The GEORGE Equine Clinic

INTRA-MUSCULAR INJECTIONS

Certain medications, particularly antibiotics, have to be given on a regular basis (e.g. daily) by injection into muscle. We can visit you daily to do this but it is obviously more cost-effective for you to inject your horse yourself. We will always aim to show you how to inject your horse and this information should act as a reminder.

There are two main areas for performing intramuscular injections, and it is good practice to alternate the site of injection each day so that no area gets too sore.

Neck injections

♦ Draw up the required dose using the needle and syringe provided.
♦ Remove the needle from the end of the syringe.
♦ The muscle area to inject is the middle of the neck (it can be defined as being within a triangle one hands width in front of the shoulder, one hands width below the crest of the neck and one hands width above the hollow at the base of the neck).
♦ Take a twitch of skin with your left hand just in front of where you aim to inject.
♦ Inject the needle at 90 degrees to the skin, and all the way in so that no metal can be seen.
♦ Check no blood is coming from the needle (if it is, then remove the needle and start the process elsewhere).
♦ Connect the syringe, draw back on the plunger to double-check no blood is seen, then inject all contents of the syringe.

Hindquarter injections

♦ Draw up the required dose using the needle and syringe provided.
♦ Remove the needle from the end of the syringe.
♦ The muscle area to inject into can be defined as being at the mid-point of a line drawn from the top of the tail-head to the point of the hip.
♦ Stand in front of the back leg, slap the desired area a couple of times (to reduce the shock of the needle) then inject the needle at 90 degrees to the skin, and all the way in so that no metal can be seen.
♦ Check no blood is coming from the needle (if it is, then remove the needle and start the process elsewhere).
♦ Connect the syringe, draw back on the plunger to double-check no blood is seen, then inject all contents of the syringe.

NECK

GRAB A HANDFUL OF NECK (SKIN TWITCH) AND INJECT INTO MID NECK

HINDQUARTERS

INJECT MIDWAY BETWEEN TAIL AND POINT OF HIP