

North Star Veterinary Services Newsletter

August 2019

INJECTION GUIDELINES

At some point or another, our animals will require an injection or "shot". This could be for vaccination, treatment of a disease, breeding, sedation, etc. It is important to think about the proper way to give each of these products for the following reasons:

- Reduces the chance of abscesses
- Reduces the amount of trimmed meat from the carcass
- Allows the drug to work as intended and reduces the chance of a drug residue in meat or milk
- Reduces the chance of nerve damage or other injuries to the animal
- Helps to prevent accidental human injection

CHECK THE LABEL - Always look at every product label before giving it. Companies do change labels, so look even if it is a product you are familiar with. Products may also have a unique administration, such as Excede which is labeled to be given at the base of the ear.

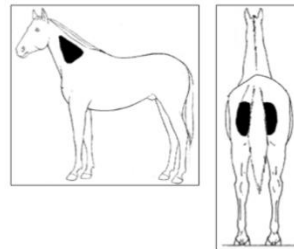
UNDERSTAND THE TERMINOLOGY

- IM = Intramuscular = in the muscle
- SQ = Subcutaneous = under the skin
- IV = Intravenous = in the vein

USE THE RIGHT NEEDLE - needles are measured by length (inches) and gauge (diameter)

- In adult animals, use 1.5 inch needles for intramuscular injections and 1 to 0.5 inch needles for subcutaneous injections
- Use shorter needles in young or small animals
- Vaccines and other easy to draw fluids can use 18 or 20 gauge where as harder to draw medications can use 16 gauge

USE THE RIGHT INJECTION LOCATIONS - Below is a picture of the ideal injection location for intramuscular and subcutaneous injections in food animals (cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs) and intramuscular shots for horses. Injections given outside of this area are highly discouraged.



KEEP IT CLEAN AND SHARP

- NEVER inject a dirty or wet animal, this can cause an infection to occur
- Always use a clean needle when entering a medication bottle
- When injecting a large group of animals, change the needle every 10 animals
- Always replace broken or bent needles

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Do not mix medications in the same syringe, this can inactivate the medication
- When giving large volumes, keep it to 10 mL per injection site

WHEN IN DOUBT TALK TO YOUR VETERINARIAN

When contacting North Star call 518-483-6223