



## Select Equine Veterinary Services

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### How to Give Procaine Penicillin Injections

Your veterinarian has just prescribed Procaine Penicillin G for your horse. This medication is in a suspension and needs to be **shaken well** before use. **Keep refrigerated.**

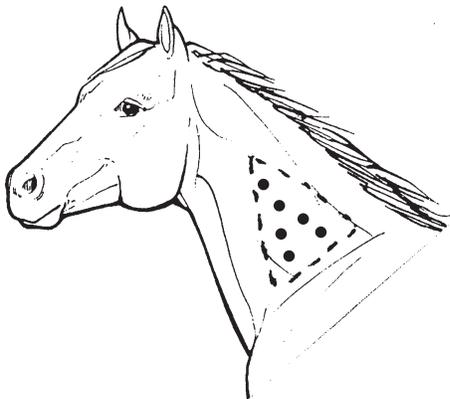
The typical dose of penicillin for a horse is 3cc (3mL) of Penicillin (300,000 IU/mL) per pound, injected into the muscle 2 times a day for 7 days. A 1000lb horse would get 30cc twice a day.

It is very important to give this medication in the **MUSCLE ONLY**. If giving more than 20cc per dose, I recommend dividing the dosage amount by 1/2 and giving each 1/2 dose into two separate locations. For example, if the horse is getting 25 cc, give 12.5 cc in two separate muscle sites.

I recommend placing the needle **DEEP** into the muscle first, perpendicular to the skin, all the way to the hub (don't be shy) and then attach the syringe. Pull back on the syringe plunger and check for any blood in the needle hub or syringe. You do **NOT** want blood in the needle hub or syringe. If this happens, take out the needle and try a new location. Procaine Penicillin will cause an adverse reaction if it is injected directly into the bloodstream. Possible reactions include: horse trembles temporarily, bolts forward, has a seizure, head presses, collapses, and may die (especially if injected directly into a blood vessel).

I recommend using a different injection site each time so your horse won't get too sore. The two main muscle groups I recommend are the back of the thighs (buttocks area unless the horse is a known "kicker") and the neck. For example, inject the left neck in the morning and left buttocks in the evening. The next day, switch to the right side. Although some people use the hips and chest, these muscles tend to be more susceptible to swelling and soreness, therefore avoid these muscles if possible. To avoid getting kicked, inject into the **RIGHT** buttocks while standing on the **LEFT** side of the horse, and visa versa.

**Neck:** triangular area in front of shoulder and at least one hand's width below the mane and above the jugular groove.



**Thighs / buttocks:** Back of thighs below the tail head (do not use if the horse kicks).

• = injection site

