

# EQUINE VACCINATION

AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE  
FOR HORSE OWNERS





## A HEALTHY HORSE IS A PROPERLY VACCINATED HORSE.

A properly designed vaccination regimen may be one of the most important things you can do to help your horse live a long and healthy life. Your veterinarian is the most knowledgeable professional to help you design the appropriate regimen for each individual horse. Horse owners and their veterinarians have a wide array of effective vaccines from which to choose. This brochure will help you understand which vaccines are most important for your horse, what role your veterinarian plays in a successful vaccination program, and why proper vaccine handling and administration truly matter.



## A VACCINATION PLAN FOR EVERY HORSE.

There's a good chance your equine veterinarian is a member of the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP), a professional veterinary organization dedicated to the health and well-being of horses. AAEP has developed a set of reference guidelines available to your veterinarian to assist with designing a vaccination program customized for your horse.

These guidelines can be divided into two categories: core vaccines, which virtually every horse should receive, and risk-based vaccines, which your veterinarian may recommend to address special risks to your animals depending on where you live, their age, sex, breed and overall condition based on contact with other horses, stress and occupation.

Here is a brief description of the diseases that fall into the core vaccine category for every horse:

### West Nile Virus

A widespread mosquito-borne, neurological disease that can kill approximately one in three clinically affected horses.<sup>1</sup> Horses should be vaccinated annually prior to the onset of the mosquito season. Consider semiannual vaccination for horses where mosquitoes are active year-round.

### Western Equine Encephalomyelitis

Another potentially fatal, mosquito-borne disease found primarily west of the Mississippi River.<sup>2</sup> Horses should be vaccinated annually. Consider semiannual vaccination for horses where mosquitoes are active year-round.

### Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis

A mosquito-borne disease that can kill 75% to 90% of affected horses.<sup>2</sup> Horses should be vaccinated annually. Consider semiannual vaccination for horses where mosquitoes are active year-round.

### Tetanus

An often-fatal disease caused by the bacterium *Clostridium tetani* found in soil and feces. All horses should be vaccinated annually.

### Rabies

An invariably fatal neurological disease caused by the bite of an infected animal. All horses should be vaccinated annually.

<sup>1</sup>Schuler, L.A., et al. Evaluation of an outbreak of West Nile virus infection in horses: 569 cases (2002). J AM Vet Med Assoc. 2004 Oct 1;225(7):1084-9.

<sup>2</sup>Sellnow, L. Encephalitis: Many Causes, Deadly Outcome. The Horse, July 1, 2004; article #1516. Available at: <http://www.thehorse.com/Print.aspx?ID=1516>. Accessed August 20, 2010.



## RISK-BASED VACCINES: ASK YOUR VETERINARIAN.

For non-core diseases, the risk of infection varies from horse to horse. Your veterinarian will recommend disease protection based on a risk assessment for your horse, and the disease threats in your area.

### Equine Influenza

A highly contagious respiratory disease that causes fever, coughing and nasal discharge. Vaccinate low-risk horses annually, and high-risk horses semiannually. Consider semiannual vaccination for horses less than 5 years old and for performance/show horses.

### Rotaviral Diarrhea

As many as 70% of all foals in the United States will have at least one diarrheal episode prior to weaning, and rotavirus is a major infectious cause of foal diarrhea.<sup>1</sup> The disease can spread rapidly in susceptible populations, although mortality is low (<1%) with veterinary intervention.

### Botulism

Toxins produced and caused by *Clostridium botulinum*, a bacteria found in the soil, have been observed in horses.

### Strangles

Strangles is a highly contagious and serious infection caused by the bacterium *Streptococcus equi*. The disease is characterized by severe inflammation of the mucosa of the head and throat, with extensive swelling and often rupture of the lymph nodes. Horses of all ages are susceptible, though strangles is most common in animals less than 5 years of age, and especially in groups of weanling foals or yearlings.

### Anthrax

Infection is caused by inhalation, ingestion or contamination of wounds by *Bacillus anthracis* and is encountered in a limited geographic area in the U.S.

### Equine Herpesvirus (EHV)

Also known as rhinopneumonitis, EHV Type 1 and EHV Type 4 viruses can cause fever, lethargy, nasal discharge and cough. Vaccinate horses annually. Consider semiannual vaccination for horses less than 5 years old, horses on breeding farms and performance/show horses at high risk.

### Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA)

Transmitted via respiratory secretions or infected semen, EVA can cause abortions in pregnant mares and death in young foals. Vaccinate all stallions and broodmares at risk. Stallions should be tested prior to vaccination to ensure they have not previously contracted the disease.

### Potomac Horse Fever

A bacterial gastrointestinal disease affecting horses of all ages, mostly in the summer months.

<sup>1</sup> "Rotaviral Diarrhea," [aaep.org](http://aaep.org). AAEP, 2008. Fri., 9 Sept. 2011



## THE CASE FOR VETERINARIAN-ADMINISTERED VACCINES.

Zoetis sells more equine vaccines than all of the other manufacturers combined.<sup>1</sup> So you can be sure that we pay very close attention to how our vaccines are handled and administered.

Vaccine handling prior to administration can affect how well your horse is protected: Out-of-date vaccines, or those that have been exposed to sunlight, freezing or high temperatures, can quickly lose their effectiveness. To ensure the best possible results, Zoetis strongly recommends that your animals be vaccinated by a licensed veterinarian.

<sup>1</sup> MDI AHS Study: Q2 2010-Q2 2011

## THE EQUINE IMMUNIZATION SUPPORT GUARANTEE.

To support the proper use of our vaccines with horse owners, Zoetis offers the Equine Immunization Support Guarantee (ISG), a program that gives you peace of mind at no additional cost.

Simply stated, if an animal has been vaccinated by a licensed veterinarian using one of our WEST NILE-INNOVATOR® or FLUVAC INNOVATOR® vaccines, and it contracts a disease for which it was vaccinated, Zoetis will reimburse you for up to \$5,000 in diagnostic and treatment costs. Certain restrictions apply, so talk to your veterinarian today. You'll sleep better tonight knowing that your animals are well protected.







# YOUR VACCINE PURCHASE HELPS SUPPORT THE EQUINE INDUSTRY.

Each year, Zoetis offers financial as well as material support to a wide variety of breed, horse owner and veterinary organizations, including the American Quarter Horse Association, National Thoroughbred Racing Association, American Association of Equine Practitioners, and many others.

To learn more about our people, our products and the services and programs we offer — including the Equine Immunization Support Guarantee — please talk to your veterinarian, or visit us online at [zoetisUS.com](http://zoetisUS.com).