

# Michael D. Erskine, D.V.M.

Diplomate, American Board of Veterinary Practitioners, Board Certified in Equine Practice

## How to Give a Horse an Intramuscular Injection

Intramuscular (IM) injections are given deep into large muscles where the drug can be absorbed slowly. The most common location for an IM injection in the horse is the neck.

***This is intended for informational use only.  
Always consult your veterinarian before administering any injections.***

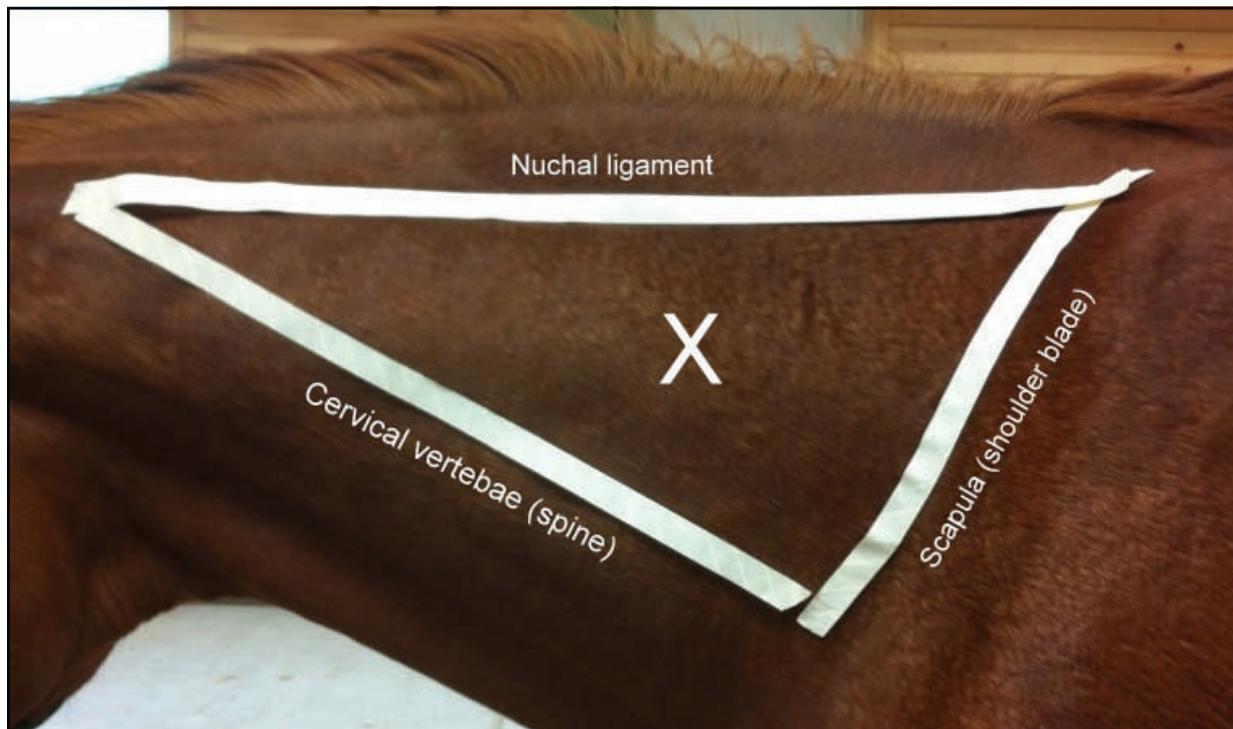
Before administering an injection remember the following things:

- Read the label to make sure that you are administering the correct drug
- Check the recommended dosage
- Make sure to use a sterile needle and syringe
- Brush any noticeable dirt from the injection site
- Untie your horse and if possible have someone hold the lead line

***If you have any questions or concerns contact your veterinarian before proceeding!***

### *Know Your Anatomy*

The IM injection site on a horse's neck is defined by three anatomical structures: the nuchal ligament along the top of the neck, the cervical vertebrae along the base of the neck, and the scapula (shoulder blade). Your injection site should be in the center of these three structures.



# Michael D. Erskine, D.V.M.

Diplomate, American Board of Veterinary Practitioners, Board Certified in Equine Practice

## *Injection Instructions*

Pinch or tent the skin next to your injection site. This will distract the horse and eases the needle stick.

*Tenting the skin before an injection*



Insert the needle perpendicular to the skin and push the needle all the way into the muscle until the needle hub touches the skin.



*Insert the needle perpendicular to the skin*

Always aspirate (pull back on the plunger) before injection to make sure that you are not in a blood vessel. If you aspirate blood, then pull the needle out part of the way and redirect it. If you pull the needle out completely make sure to use a clean sterile needle.

Slowly push the plunger and inject the medication into the muscle.  
Properly dispose of your needle and syringe when finished with the injection.