



# Vaccinating against Equine Influenza and Tetanus

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## Why vaccinate against Equine Influenza and Tetanus?

Equine influenza or 'flu is a highly infectious viral disease which affects the respiratory tract. Symptoms include dry, harsh cough, nasal discharge and muscle soreness. 'Flu is a serious disease which can have a prolonged recovery time - in some cases recovery will take up to 6 months and it is recommended that all affected horses be given 6 weeks complete rest following an outbreak.

Tetanus is caused by the bacterium *Clostridium tetani* entering the body through a wound. This bacterium is found in soil throughout the U.K and therefore all horses are at risk. Signs of tetanus include muscle stiffness, difficulty moving and eating and heightened response to stimuli such as light, noise and movement. Tetanus can be fatal and the treatment required is often involved and expensive.

Despite the potentially severe consequences of a 'flu outbreak or tetanus episode it is estimated that less than 40% of the U.K's horse population are vaccinated. Whilst vaccinated horses can still get 'flu and tetanus the severity of symptoms and recovery period are likely to be greatly reduced.

## What can you expect from a vaccination from Tyrrells?

The vaccines used by Tyrrells are the most up to date available. Viruses such 'flu constantly mutate to form new strains. The vaccines used by Tyrrells contain the most recent strains of 'flu which are those most likely to be a threat to your horse. Not all veterinary practices use these up to date vaccines.

When vaccinating your horse a Tyrrells vet will not simply administer the vaccine and leave. Before giving the vaccine a Tyrrells vet will take the time listen to your horse's heart and lungs and make a brief health assessment or discuss any minor concerns you may have.

## How do I get my horse vaccinated against 'Flu and tetanus?

Horses require an initial course of 3 vaccinations before going on to yearly boosters. After the initial vaccination is given the 2<sup>nd</sup> is required 4-6 weeks later and the 3<sup>rd</sup> 6 months after that. Yearly booster must be given within a year of the previous vaccination. In the event that this date is missed an initial course is required again. Vaccinations are given into the muscle of the neck or chest of your horse. Occasionally horses may have a reaction to a vaccination resulting in a localised swelling around the vaccination site. Reactions such as these will usually resolve in a few days with out need for further treatment. On the day of a vaccination it is advised not to work your horse hard but gentle exercise is ok.

For further information on vaccinations or to book an appointment please contact the clinic on 01763 287744 / [office@tyrrellsequine.co.uk](mailto:office@tyrrellsequine.co.uk)

The cost of a vaccination with Tyrrells is *just* £35 for Flu and £39 for 'Flu and Tetanus inclusive of VAT and a visit charge may apply (June 2015)

