

Flunixin

Banamine® is another name for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?

- Flunixin is used to control pain and inflammation in horses and cattle.

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

- Flunixin blocks the formation of the enzymes that protect kidneys, stomach and blood cells. For this reason, flunixin should be used very carefully in animals with kidney problems, stomach ulcers and bleeding problems.
- Flunixin should also not be used in animals that are allergic to it or to other anti-inflammatory agents.
- Flunixin can be extremely toxic to dogs and cats. As there are many safer anti-inflammatory drugs available for use in these species, flunixin should probably not be used in dogs and cats.
- 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?

- Flunixin may cause irritation and pain after injection into the muscle.
- Flunixin may cause damage to kidneys, stomach and blood cells resulting in kidney failure, ulcers and bleeding problems. The risk of these side effects occurring is increased if flunixin is used at the same time as other anti-inflammatory drugs.

How Should It Be Given?

- If given orally, flunixin should be given with food to decrease side effects on the stomach.
- If given by injection, it should not be injected into neck muscles.
- Never mix flunixin injection with other drugs in the same syringe as it may inactivate those drugs as well as itself.
- 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.

- 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 pet.
- 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.
- **Dogs and Cats:** Flunixin is generally not given to dogs due to the increased risk of side effects. Flunixin should not be given to cats due to the risk of damage to the kidneys.
- **Horses:** Flunixin is usually given orally or by injection once or twice daily to horses. It should be given with food if given orally and should not be injected into the arteries due to adverse effects on the brain.
- **Cattle:** Cattle usually receive flunixin by injection once or twice daily for no more than 2-3 days. If your veterinarian uses flunixin in a meat or dairy cow, he should tell you how long to wait after the last dose before it is safe to use the milk or meat. Flunixin can cause kidney problems in humans and should be kept out of the food chain.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

- Flunixin should be stored in a tight, light resistant, childproof container away from all children and other household pets.
- Flunixin injection should not be mixed with any other drugs as it may chemically inactivate itself and other drugs.
- Flunixin should not be used in beef cattle, non-lactating dairy cattle, or horses intended for food.
- Flunixin is particularly toxic to the kidneys of humans and should not be used in people.