

Vaccinations and Expectations

Infectious Disease Prevention

Brought to you by Merck Animal Health

Why Vaccinate?

We are challenging your horse's immune system to stimulate that system to be prepared to fight off a real disease event. Vaccinated horses are much less likely to get sick, or if vaccinated horses do get sick, it is usually a less-severe form of the disease.

| Vaccinations Given Today | Booster Due |
|--------------------------|-------------|
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What to do before vaccination:

- Ensure your horse is groomed off before the vet arrives so there is not mud or excess hair at vaccination sites (*which can include the neck, chest and rump*).
- If recommended by your veterinarian, give your horse a dose of a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug to counteract normal physiological reactions to stimulating a horse's immune system.
- Have a quiet, secure place available to vaccinate the horse.
- Vaccinate far enough in advance of transportation or competition to allow the horse's immune system adequate time to create protective antibodies and recover to normal function.

Normal Reactions to Vaccination *(Note that not all horses have visible reactions)*

- Slight fever (*less than 100 degrees F*)
- Reduced appetite
- Some horses have temporary stiffness or swelling at the injection site

What to do after vaccination:

- If recommended by your veterinarian, give your horse a dose of a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug to counteract normal physiological reactions to stimulating a horse's immune system.
- Give the horse 24 hours of rest (*non-strenuous exercise; turnout*)
- Take your horse's temperature if he seems "off"
- Feed and water as normal

For more information on vaccination visit Merck's Get Vaccinating Right website: <http://www.getvaccinatingright.com/>

The Science of
Healthier Animals

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