



Have you ever considered registering your horse/pony on to one of our Health Plan Schemes?

OUR LEISURE HEALTH PLAN OFFERS THE FOLLOWING:

- Free annual visit at time of vaccination
- A dental examination & any routine work required excluding sedation
- One annual influenza & tetanus injection and health check
- Free Worm Egg Counts throughout the grazing period, when recommended
- 5% off any Equus Vets Supplements purchased

Accounts must be clear before Health Plans can be purchased & must be paid for before the first visit commences

Visits to be arranged within working hours and 48hrs prior notice given

MAY 2023

EQUUS VETS MAY NEWSLETTER

2023

FOR BREEDING, FOR SPORT FOR LIFE

Providing you with a dedicated and experienced equine only vets, 24 hours a day in Devon and East Cornwall

SPRING IS HERE, SO IS LAMINITIS

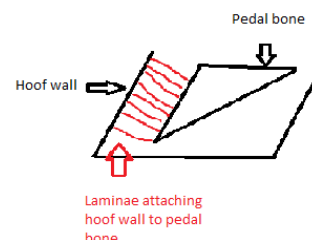
With spring finally on the way, we are seeing a significant increase in cases of laminitis.

What is laminitis?

Laminitis occurs when the Velcro-like structures that attach the pedal bone to the hoof wall, known as the laminae, become inflamed. This inflammation is painful and causes the laminae to weaken, often resulting in movement of the pedal bone within the hoof. The exact reason the laminae become inflamed is still unknown, however recent exposure to lush grass high in sugar is known to cause laminitis. In rare cases laminitis can be caused by other problems, such as severe infection.

The main risk factors for horses developing laminitis include:

- Overweight.
- Undiagnosed or poorly controlled Cushing's disease or Equine Metabolic Syndrome (EMS).
- Native/heavy breeds.
- Recent access to lush grass, especially in spring and autumn.



What are the signs of laminitis?

Typically, horses with laminitis have a stiff, hobbly gait. They often shift their weight from side to side or lean backwards to take the weight off their front feet. In more severe cases, horses may be reluctant to walk and be seen lying down for prolonged periods.



Normal foot

How is laminitis diagnosed?

In most cases, laminitis is diagnosed by a vet based on their clinical examination, including assessment of the digital pulses and reaction to hoof testers. X rays may be needed to assess if there has been any sinking or rotation of the pedal bone. In many cases, a blood sample to test for Cushing's disease and EMS is recommended.



Moderate laminitis with some movement of the pedal bone



Severe laminitis with significant movement of the pedal bone

EQUUS VETS

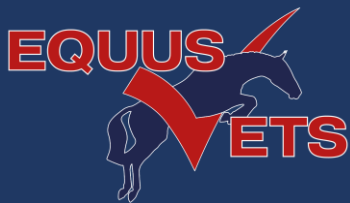
COVERING DEVON AND EAST CORNWALL

HEAD OFFICE: 64 FORE STREET, NORTH TAWTON, DEVON, EX202DT

DISPENSE COLLECTION POINTS HOLSWORTHY, HATHERLEIGH, OKEHAMPTON

01837 214004 – info@equusvets.co.uk – www.equusvets.co.uk





OUR COMPETITION HEALTH PLAN OFFERS THE FOLLOWING:

- Two free annual visits
- One including annual Influenza & Tetanus Injection and health check
- Twice yearly locomotion assessment
- Annual blood profile
- Twice yearly dental check & any routine work required excluding sedation
- Free Worm Egg Counts through the grazing period, when recommended
- 5% off any Equus Vets Supplements purchased

Please contact our reception team if you have any questions regarding the Health Plans or would like to register your horse or pony for one
01837 214 004

How is laminitis treated?

Treatment of laminitis involves several key aspects:

- Pain relief to improve comfort and reduce inflammation of the laminae.
- Improving comfort by providing a deep bed, with remedial shoeing if there has been movement of the pedal bone.
- Restricting movement (box rest) to prevent further damage while the laminae are weak.
- Switching from grass to soaked hay to reduce the sugar content of the diet.
- Treating any underlying Cushing's disease or EMS.

How can I prevent laminitis?

The most important factor in preventing laminitis is ensuring your horse is not overweight. Regularly performing a body condition score and using a weigh tape will help identify subtle changes in your horse's condition. Restricting feed and increasing exercise (where appropriate) are very important to encourage weight loss in overweight horses. In older horses, an annual test for Cushing's disease can also be helpful.

How does Equus Vets ensure that we are becoming more environmentally friendly??

A non-exhaustive list:

- We endeavor to plan vet's diaries so that travelling can be kept to a minimum to improve our carbon footprint along with the introduction of Area Days which are beneficial to our clients with reduced visit fees.
- Clients are encouraged to return any unused medications so that we can dispose of it in a correct manner to minimize any harmful contamination going into the environment.
- To reduce the amount of emergency treatments/antibiotics used, Equus Vets advises its clients to take preventative actions such as vaccinations, weight management etc.
- Within the practice, we use recycle bins and are trying to minimize paper use by e mailing where possible and not printing unnecessary documents.

We are continually trying to reduce carbon without impacting animal health and welfare. If you have any sustainability ideas or suggestions, please e mail
Charlie – charlie.hewlett@equusvets.co.uk

CORNWALL AREA DAYS FOR JUNE



Tuesday 8th June

Tuesday 22nd June

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