



IACUC GUIDELINE:	Sedation of Horses Under AV Supervision		
ACUP #	ACUP 104	IACUC Approval:	March 3, 2016

PURPOSE:

This ACUP describes acceptable procedures for sedation of horses owned by the TAMU-C Farm in order to facilitate safe treatment procedures.

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A. MATERIALS

- Dormosedan or Xylazine Injectables
- Reversal Drugs: Tolazaline Injectable
- Sterile single-use needles and syringes
- Thermometer
- Stethoscope

B. GUIDELINES

- a. Sedation to be performed on weekdays only, when on-call veterinarians are available for emergencies.
- b. Performed by one of the following persons:
- c. Kirsten Shaffer – Animal Care Supervisor
- d. Warren Thompson – Research Compliance Manager
- e. Minimum of two personnel present: Animal Care Supervisor or Research Compliance Manager, plus Equine Supervisor or Farm Manager.
- f. Sedation to be performed on University-owned animals only. No loaned horses, boarders, rodeo horses, etc. fall under this approval.
- g. Personnel are only qualified to perform sedation after training by Dr. Manning or Dr. Gray, and with the Attending Veterinarian's annual authorization.
- h. Training should be documented per standard IACUC policy, i.e. training roster with procedures training included.

C. PROCEDURES

- a. Xylazine will be given IV at a dose of 1.5-2.0 mL for adults and .5-1.0 mL (0.5mg/kg) for foals and small horses using a sterile, single-use needle and syringe. This dosage will be used to achieve moderate sedation. The recommended dosage of .5mL/100 lbs listed in the drug information is to achieve pre-anesthetic sedation, which will not be necessary for treatments performed by TAMUC staff.
 - b. Dormosedan will be given IV at a dose of .5- 1.0 mL for adults (0.02 mg/kg) and .3-.5 mL for foals and small horses using a sterile, single-use needle and syringe.
 - c. Animal Care Supervisor stores drugs in locked cabinet in her office, calculates dosage, and draws drugs. Either party may restrain horse or perform injection, after training and qualification by Dr. Manning or Dr. Gray. Other party verifies dose and agrees that dose drawn is the same as the dose calculated.
 - d. Heart rate, respiration, and temperature will be monitored until horse is fully awake and alert. Under no circumstances is a sedated horse to be left unattended.
 - e. A Texas A&M University–Commerce Approved Veterinarian will be called in the event that a horse develops respiratory depression or any other indications of oversedation that cannot be corrected with reversal drugs.
 - f. Tolazoline will be given at a dosage of 4mL/220 lbs and will only be given IM in the case of an emergency. Otherwise, horses will be allowed to come out of sedation normally.
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D. SAFETY

- a. When working with animals wear appropriate PPE. Observe proper hygiene, and be aware of allergy, zoonosis, and injury risks. Check with the facility supervisor regarding requirements for personal protective equipment.
- b. If a staff member accidentally receives a needle stick where medication is injected, they are to be immediately transported for emergency care. The effects of these drugs on humans can be devastating and deadly.

E. REGULATORY MANDATES AND GUIDELINES

- a. AWR 2.33(b). Each research facility shall establish and maintain programs of adequate veterinary care that include: guidance to principal investigators and other personnel involved in the care and use of animals regarding handling, immobilization, anesthesia, analgesia, tranquilization, and euthanasia.