

**SOP No:** ATT 044

**SUBJECT:** Administer an intravenous injection in a 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:** 21Gauge 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 intravenous injection.
2. The vein is identified and swabbed with alcohol. The vein is occluded with digital pressure at the caudal aspect of the jugular groove.
3. A needle is placed into the middle third and in the centre of the jugular vein at a 45° angle. When blood flows out of the needle, the needle is flattened to be parallel to the vein and is advanced to the hub.
4. For injection, the syringe is attached to the needle and negative pressure applied to see a "flash-back". The injection is administered slowly, and stopped one or more times to apply negative pressure.
5. Once completed, the needle is removed from the vein. Gentle pressure is applied over the venipuncture site to stop bleeding.

**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.