**Vaccination Guidelines**

There are many outbreaks of Equine Influenza (EI) there has been a lot of discussion across the British Equestrian Federation (BEF) about the most appropriate response to protect horses. An outbreak of Equine Flu is a serious issue of equine welfare and would have a large impact on the day to day running of RDA groups, as well as equestrian businesses and the industry as a whole.

RDA UK will require any horse that is owned by RDA, or that is deemed to qualify for the free vaccine scheme, to be vaccinated annually.  Where possible, we are recommending that horses should be vaccinated every 6 months**.** It is also recommended that any other horse used by RDA should be vaccinated. This will ensure that we stay in line with both BE (British Equestrian) and the FEI rules, this is also a preventative to reduce the incidence and occurrence of EI.

By vaccinating horses every 6 months we are in compliance with competition venues or outside venues for RDA activities.

**Free Vaccination Scheme for RDA**

For a number of years, three pharmaceutical companies have generously supplied free vaccines for RDA horses and ponies: Zoetis, MSD Animal Health and Boehringer Ingelheim. RDA horses and ponies qualify for the scheme if they ‘contribute a significant amount of their time to doing RDA activities’. Please be aware, it covers the cost of the vaccine only and not the cost of any call out charges made by a vet.

Claiming a free vaccine is easy: just fill out the form on the MyRDA website in Equines in RDA, Vaccinations. The form can be signed by a Trustee of the group and the Vet who administered the vaccines. The group should keep the original and then send a copy to the relevant participating pharmaceutical company. This will depend on the type of vaccine administered, your Vet will advise if you aren’t sure. The Veterinary practice will then be reimbursed with vaccine replacement usually on a quarterly basis.

If you have any queries regarding vaccinations, please do not hesitate to get in touch with RDA National Office: 01926 492915 / groupsupport@rda.org.uk