

# SNOTTY NOSES IN HORSES... DO YOU NEED ANTIBIOTICS?

**Nasal discharge and coughing** (aka "the snots") are commonly seen in horses.

**What to do?** Most horses will feel better within 1 week (although the cough may last for a few weeks). **Antibiotics do not speed recovery in most cases, and should never be used unless your veterinarian examines the horse and prescribes them.** The colour and consistency of the nasal discharge do not determine whether antibiotics are needed.



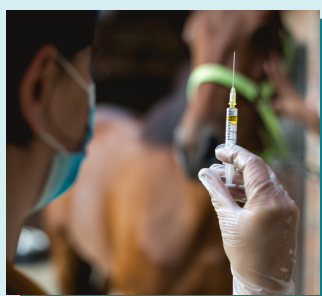
## BIOSECURITY AND VACCINATIONS ARE YOUR BEST TOOLS



### GOOD BIOSECURITY GOES A LONG WAY

Assume any respiratory disease is highly contagious! Until your veterinarian diagnoses the cause of the snotty nose or cough, the most important thing to do is to **isolate the sick horse** from others to reduce spread. Make sure to **wash** your hands, clothes, boots, and equipment before and after contact with the sick horse.

More information on biosecurity is available [here](#).



### PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN TREATMENT

Talk to your veterinarian about the **safe and effective vaccines** available for equine contagious respiratory diseases. These can prevent or greatly reduce illness and down time. The more horses that are vaccinated, the less the risk of spread and outbreaks.



### REST AND TLC ARE KEY

Allow your horse with a cough and nasal discharge to take it easy. Monitor their appetite, drinking and manure production.

## KEEP YOUR HORSE UP TO DATE ON EQUINE RESPIRATORY VACCINES

# SNOTTY NOSES IN HORSES... DO YOU NEED ANTIBIOTICS?

For horses with nasal discharge or coughing, you should **call your veterinarian** when you notice that your horse:

- Has a fever
- Is in pain
- Is having difficulty breathing
- Is off feed or lethargic
- Is having persistent signs



Your veterinarian can determine if **testing is needed if there is a high risk to other horses becoming sick** (due to show, stable, travel, etc.).

**ANTIBIOTICS DO NOT SPEED RECOVERY IN MOST CASES & SHOULD NEVER BE USED UNLESS YOUR VETERINARIAN EXAMINES THE HORSE AND PRESCRIBES THEM**



## HOW YOUR VETERINARIAN CAN HELP

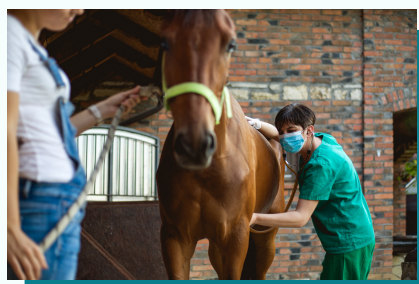
Your veterinarian can perform a thorough physical exam on your horse and provide great advice on best care.

They may also perform **laboratory tests**, such as:



## RESPIRATORY PANEL PCR TESTS

- This is used to figure out which virus or bacteria are present in the horse
- It can give you a good idea of whether the sick horse is contagious to other horses or not
- It can also guide treatment decisions and the time a horse should rest before returning to exercise



**EVERYONE HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP, INCLUDING HORSE OWNERS!**