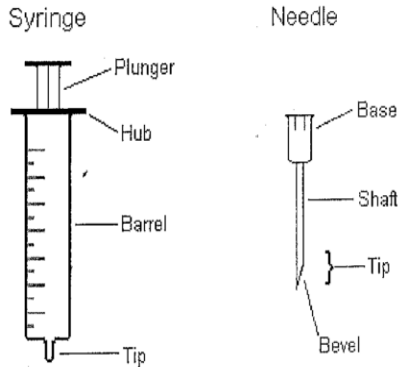


Types of injections that are given to domestic ruminants fall into one of three categories;

- Intravenous or IV; “into the vein”
- Subcutaneous, SC or SQ; “under the skin”
- Intramuscular or IM; “into the muscle”

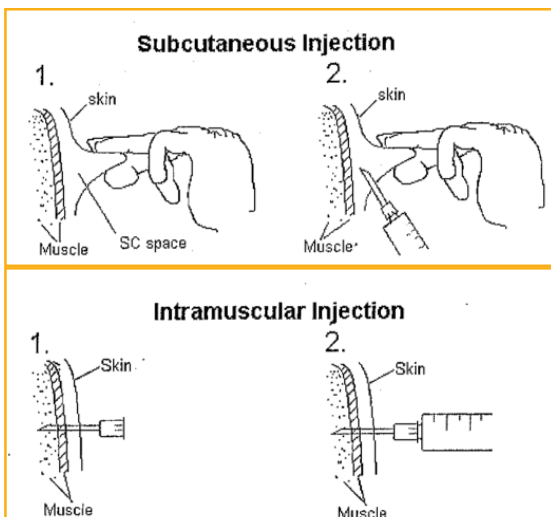


Generally speaking intravenous injections are given by vets and so there are only two types of injections to be concerned about.

Subcutaneous Injections

Vaccinations are typically given by this method. To give a SC injection;

1. Attach the base of the needle to the tip of the syringe. Then pick up a fold of skin between your thumb and first two fingers of your un-natural hand to form a tent.
2. Holding the syringe by the barrel in your natural hand advance the tip of the needle into the tent of skin. Make sure the sharp edge of the bevel is closest to the animal’s skin. Also make sure that you do not press the plunger until the needle has penetrated the full thickness of the skin.



RUMINANTS: A GUIDE TO Injections

Intramuscular Injections

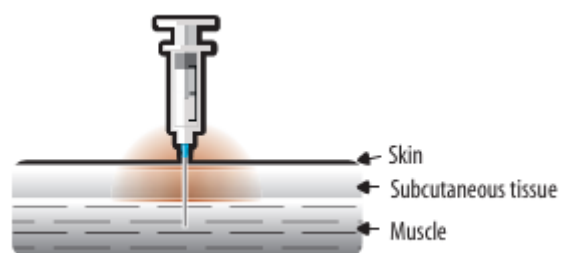
1. Make sure the needle is separated from the syringe. Holding the needle by the base, firmly introduce the tip of the needle into the muscle mass at an angle perpendicular to the skin.
2. Attach the tip of the syringe to the base of the needle and draw back the plunger. If blood appears then withdraw the needle and syringe and reposition it.
3. If no blood appears then press the plunger to deliver the drug or vaccine under the skin.

Sites commonly used for Intramuscular injections:

Rump

Base of tail (NB base of tail should only be used for less than 5ml)

Anterior half the neck (Recommended by MPI and most suitable for beef animals).



*Updated Nov 2025