



# Damascus Equine Associates

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## Information on Veterinary Drugs

### **Prescription Drugs:**

Veterinary prescription drugs are licensed by the FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) for use in animals. They undergo the same scrutiny as to quality, safety and efficacy as human drugs.

Human prescription drugs may be used in animals at the discretion of a veterinarian. In doing so the veterinarian assumes greater responsibility for the safety and efficacy issues, although the majority of the drugs are used based on published data and years of experience with the effects on animals.

Generic drugs are produced by a variety of manufacturers when the patent on a drug expires. FDA regulations insist that these drugs are equivalent to the original drug and they are subject to the same standards as to quality, safety, and efficacy.

Drugs produced by compounding pharmacies do not undergo any regulatory supervision as to quality, safety or efficacy. They are not the same as generic drugs. The episode with the polo ponies in Palm Beach was a tragic example of what can go wrong but was not the only time that adverse reactions have happened. Independent analysis of compounded drugs from various pharmacies has shown a distressing variability in drug concentration and levels of contaminants, far in excess of what is permitted in FDA approved drugs. Guidelines from the FDA, the AVMA, and the AAEP all state that it is improper to use a compounded drug if an FDA approved drug is available.

A wide variety of prescription drugs are available over the internet. We will continue to write prescriptions that can be filled in this way. Certain drugs such as Adequan are only sold to veterinarians by the manufacturer. This means that there is no legitimate way for a pharmacy to obtain them for resale. They are being purchased from a veterinarian through a gray market transaction. This may, in most cases, be a legitimate product but opens a greater possibility of counterfeit drugs.

See the FDA link on counterfeit drugs. <http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/ResourcesForYou/ucm079278.htm>

### **Powdered Medications and Scoops:**

With the proliferation of powdered medications of various types, we have become concerned about underdosage or overdosage if scoops are moved from container to container. Please make sure that you only use the scoop which comes with the particular product and discard the scoop with the container when the product is used up.