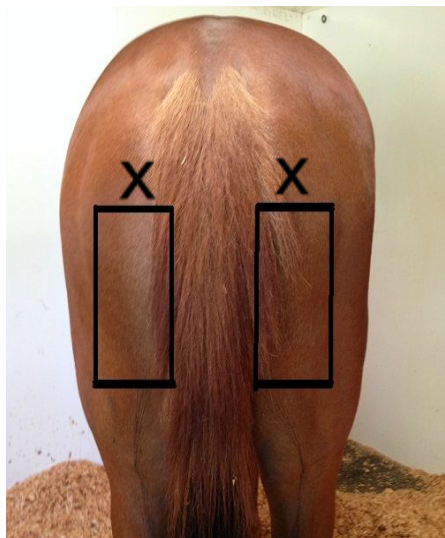
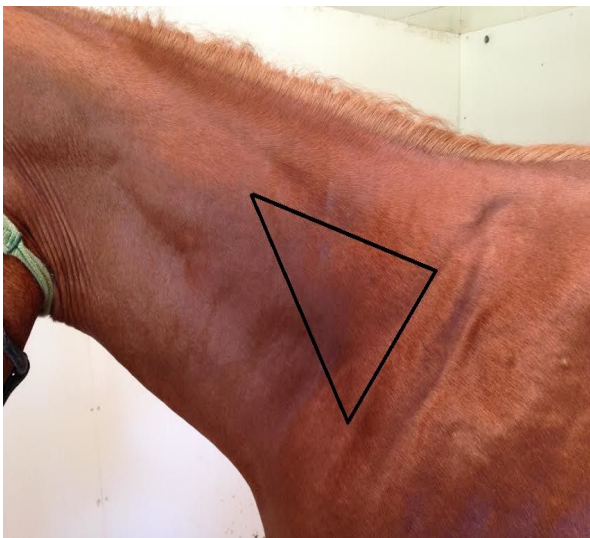




SAN LUIS REY EQUINE HOSPITAL

## HOW TO ADMINISTER AN INTRAMUSCULAR INJECTION

- 1) Make sure your horse is properly restrained. You should have a handler to assist you and reduce risk of injury.
- 2) Ensure the injection site you have chosen is clean and free of excess dirt and debris to lower risk of post-injection complications.
- 3) Draw up the medication. Be sure to detach the needle from the syringe and dispose of properly.
- 4) Insert a new, sterile needle in one of the designated zones outlined in the pictures below, ensuring it is perpendicular to the skin. Make sure to advance the needle into the muscle all the way to the hub.
  - If injecting in the semimembranosus/semitendinosus (hamstrings), make sure you are standing off to the side and not directly behind the horse, as some horses will kick out. It is important NOT to administer the injection into the groove between the two muscles. Avoid the bony protuberance of the tuber ischium (marked with an "x" in the picture below).
- 5) Attach the syringe and aspirate to ensure you do NOT get blood back. If you do, you will need to pick a new site and re-aspirate prior to injecting.
- 6) Inject the medication and remove the needle, making sure to dispose of the needle and syringe properly. Do NOT reuse.



- Do not administer bute or banamine as an intramuscular injection, as serious complications can occur. These medications need to be injected intravenously by experienced personnel.
- If administering Procaine Penicillin G (PPG), the needle will need to be redirected once during the injection (aspirate, administer half the amount, redirect, aspirate, then administer the other half). IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO ASPIRATE AND ENSURE THERE IS NO BLOOD PRIOR TO INJECTING EACH TIME. If PPG gets injected into the bloodstream, severe reactions can occur.