

# CHONDROPROTECTANTS (JOINT SUPPLEMENTS)



## WHAT IS A "CHONDROPROTECTANT"?

Chondroprotectants are substances that **help protect, maintain, and support the health of cartilage and joints**. In horses, they are often used to manage or prevent joint disease and inflammation, especially in performance or aging animals. These compounds—such as glucosamine, chondroitin sulfate, hyaluronic acid, and pentosan polysulfate- work by promoting cartilage repair, improving joint lubrication, and reducing inflammation. Chondroprotectants may be administered orally, by injection, or as part of a broader joint health management plan under veterinary supervision.

**Chondroprotectants do not mask pain**, but rather provide pain relief via improving joint quality and health. As these products all work slightly differently, multiple treatment types can be used together to improve the prognosis and horses overall comfort level. It is important to keep in mind that there is individual variance in response to treatment (not one product works for every horse), so it is important to seek veterinary advice when formulating a treatment plan.

# CHONDROPROTECTANTS

## PENTOSAN GOLD

An intramuscular injection containing both **Pentosan Polysulphate** and **Glucosamine**, thereby aiming to combine the effects of each product to achieve superior results. Some studies have proven that the addition of glucosamine enhances anti-inflammatory properties and ultimately contributes to earlier visible athletic improvements compared to pentosan alone.

**Loading dose:** 12ml per 500kg IM injection once weekly for 4 weeks

**Maintenance dose:** 12ml per 500kg IM injection monthly



**Available in single 12ml or 50ml multi-dose vials**

Injections to be performed under the supervision of a veterinarian

## PENTOSAN POLYSULPHATE

An **intramuscular injection** sourced from beechwood extract that actively reverses the effects of osteoarthritis through:

- Stimulating cartilage synthesis, repair and protection through increased production of cartilage building blocks.
- Increased production of hyaluronic acid, to improve joint fluid quality. This improves joint lubrication, ultimately limiting further cartilage damage.
- Reducing inflammation via inhibition of mediators that degrade cartilage, thereby preserving remaining cartilage and reducing pain.
- Increases perfusion to the joint and stimulates cartilage healing and repair through reducing clot formation.

**Loading dose:** 6ml per 500kg IM injection once weekly for 4 weeks

**Maintenance dose:** 6ml per 500kg IM injection monthly



**Available in single 6ml, 50ml & 100ml multi-dose vials**

Injections to be performed under the supervision of a veterinarian

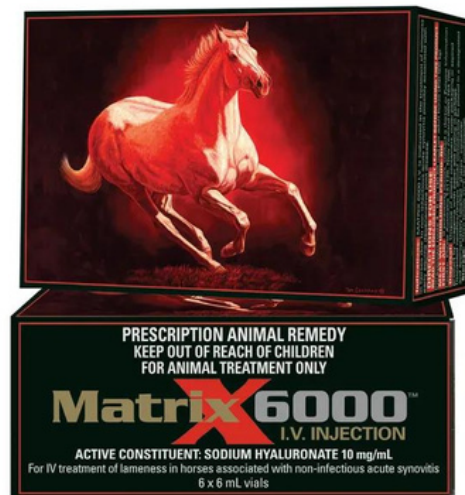
# CHONDROPROTECTANTS

## HYALURONIC ACID (HA)

An intravenous injection that aims to replace hyaluronic acid lost as a result of degenerative joint disease. Hyaluronic acid is responsible for lubrication to the joint, reducing inflammation, chondroprotective effects and therefore maintaining joint integrity. It is recommended that hyaluronic acid be given before exercise intensity increases to reduce inflammation within the joints prior to heavy work.

**Loading dose:** 6ml IV injection weekly for 3 weeks

**Maintenance dose:** 6ml IV injection monthly



**Available in 6ml vials**

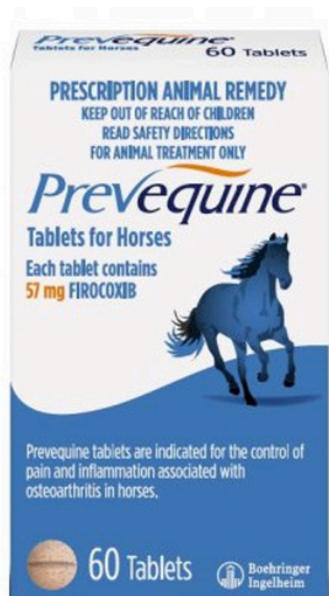
Injections to be performed under the supervision of a veterinarian

## PREVEQUINE (FIROCOXIB)

Prevequine is a **Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID)** that actively reduces inflammation.

It is a selective COX-2 inhibitor which means that it is not associated with the common side-effects we see from other NSAID's (eg Phenylbutazone) on the gastrointestinal tract, liver and kidneys.

Additionally, horses have been found to be more sensitive to this medication than other species allowing for a much lower dose rate. Prevequine is indicated for the control of pain and inflammation associated with osteoarthritis in horses and targets this condition. Studies have shown that prevequine is safe for long term use with monitoring by your veterinarian and presents as a **tablet** which can be given in a small amount of feed.



**Available in 60 or 180 tablet bottles**

**Trial dose:** 1 tablet per 360-600kg orally once daily for 14 days then reassess response to treatment.

**Maintenance dose:** 1 tablet daily per 360-600kg ongoing with monitoring.



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## 4CYTE™ EPIITALIS® FORTE GEL

A concentrated 'nutraceutical' extracted from plant seeds of *Biota Orientalis*, presented as an apple-flavoured oral paste. It's been scientifically proven to increase the production of cells that form joint cartilage, thereby increasing the cartilage's ability to repair.

**Loading dose:** 8ml orally once daily for 14 days

**Maintenance dose:** After 14 days, decrease to 4ml orally once daily - can increase to 6-8ml as desired



Available in 250ml and 1L gel packs



Available in 700g and 3.5kg tubs

## 4CYTE™ EQUINE GRANULES

An oral granular in-feed joint supplement combining Epiitalis and marine concentrates. The active ingredients work synergistically to provide the necessary building blocks for healthy synovial fluid and cartilage. 4Cyte™ comes as a raspberry-flavoured granule and is safe to use long term to actively maintain joint health.

**Introduction dose:** 5g (1/4 scoop) in feed for 5 days

**Loading dose:** 21g (1 scoop) in feed daily for 4 weeks

**Maintenance dose:** After 4 weeks, decrease to 10.5g (1/2 scoop) in feed once daily

If you are interested in booking an appointment for your horse or wish to discuss any of these treatment options, please give the clinic a call at  
0412 619 740.