

NANDI VETERINARY ASSOCIATES

3244 West Sieling Road
New Freedom, PA 17349

Telephone: (717) 235-3798
Facsimile: (717) 227-9853
www.nandivet.com

Peter C. Sheerin, D.V.M.

Diplomate, American College of Theriogenologists

VACCINATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- The bare minimum annual vaccines that every horse should have are the following:
 - Tetanus
 - Eastern and Western Encephalomyelitis
 - Rabies
 - West Nile Virus
- **Foals:** Begin vaccinations at 5-6 months of age. A booster is required 4 weeks later.
Suggested vaccinations:
 - Tetanus
 - Eastern and Western Encephalomyelitis
 - Rabies
 - West Nile Virus
 - Influenza
 - Rhinopneumonitis
 - Strep intranasal (strangles) (dependant on exposure risk)
 - Potomac Horse Fever (dependant on geographic location)
 - Botulism (dependant on exposure risk, requires 2 additional boosters at 4 week intervals)
- **Yearlings, non-pregnant mares, geldings, stallions, etc.:** Vaccinate for the above diseases between March and June 1. The duration of protection against Influenza, Rhinopneumonitis, and Strep may range 3-6 months. If these diseases are a problem at a farm, some horses may need to be boosted. If young horses will be going to shows, sales, or training, booster them for Influenza, Rhinopneumonitis and Strep 2-3 weeks prior to the event.

West Nile vaccine should be boosted prior to the onset of mosquito season. The incidence of WNV infection in horses is related to bird and mosquito populations and environmental conditions. Several different vaccines are marketed for protection against WNV. All are effective.

The level of protection afforded by Potomac Horse Fever vaccine is limited. This is probably due to a single strain of the organism being in the vaccine. If your horses are in an endemic PHF area (e.g. near the Susquehanna River), a booster 2-3 months later may be helpful.

The Botulism vaccine requires 3 initial shots at 4 week intervals, then boosted annually

The efficacy of the EPM vaccine has not yet been demonstrated. Its clinical efficacy is doubtful. At this time, we do not recommend this vaccine.
- **Pregnant mares:** Vaccinate for Rhinopneumonitis at 90 days of pregnancy. Then vaccinate with Pneumabort K + 1b at 5, 7, and 9 months of pregnancy. At approximately 30 days prior to the expected foaling date, vaccinate for all of the diseases listed above, “spring shots”. These vaccines will protect the mares; improve the quality of colostrum; and through the colostrum, the foals should be protected during the first few months of life.