

Clenbuterol

Ventipulmin[®] is another name for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?

- Clenbuterol opens up the air passages in the lungs and is used to treat horses with lung diseases.

Are There Conditions or Times When Its Use Might Cause More Harm Than Good?

- Clenbuterol can cause severe side effects in humans such as irregular heart beat and severe muscle tremors. It is illegal to use this drug in any animal that will later be used for food.
- Clenbuterol has strong effects on the heart and should not be used in horses that have heart conditions.
- Clenbuterol should not be used in horses that cannot sweat efficiently.
- Clenbuterol should not be used in pregnant mares who are in the last few months of their pregnancy as it can cause the uterus to contract and expel the baby prematurely.
- Clenbuterol overdoses (more than 2ml/100lbs of body weight) have caused death in horses.
- If your animal has any of the above conditions, talk to your veterinarian about the potential risks of using the medication versus the benefits that it might have.

What Side Effects Can Be Seen With Its Use?

- Clenbuterol causes a fast heartbeat, increased sweating and muscle twitching. These side effects should decrease with time as your horse's body gets used to the effects of clenbuterol. If these side effects continue report them to your veterinarian.
- Many drugs will worsen these side effects so you should tell your veterinarian about any other medications or treatments that you give your horse.

How Should It Be Given?

- The successful outcome of your animal's treatment with this medication depends upon your commitment and ability to administer it exactly as the veterinarian has prescribed. Please do not skip doses or stop giving the medication. If you have difficulty giving doses consult your veterinarian or pharmacist who can offer administration techniques or change the dosage form to a type of medication that may be more acceptable to you and your animal.

- Some other drugs can interact with this medication so tell your veterinarian about any drugs or foods that you currently give your animal. Do not give new foods or medications without first asking your veterinarian.
- If you miss a dose of this medication you should give it as soon as you remember it, but if it is within a few hours of the regularly scheduled dose, wait and give it at the regular time. Do not double a dose as this can be toxic to your animal.
- **Dogs and Cats:** Clenbuterol is not used in dogs and cats.
- **Horses:** Clenbuterol is usually given as an oral liquid twice daily. Your veterinarian may increase the dose every 3 days until an adequate effect is achieved. If your horse does not respond after 15 days, the drug is not likely to work in your horse. Once an effective dose is reached, the therapy usually lasts for one month. Do not continue beyond one month unless directed by your veterinarian. Never adjust the dose on your own. Overdoses (greater than 2ml/100lbs body weight) have caused death in some horses.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

- Clenbuterol is banned for use in racing or show horses during performance times.
- Clenbuterol should be kept well away from children and other household pets.
- Clenbuterol should be stored in the well-closed original container, at room temperature and protected from freezing.