

EQUINE FLU IN DONKEYS

Learn about Equine Influenza, a contagious respiratory virus similar to the human Flu.

 4 December 2017  [Read on The Donkey Sanctuary website](#)

Equine influenza, commonly known as flu, is a respiratory disease caused by a virus. It is a different strain to the human flu, but the symptoms and transmission are similar. It is highly contagious, with a high risk of disease and possibly death in unvaccinated animals.

Equine flu can be spread between horses, ponies and donkeys. It takes one to five days before an infected animal starts to show symptoms.

WHAT ARE THE **SYMPTOMS?**

- A reduction or loss of appetite that may lead to **hyperlipaemia**
- A high temperature that may last for one to three days
- Harsh, dry cough
- Difficult breathing
- Clear, watery nasal discharge that may become thick and yellow or green
- Swelling of the lower limbs.

WHEN SHOULD I VACCINATE MY DONKEY?

Your vet will advise you on when to give the initial course and will help you with booking in boosters.

Foals can start the primary course at around six months of age or, in certain circumstances, from four months.

Flu and tetanus vaccinations are available as a combined product, so your vet may be able to give your donkey one injection to cover both diseases.



Learn more about [vaccinations](#), a safe and effective way of preventing disease and fighting infection in donkeys.

MORE **INFORMATION**

We are not able to offer medical advice but our veterinary team offer a free peer-to-peer service for vets to discuss veterinary care and treatments based on individual cases.