

SOP No: ATT 023

SUBJECT: Vaccination in horses

POLICY: Minimum number of 2 operators required.

Demonstrator: Operators should be familiar with the correct techniques and the anatomy of horses before demonstrating this procedure.

Students: Procedures should be clearly demonstrated before student attempts them. Students should be aware of the requirements for aseptic technique.

PRECAUTIONS:

Wear sturdy footwear

Swab clean skin surface with antiseptic prior to vaccination only if vaccine manufacturer's instructions indicate. If antiseptic is used, the skin should be allowed to dry completely before inserting the needle.

Ensure that the drugs to be used have been stored and prepared according to direction. Note the expiry date and batch number.

Operators should use gloves and disinfect them between animals to prevent the transmission of blood-borne diseases. Equipment should be cleaned between animals.

Wash hands and exposed body parts thoroughly with soap and water after handling horses.

EQUIPMENT:

21 gauge needles

Halter

Crush or yards

PROCEDURE:

1. Select vaccination site carefully. The most commonly used site for the horse is in the neck.
2. Restrain the animal with the use of a halter and lead rope.
3. Check which method of injection is required for the drugs to be used.

Subcutaneous

1. Follow the manufacturer's recommendation on the use of alcohol swabs. If alcohol swabs are used the skin must be allowed to dry completely before inserting the needle.
2. Subcutaneous injections should be administered in the neck using a 21 gauge needle inserted at a 30° angle through the outer layers of skin into the subcutaneous tissue.
3. Withdraw the syringe plunger slightly to ensure that the needle is not in a vein and then depress the syringe plunger slowly. If blood comes back into the syringe when the plunger is

withdrawn, reposition the needle without coming back out through the skin.

Intramuscular

- 1. It is important to ensure that intramuscular drugs are not injected into a vein or artery by mistake. Do not inject more than 20ml using intramuscular technique.**
- 2. Intramuscular injections may be more painful than subcutaneous. Be aware of adverse behaviour from the horse.**
- 3. There are three suitable sites for intramuscular injection on each side of the body of the horse. These are the musculature of the neck in the triangular area cranial to the scapular, dorsal to the spine and ventral to the nuchal ligament; the rump caudo-ventral to the point of the hip and in the pectoral muscles. The most common site for injecting vaccines is in the neck. Follow the manufacturer's instructions regarding skin preparation. If an alcohol swab is used ensure the injection site is dry before inserting the needle.**
- 4. Use a 1.5 inch 21 gauge needle and insert it at a 90° angle into the skin at the chosen site. Attach the syringe and withdraw the plunger slightly to ensure that the needle is not in a vein.**
- 5. Inject drug**
- 6. Withdraw needle.**

On completion of procedure note the date of vaccination and issue a certificate if required. Observe animals for signs of distress.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

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REVISED:

REFERENCES

- 1. McCurnin, D. M. & Bassett, J.M. 2006, Clinical textbook for veterinary technicians. Elsevier Saunders, 631, 921.**