
CRUM EQUINE VETERINARY SERVICE

Pre-Spring Newsletter

Spring Vaccinations

Plan ahead to give your horse the best protection possible

It's hard to believe that spring is right around the corner. It will be here before we know it and it's closely followed by fly and mosquito season, horse shows, and more horse movement onto and off of farms. Now is the perfect time to evaluate your horse's vaccination plan for the upcoming year.

You need to ask yourself a few basic questions to help determine what vaccinations you should request for your horse:

1. Will my horse be exposed to other horses?
2. Will I be taking my horse away from the home base for shows, trail rides, clinic, etc?
3. Does my horse have exposure to other horses that will be showing or participating in trail rides, clinics, etc?
4. Will my horse be required to have a Coggins (EIA) test to participate in the events I have planned?

Based on your answers to these questions, your veterinarian can help to tailor a vaccination program specific to your horse's risk factors and any barn requirements that may be present.

Vaccinations can be divided into two basic categories: **core vaccinations** (also known as recommended vaccinations) and **optional vaccinations** (often determined by exposure risks). In our area, the following are recommended for a horse's core vaccination protocol:

- **Eastern and Western Encephalomyelitis**
 - These diseases are transmitted by mosquitoes
- **Tetanus**
 - This organism is present in a horse's environment and can be introduced through open wounds and sores.
- **Rhinopneumonitis (EHV-1, EHV-4)**
 - This is a respiratory infection spread

Blood in the Snow

Have you noticed red areas of urination in the snow?

Our practice gets several calls each week during the winter regarding blood tinged urine in the snow. A chemical reaction between the urine and snow causes the change in color. Normal equine urine may contain pyrocatechine, an oxidizing agent that can cause urine to turn red or brown after exposure to air, snow, or bedding (especially wood shavings). The change in color is completely normal and it does not mean that one of your horses is passing blood with its urine.



Using Your Time Wisely

The spring vaccination appointment is not just a time for your veterinarian to administer immunizations. This is a great opportunity to have your veterinarian perform a physical examination on your horse. Routine physical examinations are a way to pick up subtle changes in your horse's weight and overall health. Vaccination appointments are also a great time to discuss your horse's nutrition, body condition score, lameness prevention program, etc. Your veterinarian can also check your horse's teeth to guide you in dental maintenance recommendations. Dental care and floating can also be provided during this appointment to ensure your horse is ready for more activity in the upcoming months. Be sure to review our updated deworming program (available on our website) and have a fecal sample ready for submission. Get the most from your upcoming appointment by writing down any questions you may want to ask the veterinarian.

between horses by aerosolized nasal secretions and contact.

- **Influenza**
 - This is another form of respiratory infection spread between horses by aerosolized nasal secretions and contact.
- **Rabies**
 - Spread by affected mammals. Fatal disease.
- **West Nile Virus**
 - Neurologic infection spread by mosquitoes.

Your veterinarian can help to determine what optional vaccinations your horse should receive. The optional vaccinations include:

- **Strangles (Streptococcus Equi)**
 - This infection is more common in young horses. The infection is spread through aerosolized nasal secretions and contact with infected horses or contaminated facilities.
- **Botulism**
 - This infection is found in decaying plant matter. This vaccination is recommended for horses that are fed round bales.
- **Potomac Horse Fever**
 - This disease is seen in the late summer months and is usually associated with a fresh water source. May Flies and Dragon Flies are suspected carriers of this infection.
- **Rhodococcus**
 - Mares can be vaccinated prior to foaling. The foal is protected via the mare's colostrum.



First Aid Kits Are a Must

No one wants to think of what can go wrong while they are spending time with their horses. Preparation is the best form of prevention. It is very important to have a first aid kit available for your horse at all times; whether you are at home or on the road. It is also very important to have a human first aid kit as well. We never know when an equine emergency may happen and being prepared can lead to a better outcome. Be sure to have copies of your horse's information and your emergency contact information available at home and while away. It is helpful to keep a copy of this information as well as your veterinarian's contact information in your horse trailer as well as at the barn where you keep your horse. If you will be traveling out of state, the AAEP (American Association of Equine Practitioners) is a great resource to locate a veterinarian close to your route and destination.

First Aid Kit Ingredients

- U Stethoscope & Digital Thermometer
- U Bandage Scissors
- U Sheet Cotton (BB Satin Star Roll)
- U 3-4 Rolls Vetwrap, 1 roll white tape
- U Betadine or Surgical **Scrub**
- U Betadine (or Iodine) **Solution**
- U Exam Gloves
- U Duct Tape
- U 4x4 Gauze Squares, Telfa Pads
- U Sterile Roll Gauze & Diapers
- U Bottle of Saline Eyewash
- U Flashlight
- U Emergency Contact Information and Horse's Vaccine History

DOES MY HORSE NEED A COGGINS TEST?

Coggins test is the layman's term for the blood test for Equine Infectious Anemia. This test is recommended on an annual basis for horses that travel. Many show grounds, trail ride facilities, and racetracks require proof of a negative Coggins test within the last twelve months for every horse entering the grounds for exhibition or competition. A Coggins test is also required in order to write a health certificate for horses traveling across state lines.

Be sure to plan ahead if your horse will need a Coggins test. The tests take 7-10 days from the time of submission to be returned. If Coggins are needed sooner than 7-10 days, a STAT/rush test is also available for an additional fee.



Sports Medicine, Lameness, Reproduction and Dentistry

Telephone (740) 653-6000

Fax (740) 653-6051

www.crumequine.com

Springtime Trailer Safety Checkup

Many people do not haul their horses during the winter months. As you are preparing for an increase in activity with your equine friend this spring, do not overlook the importance of horse trailer safety.

Be sure to inspect your horse trailer closely before taking your equine companion on their first trip. You should do a close visual inspection of your trailer prior to hooking it up for the first time. Be sure there are no signs of rodent damage, corrosion to the safety chains or hitch mechanism, or loose wires hanging down under the trailer. It is also a good idea to schedule an appointment with your mechanic for your horse trailer to be inspected and have any necessary repairs made.

Before the first trip:

- Check the air pressure in each tire
- The tires should also be checked for tread depth and any signs of abnormal wear
- Lift the mats and check the floor very closely
- Be sure there are no sharp edges or loose equipment that could injure your horse
- Be sure the brakes are working and adjusted properly
- Be sure the lights (including marker lights) are working properly
- It is always a good idea to take the trailer for an empty "test drive" before loading your equine companion and hitting the road. This test drive will give you one more opportunity to be sure everything is working properly.

