

# Why Risk Rabies?

## Vaccinate Your Horse Today

### Rabies - What to Know

- Invariably fatal
- No cure for horses or people
- AAEP core vaccine for all horses
- Disease transferable to humans
- Vaccinate every year to protect your horse



### PROTECT YOUR HORSES

#### What is Rabies?

- Rabies is a virus that causes a neurological disease and can affect all mammals.
- Once bitten, the virus migrates to the brain where it initiates rapidly progressive, invariably fatal, encephalitis.

#### Is there a cure?

- No, rabies is invariably fatal once clinical signs appear.
- The American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) recommends rabies as a core vaccine for all horses.<sup>1</sup>
- Vaccination is generally very safe, inexpensive and highly protective.

#### How does my horse contract rabies?

- Horses contract rabies through the bite of an infected (rabid) animal, such as a raccoon, fox, skunk or bat.
- Bites typically occur on the horse's muzzle or lower limbs and often go unnoticed.

#### Are some horses more susceptible than others?

- No. A stalled horse may be just as susceptible as a horse out on pasture.
- All horses, regardless of geography, breed or lifestyle should be vaccinated every year.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> AAEP Core Vaccine Guidelines (aaep.org)

# Your horse may be at risk through the bite of a rabid animal.



Skunks



Foxes



Raccoons



Bats

## How do I know my horse has rabies?

- The symptoms can be nonspecific, varied and can look like anything.
- Rabies progresses rapidly with death generally occurring in three to five days following the onset of clinical signs.
- Contact your veterinarian immediately if your horse has been exposed to a potentially rabid animal, or is showing signs of neurologic disease.

## What are the most common symptoms?

- Colic
- Lameness
- Incoordination (ataxia)
- Paralysis
- Urinary incontinence
- Muscle tremors
- Fever
- Depression
- Abnormal behavior (aggressiveness, stupor)
- Convulsions
- Increased sensitivity (hyperesthesia)
- Abnormal vocalization

## Am I at risk?

- Yes, rabies can be transferred from animals to humans.
- You may become infected with the rabies virus through contact with saliva or brain/nervous system tissue from a rabid animal.
- Aggressive, post-exposure prophylaxis may be required for human exposure.

## How do we prevent it?

- Without a cure, rabies prevention becomes crucial.
- The AAEP recommends all horses be vaccinated annually.<sup>1</sup>
- EquiRab® is the only monovalent rabies vaccine developed and labeled specifically for horses.
- EquiRab® is long-lasting, providing 14-month duration of immunity. It requires only one low-volume dose and is proven safe - 97.7% reaction free.<sup>2</sup>

For more information, visit [GetVaccinatingRight.com](http://GetVaccinatingRight.com)

<sup>1</sup> AAEP Core Vaccine Guidelines (aaep.org)

<sup>2</sup> Data on file. Merck Animal Health

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