



# What's Up Doc?

## October 2018

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## Don't Fall into the Trap! Get Your Horses Fall Vaccinated!

Autumn is the time for the next round of booster vaccinations for your horse. From boarding to fall and winter exhibitions, it is important for your horse to receive their Influenza and Rhinopneumonitis/EHV (Flu/Rhino) inoculations. The Flu/Rhino vaccine is a risk-based vaccination, which means it is recommended for only those horses at risk of contracting these diseases. They are usually recommended for horses that are exposed to other horses through competition, traveling, and in boarding stables.

The purpose of vaccination is for the body to create an immunity to the virus that the horse is being vaccinated against. When the Flu/Rhino vaccine is administered it stimulates the immune response to reduce the chance of your horse contracting either Flu or Rhino. Vaccines contain either modified live or killed viruses. Modified viruses stimulate the immune system to create

antibodies resulting in a stronger defense system against that virus. Then when the body is exposed to these viruses it knows how to fight it. Some vaccinations provide shorter immunity than others, those vaccines require a "Booster" more often to provide protective immunity. Among these are the Flu/Rhino, thus Countryside veterinarians recommend vaccination at least every 6 months for those horses at risk. You can discuss the level of risk your horse will experience throughout the fall and winter with your veterinarian to decide on an appropriate vaccination schedule.

**Rhino/EHV-1&4**, Rhinopneumonitis, Equine Herpes Virus, or EHV all are different names for the same virus. The most common strains of Rhino are EHV-1 and EHV-4. The EHV-1 strain can manifest in four ways: respiratory, neurological, abortion, or neonatal death. The EHV-4 strain usually presents as an upper respiratory infection. In rare cases, it too can cause neurological symptoms and abortion. The only definitive diagnosis is having samples analyzed by a lab. Both strains of EHV are passed from horse to horse via direct contact, contaminated humans, tools, trailers, and feed buckets etc. EHV is also aerosolized but it is not confirmed how far the disease can move while airborne. The disease can stay active on surfaces for anywhere from seven days up to a month under the perfect conditions. The virus can usually be killed on surfaces very easily with simple disinfectants like bleach or chlorhexidine.

**Equine Influenza** is another highly contagious disease that often presents with a high fever and a dry cough. Other common symptoms are nasal discharge, swollen lymph nodes, depression, and inappetence. Like EHV, the only definitive diagnosis is through sample analysis. Equine Influenza is also transmitted by the aerosolized saliva of coughing horses, and improperly cleaned equipment such as buckets, tack, and stall cleaning implements. Simple disinfectants should kill the residual virus on the equipment.

Following a disease prevention protocol while traveling or at your home barn by vaccinating, and not sharing buckets or equipment between horses will help prevent disease outbreaks and assist in keeping your horse healthy. The suggested time frame for vaccinating against Flu/Rhino is between September and November. And remember, it is never too late for your horse to get a rabies vaccine! Check out the Rabies data table on page 2. Discuss any vaccine protocol related questions with your veterinarian here at Countryside. Call to schedule your fall vaccination appointment at 970-351-7045.



November is  
Dental Health  
Month at  
Countryside

Free Office  
Call

Free Sheath Cleaning  
(With Float Appointment)

Free Dental  
Exam

Annual Fecal Parasite  
Screening



**COLORADO**  
Department of Public  
Health & Environment

So far in 2018, 292 animals from Colorado have tested positive for rabies. Of those, 148 rabid animals were known or strongly suspected of exposing 309 domestic pets, 93 livestock animals, and 95 people.

Lab-confirmed, rabies positive animals by county, Colorado, Jan. 1 - Sep. 13, 2018

County	Bat	Skunk	Other wildlife	Domestic	Total
Adams	2				2
Arapahoe	5	1			6
Archuleta		1			1
Bent	1				1
Boulder	5	1			6
Broomfield	2		1 (raccoon)		3
Cheyenne		1			1
Douglas	1	3		1 (alpaca)	5
Denver	4	71			75
Eagle	1				1
El Paso	6	58	1 (raccoon)		65
Elbert		3			3
Fremont	2				2
Grand	1				1
Huerfano		1			1
Jefferson	8	18			26
Larimer	5	29	1 (coyote)		35
Las Animas		1			1
La Plata	3	2			5
Lincoln		2			2
Montrose	1				1
Morgan	1	1			2
Ouray	1				1
Pitkin	1				1
Pueblo	11	2		1 (dog)	14
Saguache	3				3
Weld	8	12	1 (raccoon)	7 (cats and dog)	28
Total	72	207	4	9	292