

Proper Handling and Storage of Vaccines

It's important to understand all aspects of maintaining a healthy herd of animals. The maintenance of animals involves care and understanding of not only the animal itself but also the need for a disease management program with a vaccination protocol. Proper handling of vaccine can insure proper immunity and health of all animals, including adult cervid and fawns. Livestock vaccines are crucial for animal and public health, they are a cost effective measure to prevent animal disease and prevent transmission of zoonotic and foodborne infections to people.

Storage

Both Pneu-Vac 2 and Eco-Vac are autogenous vaccines that must be stored in a specified temperature. The optimal storage temperature is 35-45 degrees Fahrenheit (2-7 Celsius) per label guidelines. Vaccines thermal sensitivity can be explained by the complex nature of the antigen. Vaccines stored at improper temperatures could result in potency loss and impaired efficacy. Often the risk of vaccine exposure to temperatures below freezing are considered greater than heat exposure. Ideally, your refrigerator units should be dedicated to storage of vaccines and temperature monitoring should be performed regularly. Often it is helpful to have a thermometer inside the unit and a spreadsheet on the outside on which you can record the temperature.

In the chute or in the field

When working with your animals keep your vaccine in an insulated container and in the shade during the warmer months. When it is cold outside, especially below freezing, you also need to take care that your vaccine is not getting too cold and that your needles aren't freezing up. Keeping the lid on your insulated container will also help control temperature and keep contaminants out. Be mindful of how long you will be outside, taking only as much vaccine as necessary and using ice packs in your container when needed. Cervid Solutions provides a valuable tool to this end; each shipment of vaccine has a hardy Styrofoam cooler with cardboard outer shell and gel packs for transport.



Labeling

Always thoroughly read your vaccine label prior to use. Look at the expiration date, injection dose, route of administration, and booster information. There are times when a company may change the recommend dose, so always pay careful attention to the label even if you have used the same vaccine in the past.

Syringes

Your syringes should be clean and inspected each time you administer vaccine. Also, pay close attention to your syringe to ensure full dosage has been administered and no residue is left behind. Needles should not be reused. Always use new, sterile needles.

Vaccines are vital to your herd health, with protection and prevention being your first and best line of defense to disease. Taking proper care of your vaccine is crucial to protecting your herd. Always follow your label directions and guidelines. Ongoing consultation from your veterinarian with specific questions regarding your vaccine and following what's outlined in your Veterinarian Client Patient Relationship is essential for optimum herd health.

Points to Remember

- Proper handling and storage of vaccine is imperative to maintenance of a healthy herd
- Pneu-Vac 2 and Eco-Vac are shipped overnight with a Styrofoam cooler and gel packs
- Always read and follow the label on your vaccine before each use
- Optimal temperatures are between 35-45 degrees Fahrenheit, check temperature on refrigerator frequently
- Take only as much vaccine as needed into the field with you and keep in an insulated container