

# Balling (Bolus) Gun

## Description & Purpose

A **balling gun** is primarily used in **veterinary medicine** for delivering large-sized pills (boluses) into the throats of animals like **cattle, sheep, goats, and horses**. It helps bypass the tongue, ensuring the medication reaches the digestive tract efficiently without being chewed, spat out, or mis-swallowed.

## Product Categories & Forms

Category	Subtype	Form Factor
Veterinary Tool	Medication Applicator	Manual Handheld Device
Usage Type	Single or Multi-Bolus Use	Reusable or Semi-disposable

## Materials Used

Material Type	Properties	Use Cases
Stainless Steel	Durable, autoclavable, corrosion-resistant	Large livestock, high reuse
High-Density Plastic (HDPE)	Lightweight, disposable or semi-reusable	Small animals, low-cost models
PVC	Flexible, multipurpose (drench + bolus)	Suitable for boluses + liquids
Rubber Tip Add-ons	Gentle insertion to avoid throat injury	Especially for sensitive animals

## Sizes & Shapes

Animal Type	Length	Head Diameter	Notes
Cattle/Horses	17–18 inches	~1 inch	Most common bolus gun type
Calves/Goats	14–15 inches	~¾ inch	Medium size
Lambs/Foals	13–14 inches	~0.45–0.50 inch	For small or young animals

## Types of Balling Guns

Type	Features	Suitable For
Single-Bolus Gun	One bolus at a time	All livestock
Multi-Bolus Gun	Holds 2–6 boluses, trigger mechanism	Herd dosing, efficiency
Rubber Tip Gun	Soft-tipped to prevent throat trauma	Young or sensitive animals
Hollow-Plunger Gun	Also used for liquids/drenches	Multipurpose (bolus + drench)







## Specifications

- **Length:** 13–18 inches (depending on type/animal)
- **Material:** Stainless steel, HDPE plastic, PVC
- **Action Mechanism:** Manual plunger, trigger, or spring
- **Bolus Capacity:**
  - Single-use: 1 bolus
  - Multi-use: Up to 6 boluses
- **Disinfection:** Soap, disinfectant, or autoclave (for metal)






## Usage Instructions

1. **Prepare Bolus Gun:** Pull plunger back and insert bolus.
2. **Restrain Animal:** Secure the animal to prevent movement.
3. **Position Device:** Insert gun at side of mouth, guiding toward throat.
4. **Administer Dose:** Gently push plunger or trigger to release bolus.
5. **Observe Swallowing:** Ensure the animal swallows before repeating.
6. **Clean After Use:** Wash and sterilize as per material guidelines

## Advantages

-  Precise bolus placement
-  Minimizes stress for animal
-  Prevents injury from incorrect hand-dosing
-  Durable (especially stainless steel models)
-  Efficient for large herds (multi-dose models)
-  Available in multiple sizes and designs

## Disadvantages

-  May cause choking if inserted improperly
-  Inappropriate for animals without swallowing reflex
-  Plastic versions may crack over time
-  Improper cleaning can lead to cross-contamination
-  Requires proper restraint of animals

## **Safety Precautions**

- Always secure the animal properly
- Never force the gun into the throat
- Monitor swallowing before administering next dose
- Clean after each use to avoid infection
- Use only veterinary-grade bolus guns
- Replace cracked or damaged plastic guns

## **Sterilization & Cleaning**

Material	Method
Stainless Steel	Wash + Autoclave or Disinfectant Soak
Plastic/PVC	Wash with mild soap + water
Rubber Tips	Warm water rinse + disinfectant dip
Frequency	After every use or per animal session

## **Veterinary Applications**

### **Applicable For:**

- Cattle (bulls, cows, calves)
- Goats
- Sheep
- Horses
- Camels

### **Used For:**

- Nutritional boluses (calcium, magnesium)
- Dewormers
- Oral medications
- Rumen magnets
- Electrolytes or oral fluid therapy (in hollow guns)

## **Not for Human Use**

Balling guns are designed **exclusively for veterinary** use and should **never be used on humans**, due to risk of injury, improper dosing, and sanitary concerns.

## HSN / HS Code

Classification	Description	Code
<b>HSN Code (India)</b>	Instruments/appliances for veterinary sciences	<b>9018.90</b>
<b>International HS</b>	Veterinary dosing instruments	<b>9018.00</b> or regional variant

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### **Q1: Can I use one gun for different animals?**

- ◆ You should use size-appropriate guns to match the animal's size for safe and effective dosing.

### **Q2: How do I sterilize a balling gun?**

- ◆ Stainless steel: autoclave or disinfectant soak
- ◆ Plastic: wash with mild soap and water

### **Q3: Can I use the same gun for both bolus and liquids?**

- ◆ Only hollow-plunger types (usually PVC) are dual-purpose.

### **Q4: How often should I clean the gun?**

- ◆ After every session and animal to prevent cross-infection.

### **Q5: Are there disposable options?**

- ◆ Yes, lightweight plastic guns are economical and suitable for limited or one-time use.