



BOTVAX® B
Clostridium botulinum
Type B Toxoid

Clostridium botulinum: deadly, dangerous, and difficult to detect.

Feature #1:

The first and only USDA-approved vaccine for the prevention of equine botulinum due to *Clostridium botulinum* Type B – the deadliest, naturally occurring substance in the world¹.

Its Benefit:

Protection against equine botulism Type B which may include forage poisoning, Shaker Foal Syndrome³ (toxicoinfectious botulism), and wound botulism.

Feature #2:

BotVax B has been shown to be effective for vaccination of healthy horses and to provide passive immunity in offspring against *Clostridium botulinum* Type B.

Its Benefit:

This deadly neurotoxin, also known as the “silent killer” can be found in feed, forage, and soil – posing a threat to horses of all ages. Despite common misconceptions, equine botulism is not localized to specific regions², although is more common in endemic regions, like Kentucky and other Mid-Atlantic states, and puts horses at risk of exposure regardless of where their food source comes from.

If fully vaccinated within 2-4 weeks prior to foaling, mares produce antibodies providing protection to foals by colostral transfer of which create a resistance against botulism Type B (Shaker Foal Syndrome)³.

Feature #3:

The American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) includes BotVax® B in its vaccination guidelines.

Its Benefit:

Although not a core vaccine for horses, vaccination is considered a risk-based decision as unvaccinated horses are more likely to become ill from toxin exposure due to residence in (or travel to) endemic regions, being fed high-risk forage, or are foals born to unvaccinated mares⁴.

A full vaccination schedule by age and vaccination status can be found by visiting [AAEP.org](https://www.aaep.org).

For more information and educational opportunities for your practice, visit EquineBotulism.com or call 859.254.1221.

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Sources:

1 “2107” Phil.CDC.Gov, 1979, phil.cdc.gov/Details.aspx?pid=2107

2 Reed, SM: Botulism. In Reed SM, Bayly WM, Sellon DC, editors: Equine Internal Medicine, ed. 2, St. Louis, 2004, Saunders.

3 Whitlock, RH: Botulism (Shaker Foals; Forage Poisoning). In Smith, BP: Large Animal Internal Medicine, ed. 3, St. Louis, 2002, Mosby.

4 American Association of Equine Practitioners 2024 Vaccination Guidelines; AAEP.org/resource/botulism-vaccination-guidelines

Overcome common misconceptions of equine botulism with BotVax® B

Often overlooked, the toxin produced by *Clostridium botulinum* can be a deadly threat to horses. This neurotoxin, known as the “silent killer,” is colorless, odorless, and tasteless, and often proves fatal to horses after infection¹.

VACCINATION is an important means of prevention.



When discussing the importance of vaccination for equine botulism with horse owners, you should always ask how familiar they are with the signs, symptoms, severity, and expense of an equine botulism Type B prognosis.



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State the Issue

Ms. Haymaker, I wanted to take a moment to talk to you about a serious but preventable risk to your horses—equine botulism, specifically type B. Are you familiar with it?

Or, for a follow up visit:

Ms. Haymaker, I wanted to follow up on vaccinating your horses against equine botulism Type B. Have you had a chance to think about it?

State the Solution

As you know, vaccination is an important means of prevention, especially when this deadly neurotoxin is colorless, odorless, and tasteless, and could be in your feed, the soil, or in the water provided to your horses. BotVax B is the only USDA-approved vaccination specifically designed to protect against the most common form of botulism to affect horses – *Clostridium botulinum*. BotVax B is shown to be effective for vaccination of healthy horses and to provide passive immunity in offspring against *Clostridium botulinum* Type B.

Make Your Recommendation

Ms. Haymaker, I believe vaccinating with BotVax B is crucial to keeping your horses healthy from this potentially fatal infection while offering peace of mind against the dangers you can't see. Your adult horses will need 3 doses in monthly intervals and then an annual revaccination. I'm happy to provide you with additional materials so that you can learn about the equine botulism, common misconceptions, prevention, and treatment.