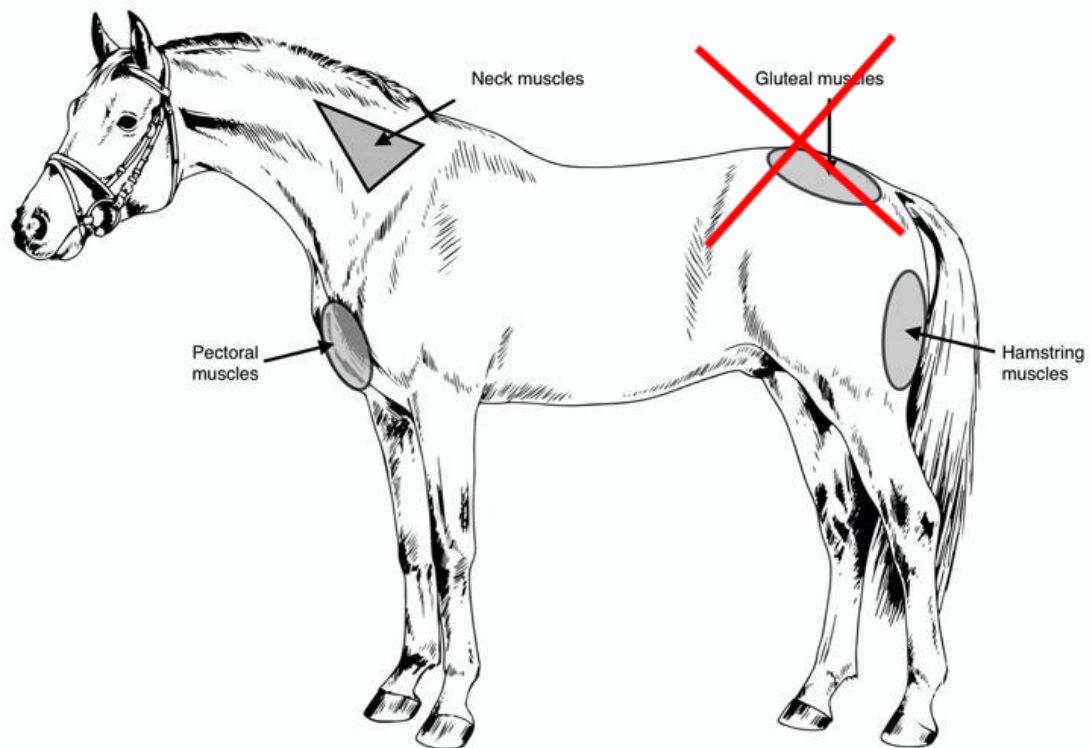


How to Give an Intramuscular Injection

Intramuscular injections are a mainstay of treatment for our equine patients. From vaccines to antibiotics, many medications can be given in the muscle. Knowing how to give an injection properly can help to ease stress when your horse is sick and requires at-home medications. It is also beneficial for giving vaccinations and joint therapies.

Important tips to remember when giving injections:

- Always pull back before injecting to ensure no blood in syringe
- Use the smallest needle possible to safely and effectively administer medication
- Do NOT re-use needles or syringes



1. PECTORAL MUSCLES
 - a. Advantages: Very few interfering structures; easy to give; drains easily if abscessed
 - b. Disadvantages: Prone to more reactions than other sites
2. NECK MUSCLES
 - a. Advantages: Easy to inject safely; can be done with minimal help; tolerated well by patient; least reactive
 - b. Disadvantages: Must use proper landmarks to avoid injecting into vertebrae
3. GLUTEAL MUSCLES: Many people use these for ease of access; however, **this site is NOT recommended by veterinarians**
4. HAMSTRING MUSCLES
 - a. Advantages: Very few interfering structures; drains easily if abscessed
 - b. Disadvantages: Requires safe handling to avoid getting kicked



Please feel free to call us with any questions!
Auburn Equine / AMC Large Animal Services
530-823-0162