

Address horse health before show season starts



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During the hustle and bustle of getting show horses fit and ready for the ring, don't forget important health concerns to address be-

fore the season gets under way.

First, all horses that compete at rodeos, shows, and other events are required by federal law to have a negative test for equine infectious anemia (EIA), or Coggins test, within the last 12 months. Some facilities may require that this test be done within the last six months. In fact, any horse that leaves its premises for any reason must have a Coggins test, which has to be run by a licensed veterinarian. In the rare case that a test is positive for EIA, regulatory authorities will contact the owner concerning the future of the horse.

Vaccinations are the next big concern. Remember that ALL horses, regardless of their intended purpose, need to be vaccinated for tetanus, Eastern and Western equine encephalitis, and West Nile virus.

Horses that travel and are exposed to other horses also need to be vaccinated for influenza and rhinopneumonitis. Other vaccines to consider are rabies, strangles, and Potomac horse fever. Your veterinarian can help you decide if your horses are candidates for the list of optional vaccines. Horses that are being vaccinated for the first time will need a booster three to four weeks after the initial shot. Many vets will recommend quarterly boosters for influenza and rhinopneumonitis to horses that are on an intensive show schedule.

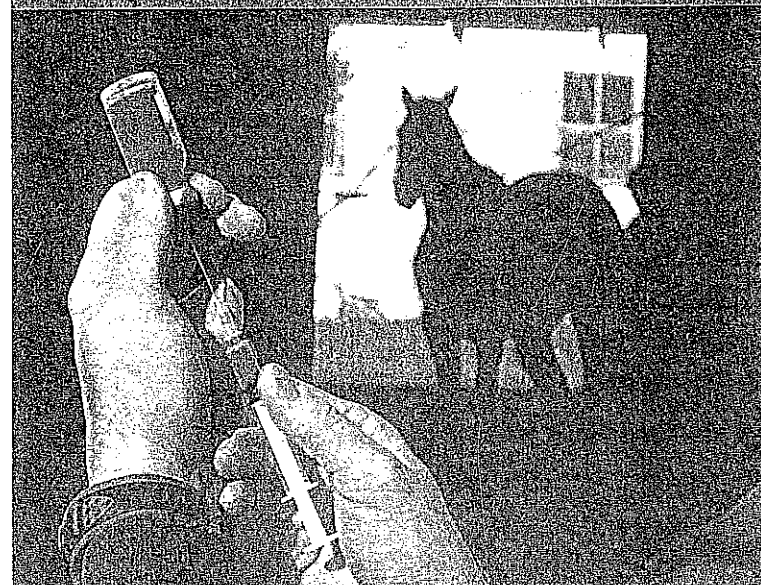
Before the season starts, it is important to do preventative care for any health issues that show horses might have to help prevent down time during show season. For example, having a veterinarian check for and treat joint problems can prevent a horse from missing shows due to lameness or injury.

Deworming is the final horse health consideration for show season. Horses that are shown are often under more stress than pasture horses, making them more prone to parasites. Type and frequency of deworming will depend on product and management style. A local veterinarian or the key animal

health employee at your local Co-op can help you decide on a deworming program that is right for your horse.

Addressing these health concerns before you start showing will help you have a safe and successful season. Good luck!

Don't let equine vaccination time slip up on you ...



Ask your local Co-op about equine vaccines!

