Phenylbutazone
Butazolidin®, Phenylzone®, Butatab®, Phenylbute® and bute are other names for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?
- Phenylbutazone is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug used to treat pain and inflammation in horses.

Are There Conditions or Times When Its Use Might Cause More Harm Than Good?
- Phenylbutazone should not be used in animals that are allergic or are allergic to other anti-inflammatory drugs like it.
- Phenylbutazone should not be given to animals that are going to be used for human food.
- If given in an artery, phenylbutazone can cause seizures in the horse. When injected, it should only be given into the veins and not injected into the muscle or under the skin. It is very very painful when injected into the muscle and will cause muscle damage.
- Phenylbutazone can inhibit the enzymes that protect the stomach, kidneys and blood cells. It should not be used in animals that have or have a history of stomach ulcers. The drug misoprostol may be given at the same time as phenylbutazone to help prevent these stomach side effects.
- Phenylbutazone can stop the bone marrow from producing blood cells. It should not be used in animals that are anemic or have bleeding disorders.
- Phenylbutazone can damage the kidneys and should not be used in animals that have kidney disease and should not be used in combination with other drugs that may cause kidney disease. You should leave out plenty of fresh water for your horses while on this medication as lack of adequate water intake will worsen the effects of this drug on the kidneys.
- Phenylbutazone may mask the signs of lameness and it is unethical to use it in horses prior to soundness exams.
- Phenylbutazone may be particularly toxic to foals and ponies and probably should not be used in these animals.
- Phenylbutazone should probably not be used in pregnant mares as it has been shown to cause birth defects in laboratory animals.
- Phenylbutazone can alter the results of laboratory tests. You should let your veterinarian know if your horse is on phenylbutazone prior to having any laboratory tests performed.
- 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?
- Phenylbutazone can cause stomach upset and vomiting. It may irritate the stomach to the point of ulcers in the mouth and stomach. If your horse acts like it is in pain or grinds its teeth, you should contact your veterinarian immediately.
- Phenylbutazone can cause kidney damage. If your horse changes its drinking or urinating habits you should contact your veterinarian immediately.
- Phenylbutazone may cause a loss of appetite. If your horse stops eating your should contact your veterinarian.

How Should It Be Given?
- Phenylbutazone may be given to your horse as an injection into the vein. It should only be given into the veins and not injected into the arteries, muscle or under the skin. It is very painful when injected into the muscle and will cause muscle damage. Injectable phenylbutazone should be stored in the refrigerator and protected from light.
- Phenylbutazone is most often given to your horse as an oral powder, paste or tablet. You should give it with food.
- 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.

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How Should It Be Given? (continued from previous page)

- 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 horse.
- 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:** Phenylbutazone is rarely used in dogs as it is more toxic than the newer anti-inflammatory agents such as Rimadyl®, EtoGesic® and Deramaxx®. It is generally not used in cats.
- **Horses:** Horses usually receive phenylbutazone as an oral paste or tablet once or twice daily with food. If injected, it should only be injected in the vein and not in the arteries, muscle or under the skin as it will cause serious adverse effects such as seizures and pain if given by these routes.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

- Phenylbutazone should be stored in a tight, light resistant, childproof container away from all children and other household pets. Phenylbutazone injection should be stored in the refrigerator protected from light.
- Phenylbutazone injection should not be mixed with other drugs in the same syringe.