

Common Equine Vaccines and Routine Bloodwork

Vaccine	Frequency	Comments
Potomac Horse Fever	Every 3 months throughout the spring, summer, and fall	Endemic in this area. Picked up from snails, slugs, and aquatic insects in the environment. Early signs: fever, lethargy, lack of appetite Progresses to: diarrhea and laminitis Vaccine may not prevent disease but will make it less severe.
Rabies	yearly	Commonly identified in wild animals in the area. Fatal to those infected. Vaccine is required for health certificates and travel.
Tetanus	yearly	Bacteria that enters through open wounds and causes prolonged skeletal muscle contraction.
Eastern/Western Encephalitis	twice yearly	Becoming more common in the area. Neurologic signs. Transmitted through mosquitoes.
West Nile Virus	twice yearly	Becoming more common in the area. Neurologic signs. Transmitted through mosquitoes.
Flu/Rhino	twice yearly or every 3 months for higher risk horses	Transmitted through nose to nose contact and through the air. Causes fever, lethargy, cough, and/or nasal discharge. Recommended for horses that board, show, or travel.
Lyme	Twice yearly	May consider pulling Lyme titer prior to starting vaccination series. Very common in this area- spread through tick bites. Clinical signs of Lyme disease includes: lethargy, fever, change in behavior/attitude, stiffness, lameness, etc. This is a dog vaccine being used in horses. Scientific evidence shows it to be an effective vaccine in horses.

Bloodwork	Comments
ACTH/insulin	For Cushing's and Insulin Resistant patients, this should be run annually. Also a good idea to run annually in all senior horses. When checking insulin levels, a fasting sample is ideal.
Vitamin E/Selenium levels	Deficient in the soil/hay in this region. Deficiencies can lead to exercise intolerance, lethargy, and muscle soreness.
Lyme titer	Lyme disease is common in this area. Transmitted through tick bites. May cause lethargy, fever, change in behavior/attitude, stiffness, lameness, etc.
CBC/Chemistry	Checks for anemia, signs of infection, and abnormalities in liver, kidney, and muscle enzymes. Recommended annually as a baseline.

