

RE-COVR

MAKING A RETURN FROM THE PAST

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It's finally back. **RE-COVR**, a reliable and fast-acting injectable antihistamine that was unavailable for the last two decades, is returning to the market. Featuring tripelemamine hydrochloride, it allows veterinarians to help livestock breathe more easily, maintain vital functions or simply feel better.



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Veterinarians, producers and others in the animal health industry are welcoming its new availability. "There weren't any FDA-approved antihistaminic therapies that were available to treat conditions that involve histamine toxemias or allergic reactions in beef livestock, dairy livestock and horses," said Stuart Pierce, DVM. Pierce is the co-founder of Kinetic Vet, a prominent veterinary products development company based in Lexington, Kentucky, that redeveloped RE-COVR.

Pierce has extensive experience in animal health. Outside of owning a mixed-animal practice, predominantly in cattle care with some equine focus, his father was a veterinarian. This helps him understand the value of products that were used a generation ago, or longer. "I remember as a boy riding with my dad and using it for bovine respiratory disease, or hives. It was a stable tool and easy to find," he said.

AN ARRAY OF USES

Throughout his career, Pierce has seen that histamine-related issues in livestock can grow beyond uncomfortable allergic responses and into critical disease processes. Kinetic Vet brought RE-COVR back onto the market to give veterinarians and producers another tool to address needs he saw on a regular basis.

Practices are enthusiastic about RE-COVR's return. Pierce said when he shared his plans, he received welcoming responses from other large animal production veterinary practices including dairies in Wisconsin, practices in California, and livestock producers throughout the country. For them, it's another strong tool in their medical arsenal.

Part of why veterinarians may be eager for RE-COVR isn't just that it's reliable on its own but that it can be used as a support to other treatment protocols. "When you're responding to certain diseases and you're using an antibiotic or a non-steroid anti-inflammatory, for example, you can add the RE-COVR. It works together with those modalities," he explained.

While the product alleviates discomfort from common allergic reactions, it can be used with larger problems as well. RE-COVR can reduce severe effects of histamine in toxemias, such as coliform mastitis, that enter an animal's

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bloodstream. It can also help to reduce problematic inflammatory cascades that are initiated by histamines, because it limits the histamine effects that damage an animal's organs. Lastly, given that research has shown histamine causes a type 1 hypersensitivity reaction locally within the uterus that can lead to endometritis, RE-COVR's ability to reduce histamine levels helps here as well.

Pierce explained that an added benefit of RE-COVR is it works fast, similarly to how any other supportive medicine, like flunixin meglumine, reduces swelling or pain. "It's an immediate acting product. It's like when people take Benadryl in the evening. It works. But with RE-COVR there aren't the unwanted side effects of drowsiness that other antihistamines lead to."

Pierce talked about one of his clients, a dairy farm, that had cows with bovine respiratory disease complete with coughing and nasal discharge. That client added RE-COVR to their treatment protocol and called the next day to report that symptoms had cleared.

NOW LABELED FOR EQUINE USE

Bringing RE-COVR back on the market wasn't a simple process. Pierce and his team worked several years developing all the key elements for the product including reprocurring the active pharmaceutical ingredient (API). This API was crucial to RE-COVR's formula, and a lack of it was the cause for the drug's exit from distribution. The API they use now is available and manufactured from reliable sources in the U.S. The finished pharmaceutical is also manufactured in the U.S.

Kinetic Vet was meticulous about working through the myriad processes that were required for FDA approvals and, as the product was previously, it's now labeled for both equine and bovine use. Pierce said that, in horses, RE-COVR is available intramuscularly only and is often called for use with allergic reactions such as insect bite hypersensitivity, severe equine asthma (SEA) and any condition where excess histamine production is causing difficulties.

It's a broad but effective area of treatment. As Pierce explained, "I had a call last week from a veterinarian in Mississippi who said she had a horse with SEA. The horse wasn't doing well, but they used RE-COVR and then told us the horse was a new animal in 12 hours. It just didn't take long and the vet as well as the horse's owner were appreciative."

BRINGING OLD STANDARDS TO MODERN PRACTICES

Pierce founded the company with his brother, Dr. Scott Pierce, an equine vet who also practices in Kentucky. From the beginning, it was important to the pair that the company was focused on bringing well-researched products to the market that could be counted on to produce results and address a specific, pressing need in animal healthcare. "They've got to have science behind them, and they've got to have a need behind them," he said.

Although Kinetic Vet currently has more than 30 products on the market, RE-COVR is the start to what the brothers hope will be an effort to bring back products that were used years ago but have been discontinued for various reasons. This focus area fits in with the company's dedication to quality and to filling a need. FDA-approved medicines from the past can see the daylight of pharmacy shelves again and can be remanufactured with today's FDA standards.

Bringing these products back isn't easy, but according to Pierce, it's long overdue. "You know, the industry may be kind of behind the eight ball as far as availability of these good products is concerned. They once were staples, and now they've been taken off the market," he said. "But now, we're starting to try to bring those products back. In our minds, they've still got a place and there's no other alternative." ■

