerns around the country). Horses going to shows, racetracks, or other events where horses are commingled are at more risk of contracting the virus.

- Foals
  - Vaccinate at 4, 5, and 6 months and then booster every 3-4 months
- Adults
  - Vaccinated every 3-4 months for best protection
  - Broodmares – vaccinate at 5, 7, and 9 months of pregnancy to prevent abortion
- **Influenza**
  - Causes the same symptoms as the flu in people. In most cases symptoms are not life threatening, the horse is just sick for a couple of weeks (just like people).
  - Foals
    - Killed vaccine - Vaccinate at 4, 5, and 6 months and then booster every 3-4 months
    - Intranasal – 11 months of age and then every 6 months
  - Adults
    - Killed vaccine - Vaccinated every 3-4 months for best protection
    - Intranasal – Vaccinate every 6 months

## Vaccinations Recommended Under Special Circumstances

- **Potomac Horse Fever**
  - Vaccine is questioned by some as to whether it works. We recommend for horse within 1-2 miles of a water source (lake, pond, slow moving creek, etc)
  - Causes profuse watery diarrhea that can be life threatening if not treated soon enough. Often causes laminitis secondarily.
- **Intranasal Strangles**
  - Recommended for farms with foals that have horses or foals from other locations entering the facility frequently.
  - Causes infection inside lymph nodes and mortality is low in most cases.
- **Equine Viral Arteritis**
  - A sexually transmitted disease mostly with Thoroughbreds, but recently some Quarter horses became infected. Causes abortions. Mostly a southern problem. Vaccination may be required by certain breeders. Good idea to ask if stud or mare is EVA free.
- **Botulism**
  - Recommended if ensiled feed is going to be fed. Horses are more sensitive than cattle.
- **Rotavirus A**
  - Recommended for farms where rotavirus has been a problem for foals in the past. Vaccine is given to mare prior to foaling.

## Recommended Vaccinations for Pregnant Mares

- **EHV at 5,7, and 9 months gestation**
- **WNV, Tetanus, EWE, Influenza, ± Rabies given 6 weeks PRIOR to foaling.** This will get the antibodies into the colostrum so the foal will have good immunity for the first few months of life.
- **<http://www.foalcare.com/> This is a great website for those planning to breed and/or foal.**