BEVA

Client Information Leaflet

Keep this leaflet safe, as you may need to refer to it again. Please ask your vet if you have any further questions.
This medicine has been prescribed for your horse ONLY. Do not take it yourself or give it to another person or any other animal; it may harm them even if their symptoms appear to be the same and could result in inadvertent contravention of Horse Passport legislation.

While BEVA have made every effort in preparing this information leaflet, the contents and any statements are made in good faith purely for general guidance and cannot be regarded as substitute for professional advice. The publishers, contributors and BEVA do not take responsibility for the information provided on this leaflet and hence do not accept any liability for loss or expense incurred (by you or persons that you disseminate the materials to) as a result of relying on content in this leaflet. To this end, you are advised to consult your vet and seek his/her professional advice before taking any steps set out in this leaflet. If you are a vet, you must not rely on the contents in this leaflet without independently verifying the correctness and veracity of the contents.

Levothyroxine

This medicine has been prescribed or given for your horse or donkey. It is not a licensed medicine and is provided as a 'Special Veterinary Medicine' meaning that it has been formulated under strict production controls to ensure purity of the product.

What is Levothyroxine?

Levothyroxine acts like the endogenous thyroid hormone, thyroxin. It is used in the treatment of equine metabolic syndrome and in the management of overweight horses.

Why has my horse been prescribed Levothyroxine?

Levothyroxine causes an increase in the horse's metabolic rate. Through this mechanism, it is used as an aid in the management of overweight horses, particularly those with equine metabolic syndrome and concurrent laminitis where increased activity may be contraindicated.

How should I store and handle Levothyroxine?

For safety, all medicines should be kept out of the reach and sight of children. There are no special storage requirements.

What should I do if I run out of Levothyroxine?

Usually your vet will dispense the correct amount of the product. If you run out, you should contact your veterinary surgeon to complete the course as soon as possible.

What should I do if I accidentally overdose my horse?

Contact your vet. Clinical signs of Levothyroxine overdose include increased activity levels, agitation, sweating, in an increased heart rate.

What should I do if I miss a dose?

If a dose is missed just give the next dose at the normal time. DO NOT give a double dose to make up for the missed dose.

If my horse is better, what should I do with the remaining medicine?

As with all medications, it is important that the full course is completed. You should contact your veterinary surgeon before changing the dose or stopping the medication.

If my horse is not improving what should I do?

Contact your veterinary surgeon who will review whether this is the correct medication for your horse.

Can my horse take Levothyroxine along with other medicines?

Tell your vet if you are giving your horse any other medicines.

What do I need to record in my horse's passport?

This medicine is not marketed for use in horses intended for human consumption. However current legislation allows it to be used in such horses without the need for residue limits. If your horse has not been excluded from the human food chain, you must keep a record of its use.

What are the possible side effects of Levothyroxine in my horse?

Levothyroxine side effects include increased activity levels, agitation, sweating, in an increased heart rate**. If you observe any side effects, contact your vet immediately and stop administering the product.**

What should I do if a person accidentally takes this medicine?

If a person accidentally takes this medicine, you should contact NHS direct (telephone 111) or take the person to a local hospital taking this leaflet and the syringe with you.

The prescribing cascade: This medicine is authorised for use in human patients or other animal species and is used by vets under the 'prescribing cascade'. Your vet can explain this in further detail and explain why they are prescribing this drug for your horse. If you do not agree to the use of this medicine in your horse you should discuss this before administration.