



## **Merial Introduces EQUIOXX® (firocoxib) Injection**

### **October 13, 2010**

For more information about EQUIOXX Injection or EQUIOXX Oral Paste, horse owners should talk to their veterinarian, visit [www.equioxx.com](http://www.equioxx.com) or call 1-888-MERIAL-1.

#### **Important safety information:**

As with any prescription medication, prior to use, a veterinarian should perform a physical examination and review the horse's medical history. A veterinarian should advise horse owners to observe for signs of potential drug toxicity. As a class, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs may be associated with gastrointestinal, hepatic and renal toxicity. Use with other NSAIDs, corticosteroids or nephrotoxic medication should be avoided. EQUIOXX has not been tested in horses less than 1 year of age or in breeding horses, or pregnant or lactating mares. For additional information please refer to the prescribing information or visit [www.equioxx.com](http://www.equioxx.com).

#### **About Osteoarthritis and Your Horse**

Osteoarthritis (OA), or degenerative joint disease (DJD), is a painful condition caused by progressive "wear and tear" of cartilage and other parts of the joint. It is one of the most common causes of lameness in horses and can develop in horses as young as 2 years old. All too often, it leads to poor performance and early retirement.<sup>7</sup> Factors that contribute to the onset of OA in horses include:<sup>7</sup>

- Trauma to the joint
- Conformation
- Immobilization
- Improper shoeing
- Age

When a horse suffers from OA, the cartilage, bone and soft tissues in the joint deteriorate. These changes cause pain, deformity, loss of motion and decreased function. The joints most frequently affected by OA include the carpal, fetlock, pastern and coffin.<sup>7</sup> Watch for these signs in your horse:

- Limping or lameness
- Decreased activity or exercise (reluctance to stand, walk, trot or canter, or difficulty performing these activities)
- Stiffness or decreased movement of joints

If you see these signs, talk to your veterinarian about the possibility of osteoarthritis.

(more)

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Merial is a world-leading, innovation-driven animal health company, providing a comprehensive range of products to enhance the health, well-being and performance of a wide range of animals. Merial employs approximately 5,700 people and operates in more than 150 countries worldwide. Its 2009 sales were over \$2.6 billion. Merial is the Animal Health subsidiary of sanofi-aventis. For more information, please see [www.merial.com](http://www.merial.com).

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\* Joint pain and inflammation associated with equine osteoarthritis, also called degenerative joint disease.

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<sup>1</sup> Schlueter, AE, Orth, MW. Equine osteoarthritis: a brief review of the disease and its causes. *Equine Comparative Exercise Physiology* 2004;1(4):221-231.

<sup>2</sup> Data on file at Merial.

<sup>3</sup> Data on file at Merial, Combination Safety Study, PR&D139501.

<sup>4</sup> American Quarter Horse Association. Show rules and regulations. *Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations* 2008:128.

<sup>5</sup> United States Equestrian Federation. Drugs and medications guidelines. 2007:2-3. Available at:

<http://www.usef.org/documents/competitions/2007/2007DrugsMedsGuidelines.pdf>. Accessed February 20, 2009.

<sup>6</sup> United States Equestrian Federation. USEF drugs and medication program. 2010. Available at:

[http://www.usef.org/\\_IFrames/newsdisplay/viewPR.aspx?id=5447&print=1](http://www.usef.org/_IFrames/newsdisplay/viewPR.aspx?id=5447&print=1). Accessed September 1, 2010.