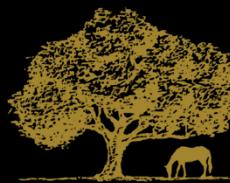




# RESPONSIBLE NSAID USE

Andrea Frei, BVMS, MS, DACVIM



STEINBECK★PENINSULA  
EQUINE CLINICS

# Equine NSAID Use

- What are NSAIDs?
- Risks and adverse effects
- Appropriate use
- Key takeaways

# Poll: How confident are you in selecting and giving NSAIDs?

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- a. Very confident

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- b. Somewhat confident

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- c. Somewhat unsure

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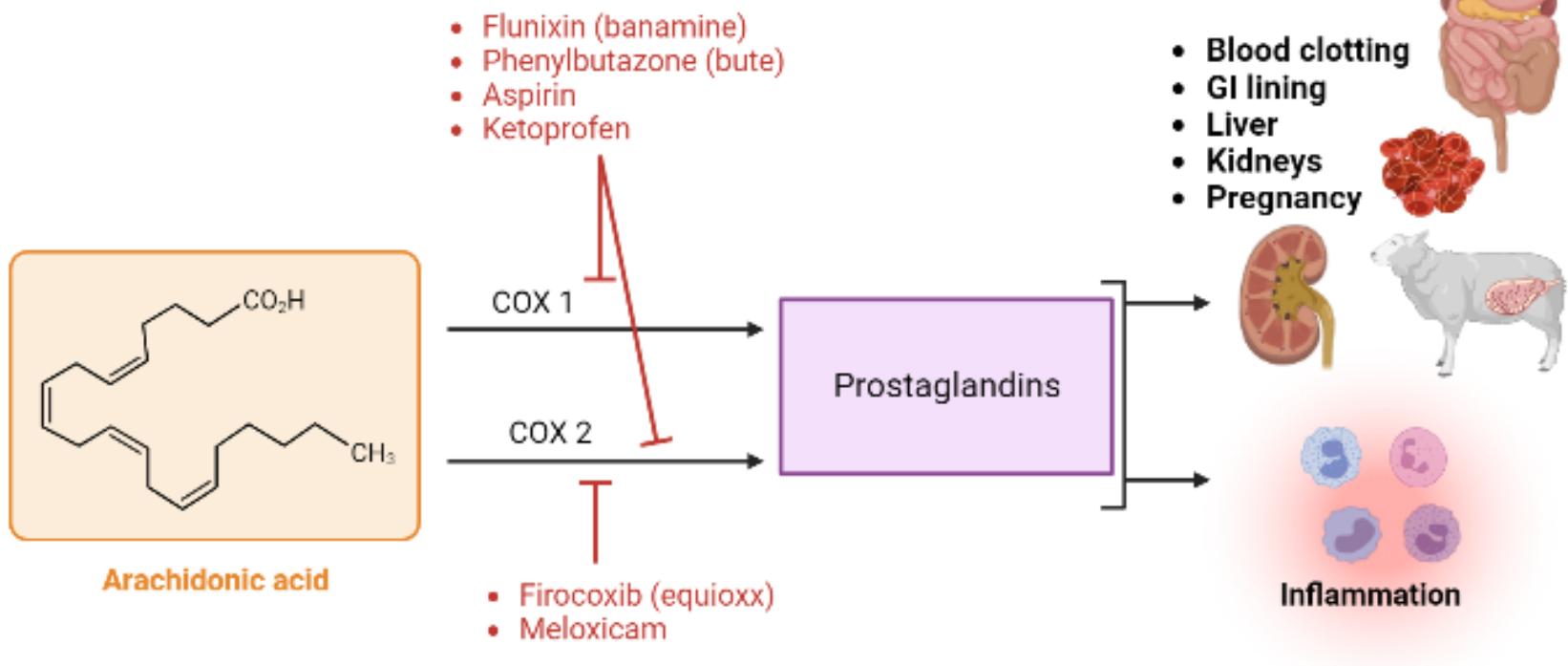
- d. Very unsure

---

- e. What's an NSAID?



# Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatories



# Major Effects

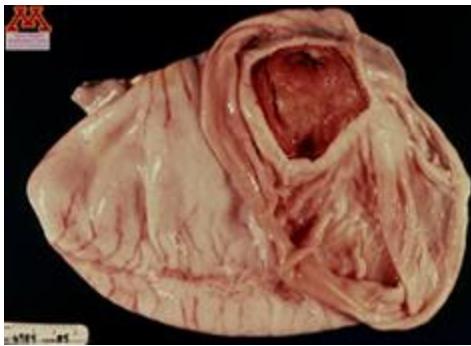
- Action in the central nervous system and peripheral tissues
- Reduces inflammation and stops pain signals = improved comfort
- “Anti-endotoxic”
- Narrow safety margin
- Many unsafe for neonates
- Route given is **IMPORTANT**



<https://www.horseandrider.com/medical/clostridial-myositis-never-give-a-banamine-shot-into-the-muscle/> (08/12/2013)



<https://doi.org/10.1111/204-2329.2.2002> (05/01/2014)



<https://ope.lib.umn.edu/swindsease/cha/pdf/gastric-ulcer/s/>



<https://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/tielestrom/using-the-rap-eff-efficacy-in-horses/>

# Common Equine NSAIDs

- Flunixin: oral, IV
- Phenylbutazone: oral, IV
- Firocoxib: oral
- Diclofenac: topical



NSAID “cousin”: acetaminophen

# Monitoring NSAIDs

- Water Intake
  - Normal = 5 - 10% bodyweight
- Manure character
- Colic signs / inappetence
- Urine color
  - Red, brown = abnormal
  - Gold, yellow = normal

Normal



Abnormal



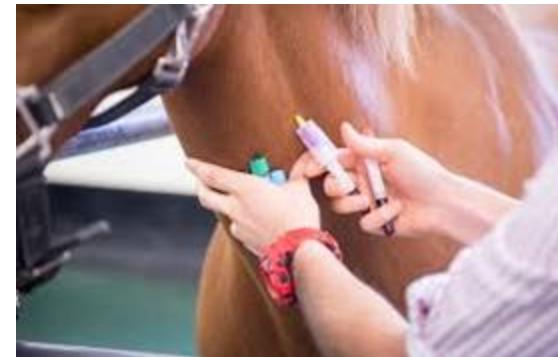
<https://feedxl.com/horse-manure-score-chart/>

# Responsible Administration

- Veterinary direction
  - Appropriate dose & route
  - Controlling high fevers
  - Frequency
  - Effect: in 30-60 minutes (oral)
- Bloodwork
  - Kidneys: BUN and Creatinine
  - Protein markers
  - Hydration status



<https://www.tsln.com/reviews/veterinary-composting/>



# When to Steer Clear of NSAIDs

- Have not called your vet
- Bute: not for pregnant / lactating mares
- **Doses too close together**
- **Taking other NSAIDs**
- Dehydrated/not drinking
- Diarrhea
- Not eating
- History of kidney disease



<https://www.horseandhound.co.uk/vet/news-study-reveals-colic-risk-427376>

# Performance Horses

- NSAID use regulated for competing animals
- Welfare is paramount
- United States Equestrian Federation (USEF)
  - Number of NSAIDs using
  - When last given
  - Specific for each drug
- FEI, WPRA, NCHA



# Poll: How confident are you in selecting and giving NSAIDs?

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- a. Very confident
- b. Somewhat confident
- c. Somewhat unsure
- d. Very unsure
- e. What's an NSAID?





# Questions?

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