



SINGLE NSAID QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION - ALL THINGS EQUESTRIAN

What is a NSAID?

NSAID stands for non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug. These drugs are used to treat inflammation and in this manner provide pain relief for osteoarthritis, colic pain, soft tissue injuries, and to treat fevers. NSAIDs are very commonly used by people and are available over the counter. Common NSAIDs for humans include Advil[®], Tylenol[®] and Aleve[®].

The two most commonly used NSAIDs in horses are phenylbutazone (Butazolidin[®]) and flunixin meglumine (Banamine[®]); however there are seven that are currently quantitatively restricted under USEF rules. These include phenylbutazone (Butazolidin[®]), flunixin meglumine (Banamine[®]), naproxen (Naprosyn[®]), ketoprofen (Ketofen[®]), meclufenamic acid (Arquel[®]), diclofenac (Surpass[®]), and firocoxib (Equioxx[®]).

What prompted the move to a single NSAID?

This change is driven by the USEF's commitment to horse welfare. It's been shown that there is little or no benefit to administering more than one NSAID to a horse for most medical concerns. However, there are some potentially severe side effects that have been documented through extensive research. No single NSAID licensed for use in the horse was ever intended to be used with another NSAID.

This rule change is consistent with the position of the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) and the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). Both of these organizations are very supportive of the USEF adopting this rule change.

What are some of the problems that can arise with my horse if two NSAIDs are administered at the same time?

There are numerous side effects, many of which lead to colic. Outwardly, diarrhea, loss of appetite, and a dull attitude can be seen. These are clinical signs of more severe problems that include gastric and colonic ulceration, large colon and cecal impaction, kidney damage, and right dorsal colitis – many of these conditions eventually can lead to colic.

Where can I find information about the dangers of non-judicious NSAID use?

There is a great deal of information in the Veterinary scientific literature regarding the dangers of the concurrent use of NSAIDS. You can find this information on USEF.ORG under Rules and Regulations/ Drugs and Medications/ NSAID Proposal (on the right).

Is the USEF the only organization that is adopting this rule change?

No. Currently, all other major associations already operate under a single NSAID rule including the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) and Equine Canada.

What is a NSAID Disclosure Form and what will it require?

Effective April 1, 2010, if a horse is treated with more than one NSAID within five days preceding a USEF competition, the Person Responsible must fill out an NSAID disclosure form prior to the horse competing.

The following information must be provided:

It will require that you identify the owner and trainer of the horse, the specific NSAIDs that were administered within the five days preceding competition. The facts surrounding the administration(s) will also need to be stated including the reason for the administration, the amount administered and the route of administration, i.e. intravenously, orally, or topically.

Why do I have to fill out a NSAID Disclosure Form?

The NSAID Disclosure Form is part of the education process to owners, riders and trainers but it will also serve as a valuable data collection tool regarding the use of NSAIDS.



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When does the single NSAID rule go into effect?

The rule has an effective date of 12/1/2011.

Why the delay in implementing the rule change?

It's important that all members are properly informed and educated about the rule change. Phasing the implementation of the rule change was determined to be the responsible approach to assist in this education.

Will I have to always fill out a NSAID Disclosure Form from now on?

No, while this form will need to be filled out as of April 1, 2010, once the single NSAID rule change goes into effect on 12/1/2011 this form will no longer be required.

***Effective 12/1/2011, it will be forbidden to exhibit or compete a horse that has more than one NSAID in its system.
The NSAID Disclosure Form will no longer be available and a Medication Report Form will not be accepted*

What will happen if I forget to fill out the NSAID Disclosure Form?

If two NSAIDs are detected in the sample(s) collected from your horse, and a NSAID Disclosure Form has not been filed appropriately, you will receive a letter of finding from the USEF Regulations Department.

For the first offense you will receive a letter stating that you neglected to fill out the form and this will serve as a warning. The failure to file a NSAID Disclosure Form a second time may lead to sanctions.

Why am I asked to include an email address?

This is so you can receive additional information regarding the implementation of this new drug rule.

How long is a NSAID Disclosure Form good for?

The NSAID Disclosure Form should be filed prior to competing if you have administered more than one NSAID to your horse within the five days prior to competing. Once the form is filed, it will be good for five days. Following the first filing of a NSAID Disclosure Form at a competition, if different NSAIDs are administered, a new NSAID Disclosure Form must be filed.

Can I use bute and banamine together if I file the NSAID Disclosure Form?

NO. The combination of phenylbutazone and banamine remains a forbidden combination and is never permitted, even with the use of a NSAID Disclosure Form.