



## Client Information Leaflet

Keep this leaflet safe, as you may need to refer to it again. Please ask your vet if you have any further questions.

This medicine has been prescribed for your horse ONLY. Do not take it yourself or give it to another person or any other animal; it may harm them even if their symptoms appear to be the same and could result in inadvertent contravention of Horse Passport legislation.

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### Ocular Antibiotics

These eye drops have been prescribed or given for your horse or donkey and may be marketed in a variety of formulations. They include the active ingredients chloramphenicol, fucidic acid, ofloxacin and gentamicin

#### What are these medicines?

These eye drops are antibiotic medicines that are used for the treatment of bacterial keratitis (disease of the cornea) or other infections of the eye. A package insert (patient information leaflet) designed for the target species will be included in/on the package. This will provide you with details of what the medicine is. Although it is not intended for use in horses, its use is permitted for use in the horse under the 'prescribing cascade' as no suitable alternative exists.

#### How should I store and handle these medicines?

**For safety, all medicines should be kept out of the reach and sight of children.** The package insert (patient information leaflet) will contain any specific storage instructions and this should be followed even if they do not **apply specifically to use in horses. Most commonly this involves storage of the product in a refrigerator for up to one month.** You should discard it after this time, since it may become contaminated by bacteria.

#### How should I administer these drugs?

Horses often resent medication of the eye. You should ensure your horse is well restrained by a competent helper. Place your index finger on the horse's upper eyelid and your thumb on the lower eyelid. Roll the lower lid down using your thumb and place the medicine onto the pink conjunctiva of the eye. Do not touch the surface of the eye with the end of the tube.

**What should I do if I am unable to administer these medicines?** Treatment failure is seen in ocular disease in horses as a result of a failure to be able to administer the medicines effectively. Your vet will be able to suggest alternative strategies for

treating your horse, that may involve hospitalization.

Be aware that horses can become fearful of repeated ocular medications and can become dangerous to medicate; they may turn away violently, kick or throw their heads in the air. Do not take personal risks when treating your horse. A hard hat can protect you from injury to the head.

#### What should I do if I run out of this medicine?

Usually your vet will dispense the correct amount of the product. If you run out, you should contact your veterinary surgeon to complete the course as soon as possible.

**What should I do if I miss a dose?** If a dose is missed just give the next dose at the normal time. **DO NOT** give a double dose to make up for the missed dose.

#### Can my horse take this medicine along with other medicines?

Tell your vet if you are giving your horse any other medicines. These medicines are frequently used in combination with other medicines.

#### What do I need to record in my horse's passport?

These medicines are not authorised for use in horses intended for human

consumption. If your horse's passport has not been signed to exclude it from the human food you must sign this immediately. The antibiotic 'ofloxacin' is listed as an essential medicine for the treatment of horses. This means that it can be used in horses that have not been permanently excluded from the food chain as long as its use is recorded by your VETERINARY SURGEON in the passport and that it does not enter the food chain for 6 months after the last dose.

**What are the possible side effects of this medicine in my horse?** Eye drops can sting when first administered. It is important to administer these medicines safely since horses can become very averse to treatment. and inform your veterinary surgeon if you are struggling to administer them.

Antibiotics used for prolonged period can also kill protective 'good bacteria' and lead to fungal infections. If this occurs the eye will become more painful and often very cloudy.

**If my horse is not improving what should I do?** Contact your veterinary surgeon who will review whether this is the correct drug for your horse and may consider alternative / concurrent therapies.

If the eye appearance changes what should I do? If the eye appears more cloudy, or more painful (for example the horse will not open their eye) or has increased amounts of discharge you should contact your veterinary surgeon as soon as possible.



The prescribing cascade: This medicine is authorised for use in human patients or other animal species and is used by vets under the 'prescribing cascade'. Your vet can explain this in further detail and explain why they are prescribing this drug for your horse. If you do not agree to the use of this medicine in your horse you should discuss this before administration.