

# WHAT IS HERD IMMUNITY?

Herd immunity is a form of immunity that occurs when the vaccination of a significant portion of a herd provides a measure of protection for individuals who have not been vaccinated or not developed immunity through natural exposure.

In Britain it is estimated that less than 50% of horses are vaccinated against 'flu'. It is widely agreed that to achieve an effective level of herd immunity against equine 'flu', vaccination rates need to be considerably higher in the region of 70%.

## SAFETY IN NUMBERS



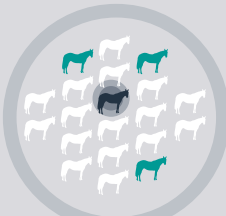
Healthy horse, non-vaccinated



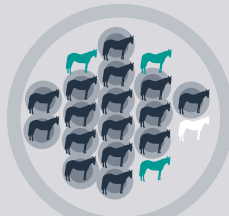
Healthy horse, vaccinated



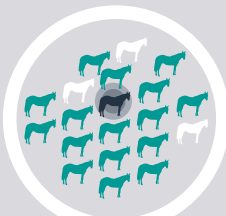
Non-vaccinated, sick, contagious



SOME horses are vaccinated...

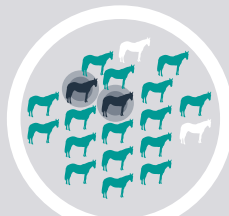


virus spreads



By protecting your horse you are also helping to protect all horses by reducing the spread of disease.

MOST horses are vaccinated...



virus contained

# WHAT IS A VACCINATION AMNESTY?

We appreciate that it can be difficult to always remember when boosters are due and that there can be a number of factors that may result in vaccinations lapsing. For whatever reason, a horse's booster can often become significantly overdue, leaving them unprotected.

A vaccination amnesty is a way to get your horse's vaccination status back up to date at a reduced cost. For a limited period, we will offer both an initial vaccine and the second dose for the price of a single injection. Please note that the offer does NOT include any third dose of 'flu' vaccine. Horses will need to be over 12 months of age and be unvaccinated or have lapsed from their normal booster vaccination by more than 3 months.



If you have any further questions, please contact your veterinary surgeon or visit [www.healthyhorses.co.uk](http://www.healthyhorses.co.uk) This information is brought to you by MSD Animal Health, manufacturers of Equilis Prequenza.



\*Vaccination rates are based on the assumption of 1 million horses in GB. 'Flu' and 'flu'/tetanus vaccine doses based on GFK January 2016 MAT.

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# PROTECT YOUR HORSE WITH REDUCED COST VACCINATION!



## OVER HALF OF THE UK HORSE POPULATION IS UNPROTECTED.\* IS YOUR HORSE ONE OF THEM?

# THE VACCINATION AMNESTY

Brought to you by:



# WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO VACCINATE YOUR HORSE?

**Just as with human disease, vaccination helps horses fight infection and if a horse does develop disease, it will decrease the severity of signs.**

The fact that equine 'flu' epidemics are now quite rare is largely attributed to the success of vaccination.

## WHY SHOULD I VACCINATE MY HORSE?

- To prevent unnecessary suffering and potential death
- To prevent additional unplanned expenses - costs of treatment can far outweigh the costs of vaccination
- To prevent loss of use - a sick horse should not be exercised until it has completely recovered
- To prevent yard closures and sporting cancellations - horse movements on a yard may have to be restricted or cancelled if a horse is diagnosed with an infectious disease
- To prevent the spread of disease



# WHAT DISEASES ARE HORSES VACCINATED AGAINST?

## EQUINE INFLUENZA

Equine Influenza is a highly infectious viral disease, which affects the respiratory tract and lungs. It is widespread throughout the horse population and spreads directly horse-to-horse or via contaminated people, tack or feed. It has also been demonstrated that influenza can travel some distance (up to 5km) by the wind. Therefore your horse does not need to leave your premises in order to become infected.

Signs include a dry, harsh cough, fever, nasal discharge and lethargy. Following a bout of 'flu', horses will need complete rest for a prolonged period and secondary complications can develop, which require further rest and treatment.

## TETANUS

All horses are at risk of tetanus. A horse doesn't even need to leave home to be at risk of picking up the infection. It is extremely unpleasant to witness and is usually fatal despite all attempts at treatment.

Tetanus is caused by bacteria found in soil and horse droppings, which enter the body through wounds or punctures in the hoof. Horses will develop muscle stiffness resulting in a "rocking-horse" stance and "lock-jaw". If the horse survives tetanus, treatment is likely to be intensive, prolonged and extremely costly.

## OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Horses can also be vaccinated against a number of other diseases, however this is not part of the vaccination amnesty. Please contact your practice for more information about this.

# WHY ARE BOOSTER VACCINATIONS REQUIRED?

Vaccines stimulate an immune response in horses by tricking their bodies into believing that they are being attacked by a disease and creating antibodies and killer cells to fight infection.

This means that when natural infection does occur, the immune system is able to produce a much faster and stronger response. It is this strong response, as a result of vaccination, that prevents the disease becoming debilitating and spreading to others.

But this protection does not last indefinitely and will gradually fall, leaving your horse at risk. Your horse's immunity therefore needs "topping up" at regular intervals. In the case of 'flu', after the third dose, revaccination is recommended every 12 months. In the case of tetanus, after the first booster, revaccination is recommended every 2 years.

