



Oral sedation with Acepromazine (ACP)

WHAT IS ACEPROMAZINE?

Acepromazine, commonly known as ACP, is used for light sedation in horses to enable vets, owners and paraprofessionals to easily carry out routine procedures safely such as clipping, farriery, dentistry or keeping a horse calm when on box rest. Oral ACP comes in a syringe with an easy ring dial dosing mechanism, containing a yellow-coloured gel.

Given on its own, ACP can only produce mild to moderate sedation and it has no painkilling properties.



HOW DO I ADMINISTER ACP?

ACP gel is administered orally. This can either be straight into the mouth from the syringe if the horse is amenable to this or alternatively it can be given in a small amount of feed. The syringe will need to be set at the right dose to make sure the right amount is administered to the horse or pony.

For a 500 kg horse, a dose of 2.5 ml will be required.

The dose may be varied to administer between 0.5 and 1.5 times the recommended dose, depending on the level of sedation required.



HOW LONG WILL ACP GEL TAKE TO WORK?

The length of time that it takes for ACP to take effect can vary greatly between horses and is also affected by the environment in which it is given. In a highly anxious horse, for example, it may take a lot longer for ACP to create the desired level of sedation.

On average, onset of action is between 15 and 30 minutes and effects can last for up to seven hours.

For the best effects with ACP it should be given in a quiet and calm environment before any stressors such as the farrier or equine dental technician arrive.



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WHAT PRECAUTIONS DO I NEED TO TAKE WHEN USING ACP?

It is important to note that whilst ACP provides sedation, a horse can still move or kick after administration even when the drug is at its most efficacious.

If a horse is sensitive to ACP and sedates more heavily, be aware that the horse can lose balance. Position the horse in such a way that it is standing square with one leg in each corner and is effectively supporting itself.

ACP should be used with care in stallions as it can cause penile prolapse. Consult your veterinary surgeon before administering to any entire horse.

Horses should not be ridden on ACP. Be aware that whilst the horse may begin to look awake, the full effects can take up to seven hours to wear off.



WHAT DO I NEED TO DO AFTER MY HORSE HAS BEEN SEDATED WITH ACP?

After sedation leave your horse in a quiet environment to let the sedative wear off. This can take up to seven hours.

Check the horse regularly.

Horses are able to eat after they have been sedated with ACP and it is acceptable to leave your horse with a soaked hay net whilst coming round from sedation.

This information has been provided by Dechra Veterinary Products, the makers of Reliquine.
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