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.

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Anti-histamines

Anti-histamines are not licensed as a veterinary medicine for use in the horse or donkey. There are a number of different anti-histamines with different trade names that your vet may prescribe for your horse. Although they are not licensed for use in horses, anti-histamines are being used under the prescribing cascade.

What are anti-histamines?
Anti-histamines are medicines that reduce the clinical signs associated with allergic conditions.

Why has my horse been prescribed anti-histamines?
Anti-histamines have been prescribed by your veterinary surgeon to treat (or prevent recurrence of) clinical signs associated with allergic disease. They reduce the effects of histamine which is released as part of an allergic response. Anti-histamines are used most commonly in the treatment of allergic skin disease.

How is this medicine administered? Anti-histamines are administered in tablet form.

Can my horse have anti-histamines along with other medicines? Anti-histamines can have interactions with other medicines so you must inform your veterinary surgeon if you are administering any other medications.

What should I do if I run out of anti-histamines? Contact your veterinary surgeon (preferably before you run out of the medication) to check if further treatment is required.

If my horse is not improving, what should I do?
Contact your veterinary surgeon who will review whether this is still the correct medication for your horse.

What are the possible side-effects of using anti-histamines in my horse?
Side-effects are uncommon but anti-histamines can have effects on the brain and may cause signs of sedation or changes in behaviour. Other effects such as nervousness, tremors or ataxia are very rare. If you are concerned you should speak to your veterinary surgeon.

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 medication with you.

How should I store and handle anti-histamines? The medication should be kept out of the reach of children and should be kept cool, dark, and dry. Always use gloves to handle or apply this medication.

What should I do if I accidentally overdose my horse? If you administer an overdose, then you should contact your veterinary surgeon immediately. Small overdoses are unlikely to have any side-effects, but large overdoses may require prompt veterinary treatment.

What should I do if I miss a dose? Just restart the medicine and make a note so that you can inform your veterinary surgeon of any missed doses when they re-evaluate your horse.

If my horse is better, what should I do with the remaining medicine? Do not discontinue treatment early without discussion with your veterinary surgeon. If you have excess medicine, then please contact your veterinary surgeon who can arrange for it to be disposed of appropriately.

What do I need to record in my horse's passport?
You should record the use of this medication in your horse's passport or sign section IX to permanently exclude the horse from the human food chain.

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.