

Noltrex[®]Vet? Frequently Asked Questions



What is Noltrex®Vet?

Noltrex®Vet is a synthetic hydrogel comprised primarily of 3-dimensional polyacrylamide (4%) with a high molecular weight of 10 million daltons.

To put that into context, Noltrex®Vet has a molecular weight 3-5 times greater than high molecular weight hyaluronic acids or HA (a large component of normal joint fluid). A higher molecular weight molecule will take longer to break down in the joint, therefore maintaining effectiveness for longer than a product with a lower molecular weight. Thus, Noltrex®Vet has a substantial advantage over previous therapies.

How does it work?

Noltrex®Vet substitutes for the lack of lubricating properties of compromised joint fluid to reduce friction and provide physical protection to the cartilage. Protecting sensitive cartilage is critical in order to maintain healthy and pain free joints.

How effective is Noltrex®Vet compared to other joint therapies available?

There are many types and variations of therapies available to today's practitioner. However, in a recent survey of experienced veterinarians familiar with Noltrex®Vet, it was considered very effective, and was most often their "go-to" second treatment if an initial standard treatment had poor results.

What joints should I consider injecting with Noltrex®Vet?

The short answer is any joint. Initially, Noltrex®Vet was recommended for high motion joints. Common examples would include coffin joints, fetlocks and stifles. However, other joints considered low motion joints (limited movement, but important) have also shown great improvement from Noltrex®Vet therapy. The most common example of a low motion joint would be lower hock joints.

How much time off does my horse need after being treated with Noltrex®Vet?

Noltrex®Vet is best allowed several weeks to influence the overall health of the joint. As such, it is best to be conservative with your exercise routine for two weeks post-injection. A small number of horses with severe osteoarthritis occasionally develop lameness and swelling about 10-14 days post-injection if put back to full work within a week of injection. Thus, if your horse's condition is severe, being more conservative in the first few weeks after treatment is highly recommended.

How long does it take to see improvement from Noltrex®Vet?

Response to treatment with Noltrex®Vet will vary between horses. Some horses show improvement within days after injection, while others may take up to 30 days. Generally, gradual improvement is seen over a 1-3 week period. If a horse makes improvement from a single injection, but is not 100%, then a second injection after 5-6 weeks should be considered.

Is Noltrex®Vet Safe?

There have now been over 1 million doses of Noltrex® used in humans. In the United States, Noltrex®Vet usage is becoming commonplace in the equine athlete, with no concerns any greater than other therapies used by veterinarians. As with all joint treatments, great care and skill is required on the part of your veterinarian to minimize any risks from direct joint injection.

Are there conditions my horse may have that could affect product choices regarding joint therapy?

The short answer is yes. Remember to understand your whole horse, not just the joint condition. Horses with Cushing's like syndrome, stomach ulcers (EGUS) or prior laminitis events are all sensitive to certain other products that could be used in joint treatment. Noltrex®Vet is a safe, effective substitute in these horses.

Is Noltrex®Vet a first-time treatment option?

Most veterinarians with experience using Noltrex®Vet consider it an excellent go-to treatment for joints that do not respond to other initial therapies. Currently it is not necessarily an initial recommendation, but it is often part of the conversation for horses requiring more than one treatment or long-term management of a joint condition.

How often do I need to re-treat a horse with Noltrex®Vet?

Many joint conditions are managed, not cured. In management situations, consideration should be given to maintain the affected joint with treatment at an interval of about 6 to 24 months. This is a very large window, as a horse's individual response to treatment, as well as severity of their condition, both play large roles. View each patient as an individual and monitor for the return of clinical lameness to determine an appropriate dosing regimen for the joint in question. It is ideal to re-treat as soon as suspected symptoms return, or ideally before, to maintain a consistent, sound athlete.

Is Noltrex®Vet used with other therapies?

Joint treatment decisions are complex. Not every case can be treated the same with identical results. Noltrex®Vet may be used by itself or some veterinarians may choose to use it in various combinations. In certain protocols, experienced practitioners believe Noltrex®Vet works synergistically to lengthen the duration and effectiveness of other treatments.

What conditions respond best to Noltrex®Vet therapy?

Not all joint concerns are arthritis. Joints can have many different diagnoses or even multiple concerns leading to lameness. The most important consideration is to ensure the lameness is localized to a specific joint. Once a specific joint is identified, Noltrex®Vet can be beneficial in treating many specific conditions.

How long does it last in the joint?

Over time, Noltrex®Vet is mechanically broken down into smaller pieces due to normal friction within the joint. Once the particles are of small enough size, they are removed from the joint by a naturally occurring absorption and removal process at about 30-60 days post-injection. This function ensures no residual Noltrex®Vet (polyacrylamide) particles remain in the joint once it is no longer of benefit. In comparison, hyaluronic acid concentration decreases within hours after injection.

Is there research on Noltrex®Vet being performed in horses?

There are already significant basic science and human research studies available on Noltrex®. To supplement this library of information, focused research specific to the horse has been performed investigating Noltrex®Vet. In an effort to fully understand all aspects of Noltrex®Vet use in today's equine athlete, both clinical and university studies continue with Noltrex®Vet.

How do I order Noltrex®Vet?

Noltrex®Vet is sold only to licensed veterinarians and must be purchased directly from Nucleus ProVets by licensed veterinary account holders. To order, visit noltrexvet.com or call 888-550-0071.