



# It Happened to Me...

Angela Hudson and Harley's Story

## Beware Banamine



On May 4, 2009

Angela Hudson sent the following e-mail:

“If you are reading this, then you are a fellow horse lover. We have all given our share of shots especially banamine. Most of us carry it in our trailers for emergencies and are not afraid to give our horse a shot if we think something is wrong or if the threat of colic appears. I have been around horses all my life and I too have given hundreds of banamine shots in the muscle-because as it says on the bottle-its safe either IV or IM. Well, I hope this will make you think twice about giving your horse another banamine shot in the muscle.

I gave my horse Harley 10cc of banamine and B12 (in the neck) last Tuesday night because she wasn't acting like herself, wasn't eating, labored breathing, slight temp, etc. Her run at Cullman was not up to her ability and she was acting funny Monday and Tuesday. I figured it couldn't hurt her right? By Thursday morning she could hardly walk and something was obviously wrong. I loaded up and went to MSU (Mississippi State University). She was admitted that afternoon and she is still there. You're probably saying that I used a contaminated syringe or needle or I had a bad bottle of banamine or I didn't give it in the right place or this could never happen to me or my horse, right?!!! Well I assure you that this is not the case. This only happens with banamine (she had a B12 shot on the other side of her neck). It is very rare and there hasn't been a case at MSU in 5 or 6 years. Somehow a strain of bacteria grows at the injection site and causes swelling (which is fluid and infection) and if not treated it is fatal. The bacterium grows in the dark and doesn't require air to survive. There is no cure, no magical antibiotic for this type of bacteria (Clostridium I think its called). The only cure is cutting through flesh, fat, and muscle to allow light and air to, hopefully, kill the bacteria. This is VERY expensive to treat. So, after looking at the pictures of my mare please ask yourself "Is a \$10 shot of banamine worth \$6,000-\$8,000 in vet bills or possibly your horses' life?? I'm not saying to stop using banamine. It is safe to give it IV or orally.



I hope you can learn something from my nightmare. Please say a prayer for her. She is not "out of the woods" yet.”

Pictures of Harley's treatment:  
“cutting through the flesh, fat and muscle to allow light and air to, hopefully, kill the bacteria.”

To learn more about Angela and Harley visit  
[www.magnoliabarrelhorses.com](http://www.magnoliabarrelhorses.com)





As of June 4, 2009,

Angela let us know that Harley was still at Mississippi State University. Angela was excited that Harley was scheduled to come home within the next week or two. She said that Harley would require daily care and treatment of her wounds. Harley will also need to return to MSU for possible skin grafts.

Angela says she will keep us informed and send us updates on Harley's progress. We will, of course, pass this information onto you. In the meantime, we hope that you have learned something from Angela and Harley's story.

*Thank you Angela for sharing your story with us!*

Do you have a story worth sharing?

We'd love to hear from you and learn something new!

Send us your "It Happened to Me..." story to [adinthehorseresource@yahoo.com](mailto:adinthehorseresource@yahoo.com).



## Medication Awareness

What you Need to know before administering Bute or Banomine

By: Bridget Duggleby

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Everyone knows that when your horse is hurt or sick the first thing you should do is contact your vet. Most horse owners are prepared to act even if a vet cannot be reached. It is important to know what to do in situations when a vet cannot treat your horse. Being educated when administering medication is especially crucial due to possible side effects and risks if drugs are used in an inappropriate manner.

Nearly every horse owner has a horse related medicine "cabinet". In an emergency, you know you have a supply of vet wrap, ointments, clean rags, and prescription medicines like Bute or Banomine. Prescription medications are the ones you need to become an expert on in hopes of preventing potential problems and risks.

Before you administer the prescription medications mentioned above, here is some information you should be aware of:

1. Bute and Banomine are both non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDS). A couple of other common drugs in this class of medicines are aspirin and ibuprofen. These drugs are used to control pain and lessen inflammation. Most horse owners use Bute or Banomine to lessen suffering or to treat colic or joint injuries.

2. Injectable forms of these medicines should be administered intravenously. Both of these medications can cause serious muscle tissue damage if a shot is given in the muscle. These medications can severely damage the muscle even if only a tiny amount gets out of the vein and into surrounding tissue. This then causes drastic swelling in the area, tissue can die, and open wounds can develop. These can take months to heal. Another problem with this type of administration is that serious bacterial infections may develop causing your horse more problems. In some cases, administration of these medications into the muscle can even lead to the death of your horse. Be aware, Banomine is labeled for use either Intramuscularly or Intravenously, but you should be aware of the possible consequences for giving this medication in the muscle. It is also interesting to know that for cattle Banomine is only labeled for Intravenous use. If you are at all unsure how to administer a medication intravenously, you may want to ask your veterinarian about the paste or tablet forms of these medications.

3. Since these medications help ease pain and discomfort, they also have a tendency to mask a problem. For instance, it is late at night and your horse has all of the signs of colic, so you give them some medication. A half hour later everything seems fine, so you go to bed. In the morning, you wake up and your horse has died. Be aware of this possibility. Don't let one dose of medication give you false hope and delay treatments that are necessary.

4. NSAIDS, like Bute or Banomine, help with pain and inflammation by attaching "bad" prostaglandin. Prostaglandins are the chemicals that cause the symptoms of pain and inflammation. However, "good" prostaglandins also exist helping one's body with every day functions like maintaining blood flow to the kidneys and stomach. Unfortunately, these medications attach both the "bad" and the "good" prostaglandin. This can lead to ulcers in the intestines, stomach, and mouth. Also, these drugs have the potential to cause kidney damage. Use caution when administering these medications to young horses, old horses, or dehydrated horses as these problems occur more frequently in horses with weak or underdeveloped immune systems. How will you know if your horse is having problems with the medication due to toxicity? Here are some signs to watch for: grinding of the teeth, drooling, colic pain, diarrhea, or fluid build up in the abdomen or legs.

As with any medication, usually the positives outweigh the negatives. However, you should use caution and be aware of risks and side effects. Contact your vet whenever possible to ask for instructions on how to handle different situations involving your pet. Be sure to use caution when dealing with a young, old, or dehydrated horse. Always following appropriate dosing regulations and do not inject these drugs into the muscle.