

***New USEF vaccination rule takes effect Dec. 1.***

Beginning Dec. 1 of this year, the U.S. Equestrian Federation is requiring all horses at its sanctioned competitions to be vaccinated against equine influenza virus (EIV) and equine herpesvirus (EHV) within the previous six months. Anyone bringing horses onto the show grounds will need to have proof that those vaccinations are up to date. This is part of new USEF rule, GR 845.

Electronic Vet offers an easy way to manage your horses' vaccination records and get them to the horse show office quickly, efficiently and accurately. Either printed on paper, or viewed via the website, you can provide any horse show office proof of vaccination history and comply with the new rule.

Until the passage of this rule, each show manager could post different vaccination requirements, often leading to confusion and over vaccination of show horses.

The USEF acknowledged this issue, and developed The Equine Vaccination Rule (GR 845). According to USEF, the intent is to provide vaccination requirements in an attempt to minimize the potential for disease outbreak and provide consistency for entry across all Federation competitions and eliminate the use of excessive vaccination requirements.

“While outbreaks of contagious equine infections have grown in frequency, there needs to be a solution to shows autonomously requiring overly-aggressive vaccination schedules. Because of these redundant requirements, we have seen an increase in both frequency and severity of adverse reactions to vaccinations given to competition horses. We applaud the USEF rule change (GR 845) as it is in the best interest of the horse – keeping them protected, but not threatening their health by over-vaccinating,” said Dr. Wayne Browning, founder, Bayhill Equine.

The EVet Certificate uses a secure, comprehensive, on-line data base which alleviates the need for multiple paper copies of vaccination records and eliminates potential record damage or loss. It keeps a running log of all the horses' immunizations for the year (and years prior) in chronological order.

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The Chair of the USEF veterinary committee, Dr. Kent Allen said: “The bottom line is your horse must be current on the equine influenza and equine herpesvirus vaccines by Dec. 1, 2015. If you maintain this vaccination schedule and obtain appropriate documentation, you will not only comply with the rule, but you also will ensure your horse is adequately protected against these highly contagious respiratory diseases.”

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*Article provided by Electronic Vet. For more information, visit [www.electronicvet.com](http://www.electronicvet.com).*