

Don't fall foul of **FLU** vac regulations

At the Winter Championships at Hartpury over Easter we once again had some flu vac irregularities, some we were able to overcome by contacting vets, checking other records etc, some we could not.

Two horses were disqualified for having the annual booster within seven days of the Championships, (neither rider was aware of this part of the rules) two were disqualified for only having annual injections, the initial course of three injections had not been undertaken.

At Area qualifiers and at Championships we are finding problems that owners could spot when buying a new horse, here are three simple tips on what to check:

- 1) **CHECK BACKWARDS:** Starting at the most current injection date and working backwards is the easiest way to find the initial set up injections.
- 2) **CHECK THE INITIAL SET-UP INJECTIONS:** There have to be two primary vaccinations given no less than 21 days and no more than 92 days apart, then a booster injection must be given no less than 150 days and no more than 215 days after the second injection.
- 3) **CHECK THE ANNUAL BOOSTERS:** These must be done at intervals of no more than one year apart. Be on the look out for other non flu injections such as Tetanus, EHV (Equine Herpes Virus) etc and don't count these as part of the flu vaccination record.

If in doubt - Check it out!

Please remember that at Area Qualifiers and at Championships we need to see the FULL flu vaccination history, not just the latest injection date. The golden rule is simple **If in doubt - check it out:** ask your Area Representative or any of the Area Official Stewards to double check the flu vac history for you, or go to the BRC web site use the on-line Flu Vac Checker, simply go to: www.britishridingclubs.org.uk and select BRC Championships and the Rule Book and you will see the checker at the top of the page.

We will do all we can to ensure that members can compete at both Area Qualifiers and at Championships providing they comply with the rules. Please ensure that you are not one of the few that are disqualified and thoroughly check your Flu Vac records.



David Bacon, BRC Championship Stable Manager and National Representative for the Midlands, explains how not to fall foul of the dreaded flu vac check

Other simple tips to help you to keep within the flu vaccination rules:

- 1) Never risk leaving your annual booster to the very last day, just in case your vet doesn't arrive.
- 2) Put the date of the next injection in your diary or calendar. Don't trust your memory or expect your vet to remind you.
- 3) When competing at an Area Qualifier or at a Championship remember to bring the full flu vac history with you, especially if some are in the passport and some are on the old flu vac cards.
- 4) If you have to send your passport to the issuing authority then keep a photocopy of all the pages, you don't know how long they will take making alterations etc.
- 5) Always make sure that your flu vac card/passport is available for the vet on the day of the injection.
- 6) Always check what your vet puts on the flu vac page - there have been a number of instances at Championships last year and this year where the vet has entered the invoice date instead of the injection date.
- 7) Look at transferring dates from the flu vac card to the passport so as to reduce the possibility of not having the full flu vac history with you.

With regard to costs you may wish to consider the following:

- 8) If you have more than one horse or are on a livery yard look at combining dates so as to reduce vet costs.
- 9) Look at the possibility of having a vet come to your club on a regular basis to vaccinate groups of horses so as to share some of the costs.
- 10) Take your horse to the vet to avoid a call out charge.

