Giving an injection
ALWAYS USE CLEAN SYRINGES AND NEEDLES

1. Intramuscular injection

   a) Needle size 14–16-gauge (1½ to 2 inches).

   b) Draw up the solution to be injected—make sure there are no air bubbles.
2. **Subcutaneous injection**

   a) Most vaccinations are given subcutaneously—the needle is shorter and is not hit into the injection site first.

   b) Simply “stab” the injection site with the syringe and needle and inject.

   c) When giving many injections, a pistol-grip or other automatic syringe is often used.

   d) Needle size 16–18-gauge (½ to ¾ inches).

3. **Intravenous injections**

   It should not be necessary to give intravenous injections. These injections are given to animals that are very ill and need drastic treatment and then only in the case of certain diseases—for example, heartwater.
When giving heartwater blood to animals to protect them against the disease, the blood is also given by intravenous injection. Try to get the local stock inspector or veterinarian to do this. If one is forced to administer treatment or blood intravenously because of the fact that no assistance is available, the following procedures can be followed:

a) Restrain the animal in a crush.

b) Hold the animal’s head up and fasten with a nose clamp (and ropes, if necessary).

c) Put a flat belt or rope around the neck—as low as possible and pull tight.

d) The vein in the neck to the head will swell.

e) Taking a needle—14-16-gauge (1½ to 2 inches)—between thumb and fingers as with an intramuscular injection, hit it into the swollen vein so that the blood pours out.

f) Inject the solution slowly.

**REMEMBER:** THERE MUST BE NO AIR BUBBLES IN THE SOLUTION.

**ONLY DO THIS YOURSELF IF IT IS IN AN EMERGENCY. RATHER LET THE LOCAL STOCK INSPECTOR OR VETERINARIAN PERFORM THIS TASK.**

**ALWAYS READ THE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY.**

Animals that are too ill to get up can be injected lying down.

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