IVERMECTIN OVERDOSE
A CASE REPORT

Guessing your horse’s weight and ignoring the manufacturer’s recommended dose can be potentially fatal when administering ivermectin based worming pastes.

by Laiza Sherar

After the first IV treatment, the foal still showed little signs of improvement, so 90 hours after overdosing; he was giving a further IV lipid emulsion of the same type. This time the neurological signs started improving and the colt regained consciousness.

Over the next few hours the colt started to improve dramatically and approximately 100 hours after the overdose he was able to stand freely and his appetite returned. For the following days he was treated with anti-inflammatory and anti-biotics and was finally discharged on day 8 of the ordeal and went on to make a full recovery.

Despite the fact that this case is one of extreme circumstances, and although it does not state what the cause of overdose was (human error or accidental), it shows the huge importance of giving the correct dose of ivermectin based wormers, particularly to small ponies and foals.

In an adult horse, a small overdose may not be seen as readily and the horse may recover from it normally, however there is only a small window between minor and major overdose issues.

According to the report’s author’s this is the first time where an IV of lipid emulsion has been used successfully to treat such an overdose. This makes it groundbreaking for all veterinarians specialising in horses, as it gives base knowledge to potentially treat similar overdoses in the future.

The abstract of this article is available online at: http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1939-1676.2011.00865.00001.x/abstract