Ranitidine - Equine
(Zantac)

**Generic Name**
Ranitidine

**Common Brand Names**
Zantac (human form)

Generic products are available.

**Storage**
Store the oral form at room temperature in a tight, light resistant childproof container.

The injectable form should be stored in the refrigerator.

**Uses**
Ranitidine is in a class of drugs called H2 receptor antagonists. It is used to decrease the amount of stomach acid produced. This aids in the treatment of ulcers that are present and helps prevent ulcer formation. It is also used in the treatment of gastritis (inflammation of the stomach) and esophagitis (inflammation of the esophagus). It may also stimulate movement of food through the stomach and intestine.

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

Give the oral forms by mouth, without food, if possible; food will decrease its effectiveness.

The injectable form may be given in the muscle (IM) or intravenously (IV), as directed by your veterinarian.

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**
Side effects are rare. May rarely see mental confusion. With intravenous injections, irregularities in heart rate may occur. If given intramuscularly, pain at the injection site may occur. 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 ranitidine.

Use with caution in horses with heart, liver, or kidney disease.

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

Ranitidine may cause increases in liver enzymes, and possible liver damage. Consult with your veterinarian regarding the physical examinations and laboratory testing necessary prior to and during treatment with ranitidine.

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

Ranitidine may decrease white blood cell counts, especially if given with other bone marrow suppressing drugs such as azathioprine.

If used with antacids, give the ranitidine 2 hours before or 2 hours after the other medication(s).

Consult your veterinarian before using ranitidine with procainamide, ketoconazole, or propantheline bromide, since interactions may occur.

May cause a falsely positive laboratory test for protein in the urine.

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

**Signs of Toxicity/Overdose**
May see muscular tremors and an increased breathing rate. 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.