



Medication basics

Nine types of drugs commonly administered to horses and what they do.

DRUG TYPE	ACTION/USE	COMMON GENERIC PRODUCTS
analgesics	control pain associated with colic	flunixin meglumine
anthelmintics	commonly called dewormers; kill internal parasites	fenbendazole, ivermectin, moxidectin, oxfendazole, oxibendazole, praziquantel, pyrantel pamoate, pyrantel tartrate
antibiotics	fight infection by killing bacteria	gentamicin, penicillin, tetracycline, trimethoprim sulfa
antipyretics	reduce fever; most are also nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs	ketoprofen, phenylbutazone
bronchodilators	relax and open airways inside the lungs	albuterol, clenbuterol
corticosteroids	heavy-duty inflammation reducers for intense swelling or a severe allergic reaction	dexamethasone, prednisone
nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)	control inflammation and pain from injury	flunixin meglumine, naproxen, phenylbutazone
sedatives	depress consciousness and reduce responsiveness to most stimuli	detomidine, xylazine
tranquilizers	produce a quieting or calming effect without changing the level of consciousness	acetylpromazine, promazine