Description and pack sizes: A clear, colourless, odourless solution containing 10 mg/mL Butorphanol as the tartrate in amber 20 mL vials.

Action: Butorphanol is a synthetic centrally acting analgesic and a potent antitussive.

Indications: Clinical studies in the horse have shown that butorphanol tartrate alleviates abdominal pain associated with colic and postpartum pain. Used in combination with tranquillisers or sedatives butorphanol is effective for chemical restraint in standing surgical procedures. In dogs it is an effective antitussive and in post-surgical analgesia. Used in combination with tranquillisers or sedatives butorphanol is effective for chemical restraint.

Contraindications: Not for use in horses or dogs with liver disease.

Toxicity: No clinical, laboratory or gross or histiopatholgical evidence of any butorphanol related toxicity was encountered in horses exposed to doses up to 20 times the recommended dosage on a single exposure or up to ten times the recommended dosage on multiple exposures.

Dosage & administration:
Horses: (1) 0.1 mg/kg IV (5 mL per adult horse) the dose may be repeated within 3 - 4 hours but treatment should not exceed 48 hours (2) Using the combination of xylazine/butorphanol or detomidine/butorphanol for chemical restraint of standing surgical procedures for instance castration with local anaesthetic. (a) 0.5 -1.1 mg/kg Xylazine IV 3 - 5 minutes prior to 0.02 to 0.025 mg/kg butorphanol IV. Alternatively these may be administered simultaneously. (b) 0.01 to 0.04 mg/kg detomidine IV 5 minutes prior to 0.02 to 0.025 mg/kg butorphanol IV. Alternatively these may be administered simultaneously. Butorphanol tartrate is a potent analgesic, and when used with other sedative or analgesic drugs the effects are potentiated. In some cases butorphanol may cause mild CNS excitement when used as a sole agent in the horse. There are no well controlled studies using butorphanol in breeding horses.

Dogs: (1) 0.05-0.1 mg/kg IM or SC for antitussive (2) 0.4 - 0.8 mg/kg IM or SC for analgesia

Side Effects:
Horses: Slight ataxia, head flicking, mild sedation and rarely marked ataxia. In some cases CNS excitement when administered as a sole agent in the horse.

Dogs: Butorphanol induces few adverse effects, however, slight cardiopulmonary depression may be observed in dogs given 0.4 mg/kg IV.

Withholding Period: Horses producing meat and offal for human consumption must not be sold for slaughter either during treatment or within 63 days of the last treatment.