

Flunixin

SCHEDULING STATUS: S3

CURRENTLY COMPOUNDED FORMULATIONS:

Active ingredient(s)	Injectable	Oral equine paste	Oral carnivore paste	Orals for exotics	Oral solution/suspension	Topical treatment	Shampoo	Capsules/Tablets	Oral powder
Flunixin meglumine		✓							✓

REGISTERED PRODUCT/ TRADE NAME: Finadyne®; Pyroflam®

PHARMACOLOGICAL CLASSIFICATION: Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agent

PHARMACOLOGICAL ACTION: Very potent inhibitor of cyclooxygenase and like other NSAIDs it exhibits analgesic, anti-inflammatory and antipyretic activity. Does not appreciably alter GI motility in horses and may improve haemodynamics in animals with septic shock.^[1]

INDICATIONS: Anti-inflammatory

DOSAGE AND DIRECTIONS FOR USE:

DOGS:

Note: Many of these doses are from a time when there were no approved NSAIDs for dogs; consider using approved drugs first.^[1]

0.5 – 2.2 mg/kg IM or IV one time only

As an antidiarrheal/antipyretic: 1 mg/kg IV (do not administer more than once in an animal that has received corticosteroids

For ocular indications: 0.25 mg/kg IV once daily for no more than 5 days at a time. May also be used preoperatively by injecting IV 30 minutes before ocular surgery. May dilute 1:9 (flunixin: sterile water) in syringe to administer accurately to very small animals.

For ocular disease: 0.5 mg/kg IV twice daily for 1 – 2 treatments

For acute gastric dilatation: 1 mg/kg IV once

For GI tract obstruction: 0.5 mg/kg IV once to twice daily for 3 treatments

For surgical pain: 1 mg/kg IV, SC or IM initially once; 1 mg/kg subsequent daily doses

For pyrexia: 0.25 mg/kg IV, SC or IM once, may be repeated in 12 – 24 hours if needed

For ophtho procedures: 0.25 – 1 mg/kg IV, IM or SC once; may be repeated in 12 – 24 hours if needed^[1]

CATS:

As an antiinflammatory/analgesic:

For surgical pain: 0.25 mg/kg SC once; may be repeated once in 12 – 24 hours if needed;

For pyrexia: 0.25 mg/kg IV, SC or IM once, may be repeated once in 12 – 24 hours if needed^[1]

FERRETS:

0.5-2 mg/kg PO or IM bid^[1]

RABBITS/ RODENTS/ SMALL MAMMALS:

Rabbits: 1.1 mg/kg SC, IM, IV q12 – 24h^[1]

Chinchillas: 1-3 mg/kg SC bid^[1]

Guinea pigs: 2.5-5 mg/kg SC bid^[1]

Gerbils, mice, rats, hamsters: 2.5 mg/kg SC q12 – 24h^[1]

HORSES:

Oral paste/powder: 1.1 mg/kg PO oid. Do not exceed 5 days of consecutive therapy^[1]

To decrease pain, inflammation, and oedema in laminitis: 0.5-1.1 mg/kg IV or PO q8-12 hours. A dose of 0.25 mg/kg can be administered IV q8h to interrupt eicosanoid production associated with endotoxemia^[1]

For adjunctive treatment of laminitis: 1.1 mg/kg IM, IV or PO twice daily^[1]

For adjunctive treatment of uveitis in foals: 0.5-1 mg/kg (route not noted) bid^[1]

WILDLIFE:

Wildlife veterinarians have used it at the equine dose (1.1 mg/kg BM oid PO, IM or IV)

WARNINGS/ PRECAUTIONS/ CONTRA-INDICATIONS:

- Use cautiously in animals with pre-existing GI ulcers, renal, hepatic or haematologic diseases^[1]
- When using to treat colic, it may mask the behavioral and cardiopulmonary signs associated with endotoxaemia or intestinal devitalization and must be used with caution^[1]
- The only contraindication the manufacturer lists for flunixin's use in horses is for patients with a history of hypersensitivity reactions to it^[1]
- When used for pain, if the animal does not respond to an initial dose, it is unlikely additional doses will be effective and may result in increased changes for toxicity. In horses following IM injection, reports of localized swelling, induration, stiffness, and sweating have been reported. Do not inject intra-arterially as it may cause NS stimulation, ataxia, hyperventilation, and muscle weakness^[1]

REFERENCES:

1. Plumb's Veterinary Drug Handbook, Sixth edition, by Donald C. Plumb