

# ESPINAR EQUINE

Autumn 2019



## Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter!

The clocks have gone back, the air is starting to get chillier and our thoughts turn to preparing our horses for the mud in the approach to winter! Of course, autumn can be a great time for hacking out and simply enjoying the beautiful colours of the changing season.

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### AUTUMN WORMING

Autumn is a good time to think about tapeworm. Because tapeworm eggs are contained within the body segments of the tapeworm, they won't always show up in faecal worm egg counts because they are only shed intermittently. Even if the FWEC comes back negative for tapeworm eggs, your horse could still have a tapeworm burden. A more accurate way to determine whether your horse has tapeworm is by performing a saliva or blood test instead, that measure antibody levels to these parasites.

If this test comes back positive, you should use a wormer containing Praziquantel or a higher dose of Pyrantel (for example Strongid P (Pyrantel), Equest Pramox, Eqvalan Duo or Equimax (all Praziquantel)).

Another worm that does not show up on a FWEC is encysted small redworm. These worms can be highly dangerous and cause big problems in the spring, which is why it is important to consider treating for them now. We wait to treat for these until after the first frost to minimise the risk of re-infection from the pasture. Wormers containing moxidectin (such as Equest) treat redworm and bots in a single dose. You can also use Fenbendazole (5 day course of Panacur Equine) but remember that this does not target any botfly larvae.

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### CASTRATION

Now that the air is cooler and the number of flies has reduced, this is a good time of year to get your colt castrated! We normally castrate when horses are 1-2 years old as this gives the testicles time to develop (which means they can easily be removed!) whereas castrating older horses where the blood supply is more developed can carry higher risks of haemorrhage and



other complications.

The open castration procedure can be performed standing (or lying down for smaller ponies!) and providing there are no complications you can expect the incision site to be completely healed in about 2-3 weeks. It is important that your horse can move about after the surgery as this helps to reduce swelling and encourage healing. Generally speaking it is good to at least walk them in hand after sedation has worn off. If you'd like to know more about the castration procedure, we have a video available on our YouTube channel!

### BONFIRE/FIREWORKS

If this time of year is likely to cause a problem for your horse, you may want to think about having a plan in place for firework season. It is important to have emergency contact numbers where



they can easily be seen or found! If you feel that your horse requires some sedation in order to cope with the stress of the noise, it is important to give the right one and the right dose! Domosedan (active ingredient Detomidine) is an actual sedative, whereas Sedalin (active ingredient ACP) is a tranquiliser, meaning they work in a slightly different way on the horse. Both require a prescription!

Sedalin can be given in the standard oral manner, like a wormer. It lasts for a couple of hours and takes 30-40 minutes for it to work - therefore it is better if the horse is kept quiet during this time as the sedation is relatively mild.

Domosedan will be effective if you need a stronger level of sedation. It has to be given under the tongue so is not always a good choice for horses that are difficult to worm for example! Although it takes a similar time to be effective, sedation only lasts for around an hour.

Remember that as sedation also affects the gut (increasing transit times for any food), it is important to monitor your horse afterwards, especially if they are being sedated regularly, to ensure that they do not develop any impaction.

Enjoy the crisp mornings and beautiful colours at this time of year and if you need any help with aspects of autumn equine care, do get in touch!

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