

## Important Information About Compounded Medications

As part of our commitment to providing safe, effective, and ethical veterinary care, we want to share some important information about the use of compounded medications in our practice.

Compounded medications are custom-made formulations prepared by a compounding pharmacy when an FDA-approved product is not available in the strength, form, or combination needed for a specific patient. These products can be valuable tools in equine medicine—especially for horses requiring unique dosing, alternative delivery methods, or ingredients not commercially produced.

However, it is important to understand that compounded medications are not FDA-approved. This means:

- Their safety, potency, and effectiveness are not evaluated by the FDA.
- Their ingredients and concentrations can vary between batches.
- They may not carry the same level of quality control or testing as FDA-approved drugs.

Because of these limitations, federal law requires veterinarians to use FDA-approved medications whenever they are available and medically appropriate. A compounded medication can only be prescribed when there is no suitable FDA-approved option that meets the needs of the patient.

While compounded medications are sometimes less expensive, cost alone cannot be used as a justification for choosing a compounded product over an FDA-approved one. Our prescribing decisions must comply with federal regulations and prioritize the health, safety, and best medical outcome for your horse.

When a compounded medication is necessary, we source it only from reputable, specialized veterinary compounding pharmacies that meet strict standards for quality and consistency. Our goal is always to balance regulatory compliance with the unique needs of each patient.

If you have questions about your horse's medications or would like to discuss available treatment options, please don't hesitate to reach out. We are always here to help you make informed decisions about your horse's care.