

New Vaccination Requirements at ADS shows beginning January 1, 2017!

The New Year brings on some new flu/rhino vaccination requirements that may change your veterinary plans for the 2017 show year, especially for January's Nature Coast show at Black Prong, the Little Everglades CDE, and February's Spring Fling CDE/DT/CT at the Florida Horse Park.

The requirements were brought on to be in compliance with the American Driving Society's United States Equestrian Federation affiliation, along with a history of issues with these equine diseases spreading rapidly at shows and a quarantine of those show grounds. Can you imagine not being able to take your horse home after a show due to a quarantine?

The rule will be part of the General Regulations of the ADS 2017 rulebook: GR1 Chapter 3 Article 6.3. The rule states:

At American Driving Society recognized events, all equines entering the event location must be accompanied by documentation of Equine Influenza Virus and Equine Herpes Virus (Rhinopneumonitis) vaccinations within six months prior to entering the competition venue. Equines not in compliance with this Rule may be required to leave the driving event location upon request by Competition Management.

The frequency of vaccine administration should be as recommended by the vaccine manufacturer or Veterinarian. It is recommended that vaccines be administered by or under the direction of a veterinarian.

Documentation should consist of one of the following:

- ***In the case of vaccines given by a Veterinarian, the Person Responsible, upon request by Competition Management, must provide documentation from the Veterinarian documenting that the equine in question received the vaccinations, the date administered and the name of the vaccine.*** (Note: USEF/FEI shows may also require the manufacturer's name, the serial number and expiration date of the vaccine. This documentation with the administering Veterinarian's stamp/signature may be in the equine's passport or Vaccination Record or on an official receipt/invoice containing the Veterinarian's name and address).
- ***In the case of vaccines administered by a person other than a Veterinarian, the Person Responsible, upon request by Competition Management must provide a receipt of the vaccine purchase which is signed by the Person Responsible, the equine's name, serial number and expiration date of the vaccine and the date of vaccine administration.***
- ***In the case of an equine that is unable to receive either of the vaccines due to a history of adverse reactions, the Person Responsible, upon request by Competition Management, must provide a letter from a Veterinarian on official letterhead stating the equine in question cannot be vaccinated due to medical concerns. These equines must also have their temperatures taken twice daily while on the competition grounds. The log of temperatures should be provided to the Competition management, steward or technical delegate when requested.***



Ideally, the proof of vaccination should be attached to the Athlete's entry form. Most veterinarians are familiar with a standard USEF vaccination receipt/form they can give you. The form can also be found at <https://www.usef.org/documents/membership/EquineVaccinationRecord.pdf>.

The intent of this rule is to ensure that all licensed competitions comply with the vaccination guidelines for equine influenza and rhinopneumonitis published by the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP). These guidelines are reviewed by infectious disease experts regularly, and recommend vaccinating competition horses at six-month intervals for both influenza and rhinopneumonitis. These vaccinations have been required practice in most other equine disciplines for several years; USEF adopted the rule effective in 2015. None of us wants to be quarantined, and none of us wants to expose our own equine to another unhealthy equine at a show, so these new rules are for everyone's protection and safety. Here's to a happy and healthy new year in driving!



Photo: Anne M. Eberhardt/The Horse