

**SOP No:** ATT 043

**SUBJECT** Administer an intramuscular injection in the horse.

**POLICY:** These procedures may only be performed by operators who have been educated in the correct techniques, and under the supervision of their skilled Demonstrator. Leather boots must be worn.

**PRECAUTIONS:** The horse will be placed in a crush and will be suitably restrained by a skilled handler standing on the same side as the person injecting. A nose twitch would only be used if the animal is particularly fractious.

**EQUIPMENT:** 21- 18Gauge Needles  
20 ml Syringes  
Sterile saline  
Swabs & alcohol  
Halter & lead  
Twitch  
Crush

**PROCEDURE:**

1. Using the halter and attached lead, the horse's head is gently restrained by a competent horse handler, standing on the same side as the person administering the intramuscular injection.
2. The injection site on the horse's neck or gluteals is identified and swabbed with alcohol.
3. A needle is inserted perpendicular to the skin, and pushed into the muscle all the way to the hub.
4. The syringe is attached to the needle and aspirated to ensure the needle is not in a blood vessel. The injection is administered slowly, and stopped one or more times to apply negative pressure.
5. Once completed, the needle is removed from the muscle. Gentle pressure is applied over the site.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**DATE ISSUED:** 24.06.2009

**REVISED:**

**REFERENCES**

1. Rose, R.J. and Hodgson, D.R. Manual of Equine Practice. Second Edition. W.B. Saunders. Philadelphia. 2000.