



August 9, 2013

South Carolina Horse Vaccines

The Rabies vaccine is the most important vaccine since an infected horse with rabies can pose a human health risk and may transfer the disease to a human if not protected from the disease. To protect your horse from rabies the vaccine must be administered one time a year.

As spring arrives it is important to remember to keep your horses protected from diseases that are transmitted by biting insects, more specifically mosquitoes. In South Carolina we recommend that horses are vaccinated twice yearly (every 6 months) for Eastern-Western Equine Encephalomyelitis (EEE/WEE) and West Nile Virus (WN). These vaccines usually come in multiple combinations known as "EWT, EWT/WN, or EWT/FR ". The "T" in the abbreviation is short for Tetanus, which is also a very important vaccine for horses.

Equine Influenza (Flu), Equine Herpes virus (Rhino), and Strangles are other diseases that the incidence can be reduced though vaccination. The frequency, or need, for these vaccines is based on your horse's activity, exposure to other horses, and recommendation by your veterinarian.

Core SC Equine Vaccines

Rabies (One time a year, EXTREME IMPORTANCE due to human health risk)
Eastern-Western Equine Encephalomyelitis (Twice yearly, Spring and Fall)
West Nile Virus (Twice yearly, Spring and Fall)
Tetanus (One time a year)

Recommended Vaccines

Equine Influenza (1 to 4 times a year based on your veterinarian's recommendation)
Equine Herpes virus, Rhinopneumonitis (1 to 4 times a year based on your veterinarian's recommendation)
Strangles (Intranasal or Injectable 1 or 2 times a year based on your veterinarian's recommendation)

For a complete list of vaccinations and recommendations, visit the website http://www.aaep.org/vaccination_guidelines.htm. Your local veterinarian is the best source for vaccine recommendations and what diseases are present in your area.

*Horses that have never been vaccinated or have an unknown vaccine history will need to be boosted 4-6 weeks after the first vaccine. This series of injections is required for vaccines to be effective and protective.