

# Straight from the Horse's mouth

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2016

## Welcome to our new Group Practice Manager - Sarah Startup

All of our team were sad to say Goodbye to Rita Dingwall, our Group Practice Manager for the last 11 years who moved to pastures new on September 1st. Rita made great changes in her time with Milbourn Equine and Cinque Ports Vets and will be much missed. She has been replaced by Sarah Startup, Sarah has many years' experience in the Veterinary industry, having been with Cinque Ports Vets since 2001, most recently as Branch Manager at our Kingsnorth small animal surgery.



Want to spread the costs of your horses routine healthcare, join our EQUINE HEALTH PLAN

RCVS ACCREDITED PRACTICE  
 Healthcare Plan  
**£13.50**  
 Per Month  
 MILBOURN EQUINE VETS  
 Dedication, Care and Trust  
 Save Money, Spread Costs, Pay Monthly!

## Autumn Health Hazards

**ACORN POISONING** – acorns, oak leaves and their branches pose a toxicity risk to horses, large amounts ingested can induce severe illness. This is due to the tannic and gallic acids in the acorn, which can cause severe damage to the gastrointestinal system and kidneys. There is anecdotal evidence that some horses develop a liking bordering on addiction for acorns and will actually seek them out, overindulging to the point of illness. Symptoms include Constipation, Anorexia, Colic, Blood in the urine, Kidney damage, Dehydration, Fluid accumulation in the legs (edema).

**ATYPICAL MYOPATHY** - In recent years this frequently fatal muscle disease has become more prevalent. Predominantly occurring during the autumn, AM results in damage to the muscle tissue and causes significant muscular pain. Research has shown horses kept on overgrazed pasture with a large quantity of dead leaves and dead wood are at particular risk. The seeds of sycamore trees have been linked to outbreaks. The onset of AM is rapid, affected horses are often found at pasture weak, unwilling to move and have difficulty standing. Other signs include; Muscular stiffness/tremors, sweating, depression, high heart rate, dark urine, breathing difficulty.

## Back on Track!



Our BACK ON TRACK promotion will run this November, if your horses vaccinations have lapsed get them back up to date and receive a discounted primary course.

## Free ACTH Lab Fees

Free ACTH (Cushings disease) lab fees are still available until the end of October, if your horse has not been tested before or previously tested negative.

## Keep an Eye On...

Our website for details of our next Client evening coming up in...October!

## Castration Clinic



Monday 3rd October at our Sevington clinic, book in advance to take advantage of this

**Special Offer of £168.**

More information on our website.

# Straight from the Horse's mouth

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## Sedating your Horse

by Harriet Fairhurst  
 BSc(Hons) BVetMed MRCVS

Sedation is something that is often needed in the autumn for clipping but also for the farrier, travelling or for rasping teeth.

There are 3 main ways in which horses can be sedated – 2 of these are via an oral syringe that the owner can administer themselves (Domosedan and Sedalin) and the third is through intravenous sedation administered by the vet.

### Sedalin

The active ingredient of sedalin is ACP, which is a mild sedative and reduces anxiety. For this reason, sedalin is often used for horses that do not require as deep a level of sedation. Sedalin has the huge advantage in that it can be administered by the owner with a prescription from your vet. The only caveat is that the vet must have seen the horse in the last 6 months to comply with DEFRA medicine dispensing regulations. An additional advantage of sedalin is that it is given orally like a wormer. The sedation will take approximately 30 - 40 minutes to fully develop, and last for up to a couple of hours, so it is key that you enable enough time for the sedation to take effect before any procedure is initiated.

### Domosedan Gel

The active ingredient in domosedan is detomidine, which gives a higher level of sedation than ACP. Therefore, we recommend domosedan for those horses that require a medium level of sedation. Domosedan is very advantageous in that it can be administered by the owner with a prescription from your vet. The only caveat is that the vet must have seen the horse in the last 6 months to comply with DEFRA medicine dispensing regulations. One difficulty in giving Domosedan is that it must be given under the tongue on the gum / oral mucosa – not just into the mouth like a wormer, therefore this can be difficult in horses that are difficult to worm. The sedation will take approximately 30 - 40 minutes to fully develop, so it is key that you enable enough time for the sedation to take effect before any procedure is initiated. Sedation would typically last for an hour or so.

### I/V sedation

I/V sedation is sedation given into the vein and is used in those horses that require a high level of sedation to enable procedures to be performed, when oral sedation is not adequate. The dose / type of sedation used depends on many different things – including duration of sedation required, procedure being completed, depth of sedation of required, how sensitive the horse is to sedation. I/V sedation requires a visit from the vet, and can be done on our zone visit scheme. The advantages of I/V sedation is that it gives a much greater depth of sedation, therefore it is very useful in horses that are exceptionally sensitive to procedures being performed. Additionally, with I/V sedation the vet will wait for up to 15 minutes to enable a 'top up' if the horse starts to come round from sedation. I/V sedation typically uses a mixture of a sedative drug and a opioid which usually produces a more profound sedation with less sensitivity to touch.



	SEDALIN	DOMOSSEDAN
<b>DOSAGE</b>	250kg horse 1-1.5ml 500kg horse 2-3ml	250kg horse 1.5ml 500kg horse 2.75ml
<b>TUBE SIZE</b>	Comes in a 10ml tube – therefore can use one tube multiple times	Comes in a 3ml tube – therefore can only be used once
<b>PRICE</b>	£21.07 per tube	£35.84 per tube