Phenylbutazone - Equine
(Equiphen, Phenylzone, Phenylbute, Bizolin-1-G)

Common Drug Name
Phenylbutazone

Common Brand Names
Equiphen, Phenylzone, Phenylbute, Bizolin-1-G

Generic products are available.

Storage
Store oral forms at room temperature in a tight, light resistant, childproof container. Refrigerate injectable forms or store at 46-56°F and protect from light.

Uses
Phenylbutazone is a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) that is used to treat inflammation and manage pain associated with muscles, joints, and bones.

Dose and Administration
Always follow the dosage instructions provided by your veterinarian. If you have difficulty giving the medication, contact your veterinarian.

Oral forms should be given with food.

Injectable forms should only be given in the vein – NOT in the artery, muscle, or under the skin, as serious consequences could occur.

If you miss a dose, give it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the one you missed and go back to the regular schedule. Do not give 2 doses at once.

This medication should only be given to the horse for whom it was prescribed.

Possible Side Effects
May see signs of oral or gastric ulcers. In adult horses these signs may include decreased appetite, weight loss, mild colic, poor performance, depression, lying down more than normal, diarrhea, accumulation of fluid under the belly, and anemia with signs of pale gums and weakness. In foals may also see teeth grinding, drooling, weakness, and nursing for only short periods of time. Effects related to the kidney may result in changes in drinking or urination habits. Stop using phenylbutazone and consult your veterinarian if you notice any of the above side effects.

If your horse experiences an allergic reaction to the medication, signs may include facial swelling, hives, scratching, sudden onset of diarrhea, shock, seizures, pale gums, cold limbs, or coma. If you observe any of these signs, contact your veterinarian immediately.

Precautions
Not for use in horses hypersensitive (allergic) to phenylbutazone.

Do not use in horses with stomach ulcers or a history of stomach ulcers, horses that are anemic, or have diseases of the bone marrow, kidney, liver, or heart.

Do not use in pregnant or lactating horses unless benefits outweigh the risks.

Avoid use in debilitated horses, foals, and ponies unless benefits outweigh the risks, since the possibility of toxic side effects is increased in these animals.

Consult with your veterinarian regarding the physical examinations and laboratory testing necessary prior to and during treatment with phenylbutazone.

Signs of Toxicity/Overdose
May see changes in drinking and urinating including blood in the urine; increased breathing rate, weakness, or seizures; liver injury, with yellowing of the gums and whites of the eyes; anemia, with pale gums; or ulcers in the mouth or stomach, with signs of pain, loss of appetite and weight loss. If you know or suspect your horse has had an overdose, or if you observe any of these signs in your horse, contact your veterinarian immediately.

Drug, Food, and Test Interactions
Notify your veterinarian of any other medications, including vitamins and supplements, your horse is taking while receiving phenylbutazone.

Consult your veterinarian before using phenylbutazone with phenytoin, valproic acid, oral anticoagulants such as warfarin, corticosteroids, chlorpheniramine, diphenhydramine, penicillin G, furosemide (Salix), and other NSAIDS such as aspirin and flunixin (Banamine), since interactions may occur.

Phenylbutazone may affect laboratory test results for thyroid hormone.

Withdrawal Times
Phenylbutazone is a classified drug. Consult your veterinarian and event officials before using phenylbutazone or any other medication in a performance horse. Not for use in horses intended for food.

Signs of Toxicity/Overdose
May see changes in drinking and urinating including blood in the urine; increased breathing rate, weakness, or seizures; liver injury, with yellowing of the gums and whites of the eyes; anemia, with pale gums; or ulcers in the mouth or stomach, with signs of pain, loss of appetite and weight loss. If you know or suspect your horse has had an overdose, or if you observe any of these signs in your horse, contact your veterinarian immediately.

Keep this and all other medications out of the reach of children and animals.

Provide fresh water at all times, since lack of water could increase the risk of injury to the kidneys.

Since phenylbutazone can mask lameness, it is unethical to use it prior to a soundness exam.

This information may not cover all possible uses, directions, side effects, precautions, allergic reactions, drug interactions, or withdrawal times. Always consult your own veterinarian for specific advice concerning the treatment of your horse.