



Caring for your horse after Vaccination



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Your horse has been vaccinated

When it comes to equine diseases such as flu and tetanus, prevention is always better than cure – you have taken the most important step in protecting your horse against these potentially life-threatening diseases.

Why was your horse given Flu or Flu-Tetanus

The Equine Influenza (flu) Virus (EIV) constantly adapts its genetic structure to create new strains that can evade equine immune defences. This is why it is recommended that vaccines are updated to keep up with any significant changes. The vaccine with use contain the strains which are currently circulation in the UK, as recommended by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) This means that your horse has received the most up to date protection against equine flu.

What should I do now that my horse has been vaccinated?

Following administration the vaccine results in the creation of antibodies to the flu virus and tetanus toxin which then protects your horse against the diseases. It is therefore advisable that your horse isn't asked to do anything too strenuous in the period straight after the vaccination. Follow this advise to get the most from your horse after vaccination:

- Only work your horse lightly for 2-3 days after his vaccination (hacking, light schooling)
- If you have a competition planned after the period, check the rules are competing under; you may not be permitted to compete within 7 days of vaccination.
- If you notice that your horse seems unwell or you are concerned about him after he is vaccinated you should call your vet for further advise.

Keep up to date with the horse's vaccinations

It is important to make sure that your horse's vaccinations are up to date. After the primary course has been completed, your horse will receive yearly boosters to keep them protected. The flu part of the vaccination is repeated every year, the tetanus part every other year. If the vaccinations lapse, your horse may not be protected and you will need to start the course again from the beginning to ensure proper protection. Because of the widespread impact that a flu outbreak can have, if you wish to compete your horse or attend pony club or riding club events you will need to demonstrate that your horse's vaccinations are up date.

Make sure your horse's next vaccination date is in your diary

Did you know.....?

All unvaccinated horses are at risk of contracting equine flu or tetanus, even if they don't travel or go to competitions

The effects of flu can be more severe in older horses, foals and horses suffering from other diseases like PPID. These groups should always be protected by vaccination