

CORRECT USE OF VETERINARY MEDICINES – NOTE FOR TRAINERS

This note provides an overview of the key regulations governing the use of veterinary medicines in the UK and guidance in relation to BHA's Rules of Racing. All medicines administered to a horse under the care or control of a Licensed or Permitted Trainer must be obtained and used legally. It is the responsibility of trainers and veterinary surgeons to comply with legislation and, in the case of the trainer, the Rules of Racing.

Who is responsible for regulating use of veterinary medicines in the UK?

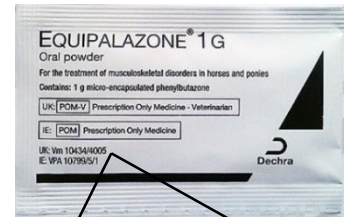
The Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) is the Government agency responsible for authorising veterinary medicines and monitoring their quality, safety and effectiveness. The VMD is responsible for the Veterinary Medicine Regulations (VMR) which set out the controls on veterinary medicines and medicines used under the 'cascade'.

How can I tell if a medicine is legal?

Legal veterinary medicines are authorised by the VMD and have a unique Market Authorisation (MA) number. They have English language labelling and the MA number is displayed on the packaging e.g. Vm 04321/4001, Vh 05467/4007 or EU/1/99/099/001-001.

A veterinary medicine's authorisation MA number can be checked on the VMD's Product Information Database at www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/ProductInformationDatabase/.

Human medicines must similarly be authorised and also have an authorisation number e.g. PL 20143/0014 or EU/1/06/359/001. These authorisations can be checked at www.medicines.org.uk/emc/.



UK: Vm 10434/4005

What is the 'cascade'?

Veterinary medicines are assessed by the VMD to ensure that they are safe for use in a particular species. Where a suitable veterinary medicine is not authorised in the UK for use in a particular species, a veterinary surgeon may prescribe an alternative medicine, one that is licensed either in another animal species or humans, under the 'cascade'. 'Cascade' medicines, when prescribed for use in horses, are veterinary or human medicines that do not have MA for use in horses. Examples include:

- ✓ Terramycin Aerosol Spray (cattle & sheep)
- ✓ Dantrium capsules (human)
- ✓ Baytril 10% Oral Solution (chickens, rabbits, turkeys)
- ✓ Flamazine (human)

How should veterinary medicines be labelled?

If a veterinary medicine is licensed for use in horses there are no requirements for additional labelling. However, RCVS considers it good practice for veterinary surgeons to label all medicines they dispense. All prescription veterinary & human medicines for use in horses under the 'cascade' **MUST** have a dispensing label (see below for an example).

This must have been completed by the prescribing veterinary surgeon, pharmacist or suitably qualified person (SQP). The categories of prescription medicines are:

POM-V – veterinary medicine that can only be prescribed by a veterinary surgeon.

POM-VPS – veterinary medicine that can be prescribed by a veterinary surgeon, pharmacist or SQP.

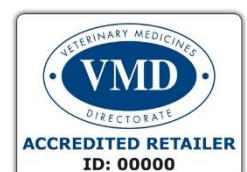
POM – a human medicine, prescribed by a veterinary surgeon.

James Herriot & Associates: 75 High Holborn, London WC1V 6LS
Tel: 0207 152 0000
Prescribing vet: Mr Dumbledore
Horse name: Hedwig
Owner/Trainer: Mr Harry Potter, Hogwarts, Scotland
Karidox 100mg/ml Oral solution, 1L
Directions: Give 50ml orally twice daily for 3 days
Date: 26/11/14
KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN
FOR ANIMAL TREATMENT ONLY

Can I buy veterinary medicines on the internet?

