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## **Fall Vaccinations**

Fall is soon approaching, and that means it is time to think about vaccinations again. Here is a reminder of our recommendations for fall vaccinations for adult horses and immunization schedules for your new foals.

### **Equine Influenza**

Equine influenza virus infects the upper respiratory tract of horses. Symptoms include fever, lethargy, loss of appetite, coughing, and nasal discharge. It is one of the most common causes of upper respiratory infection in horses. Adult horses should be vaccinated at 6 month intervals unless they are in a closed, isolated facility.

### **Equine Herpes Virus (Rhinopneumonitis)**

Equine herpesvirus-1 and equine herpesvirus-4 can cause upper respiratory disease, abortion, and neurologic disease. Horses can carry these viruses but never show signs of being ill. They can shed the virus intermittently into the environment when they are stressed, so outbreaks can occur even in a closed facility. Adult horses should be vaccinated every 6 months. Pregnant mares should be vaccinated at 5, 7, and 9 months of gestation to prevent herpes virus abortion.

### **West Nile Virus**

Horses are usually vaccinated for West Nile Virus once annually in the spring. Cases of West Nile Virus in horses have been reported in 23 states this year. Many of these cases are in unvaccinated horses. Symptoms include fever, depression, loss of appetite, weakness, incoordination, and muscle twitching in the head and neck. The virus is transmitted by mosquitoes. If your horses were not vaccinated for West Nile this spring, it is not too late to consider vaccinating them now to protect them for the remainder of the mosquito season.

## **Foal Vaccinations**

The following is our general recommendation for foals, but these may vary depending on each foal's circumstances.

### *Foals born to mares that were properly vaccinated prior to foaling:*

- 1) Tetanus, Eastern and Western Encephalomyelitis, Rhinopneumonitis, and West Nile are a primary three dose series:
  - a) First vaccinations given at 4 to 6 months of age
  - b) Booster with the same combination of vaccinations 4 to 6 weeks later
  - c) The third dose is given at 10 to 12 months of age as yearlings.
- 2) Influenza is a primary three dose series:
  - a) First dose start at 6 months of age
  - b) Second booster dose 4 to 6 weeks later
  - c) Third dose given at 10 to 12 months of age as yearling
- 3) Rabies is a primary one dose series:
  - a) First dose given no earlier than 6 months of age
- 4) Strangles is a primary two dose series:
  - a) First dose given at 6 to 9 months of age
  - b) Second booster dose given 3 to 4 weeks later

### *Foals born to mares that were NOT properly vaccinated prior to foaling:*

- 1) Tetanus, Eastern and Western Encephalomyelitis, Rhinopneumonitis, and West Nile is a primary four dose series:
  - a) First vaccination given at 1 to 4 months of age
  - b) Booster with the same combination of vaccinations 4 weeks later
  - c) Give a third vaccination 4 weeks following the booster
  - d) A fourth vaccination at 10 to 12 months of age as yearling
- 2) Influenza, Rabies, and Strangles are given on the same schedule as foals born to vaccinated mares outlined above.

These recommendations are intended as general guidelines. It is always best to consult with your veterinarian regarding specific recommendations for the individual needs of your horses.