Yes, but there are several considerations to bear in mind when doing so. There are UK based websites that are legitimate, run by qualified professionals and adhere to the VMR. However, be aware that this is not the case with all websites selling veterinary medicines. VMD has an accreditation scheme indicated by the VMD logo (pictured right). Key points:

- ✓ Buy from a UK based seller.
- ✓ Check product label is in English.
- ✓ A prescription must be provided if the medicine requires one.
- ✓ Ensure that the seller is a veterinary surgeon, pharmacist or SQP if you are purchasing a prescription only medicine.



What about medicines available overseas - Can I purchase medicines overseas and import them into the UK?

No. It is illegal to import a medicine into the UK, including purchasing from overseas via the Internet. If a horse needs a medicine that is only available overseas, your veterinary surgeon must apply to the VMD for import certification to legally import it. This medicine is then for use in a specific animal and it must have a label, completed by the prescribing veterinary surgeon, if it is dispensed. Any imported medicine without a dispensing label is considered an illegal medicine. When returning from racing overseas you cannot bring back medicines prescribed outside the UK, unless an equivalent product is not available in the UK and an import certificate has been applied for by your veterinary surgeon.



What should I do with expired medicines?

Either return them to your veterinary surgeon for safe disposal, or alternatively information about disposal of veterinary medicines can be found on the Environment Agency website (www.gov.uk/environmental-management/waste). Good practice is to audit medicines on a regular basis to identify any that are expired or unused.

Rule (C) 13. Duty to keep medication records

It is a requirement under the Rules of Racing to maintain accurate records of any treatments containing prohibited substances administered to horses in training. The record must be clearly legible, so it may assist you to maintain clear records by using block capitals. Please refer to the Rule for the precise requirements (rules.britishhorseracing.com).

Key points:

- Date of **commencement** and prescribed **duration** of Treatment – this must be recorded for all entries. You must also record a date of last administration.
- **Name** of the horse – this is to ensure accurate identification of the horse receiving treatment.
 - ✓ It must be the **registered name** of the horse, or if not named, its **dam and year of birth**.
 - ✗ **Stable names, abbreviations and sire names should not be used to identify horses for the purposes of recording treatment in medication records.**
- **Treatment** administered – this is to allow accurate identification of the medication administered.
 - ✓ Ideally the licensed trade name of the product should be recorded e.g. Equipalazone® powder or Norodine® granules. However the active substance is also acceptable e.g. phenylbutazone or trimethoprim sulphate.
 - ✗ **Abbreviations, and generic terms such as 'local anaesthetic' or 'tranquilliser' are not acceptable.**
- **Route** and **dosage** – the route of administration and a quantifiable dosage must be recorded.
 - ✓ Route of administration e.g. oral (PO), intravenous (IV), intra-articular (IA), intramuscular (IM) or topical (T) must be recorded.
 - ✓ A quantifiable dosage means recording the unit of drug given e.g. 0.5ml, 10mg, and how often. If the licensed trade name is recorded e.g. Norodine® granules, and the product is only supplied in one unit size, the dosage may be written as '1 sachet'.
 - ✗ **Dosage recorded without quantification is not acceptable e.g. 0.5/0.5.**
- **Name** of person administering Treatment and name of person authorising/prescribing Treatment – this is needed to identify who administered and authorised a particular treatment.
 - ✗ **Generic terminology e.g. 'vet' should not be used, a named individual must be recorded.**



The National Trainers Federation (www.racehorsetrainers.org) produce the NTF Medication Book to assist Trainers to comply with the requirements of Rule (C)13.

Who should I contact for more information?

Your first point of contact for questions relating to the use of veterinary medicines should be your veterinary surgeon. Guidance notes and information leaflets are available on the VMD website (www.gov.uk/government/organisations/veterinary-medicines-directorate) and you may also contact BHA Equine Health and Welfare Department at equine@britishhorseracing.com or on 020 7152 0090.

REPORTING KNOWLEDGE OF MEDICINE MISUSE

Information regarding illegal use or misuse of medicines in British racing can be reported confidentially to BHA Integrity team on 020 7152 0170 or RaceStraight on 0800 085 2580.