



Straight from the Horses' mouth



Laminitis

by Charlotte Maughan Jones BSc. Hons, BVetMed, MRCVS

Traditionally thought of as a disease of spring, and the "second flush" of grass in late Autumn, however we are increasingly seeing more and more cases throughout the whole of the year, from the height of summer, to the deepest depths of a snowy winter. Although laminitis remains one of the lesser understood equine diseases in terms of what causes it, and how it is caused, it is extremely important to be able to recognise any early signs and treat them as soon as possible. It is extremely difficult to get your head around the idea that your horse could potentially lose its life due to laminitis, but in a case in which we are unable to control the considerable pain they are experiencing, this can often be the unfortunate and devastating outcome.

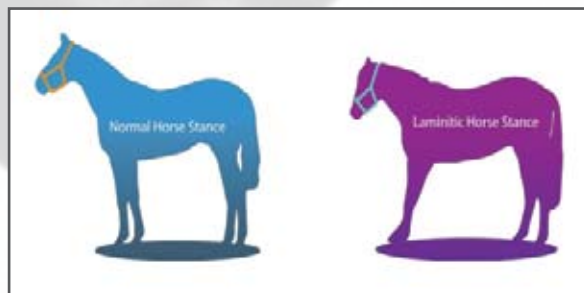
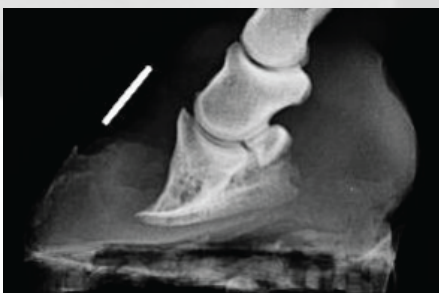
The signs:

1. Increased pulses to your horses feet – often difficult to find if you are inexperienced, however if you are able to feel them, then this is a good indication of inflammation within the feet.
2. Difficulty walking, especially when turning – the most common call we get from owners with a laminitic pony is "he is lame in all 4 feet". They often look like they are walking on broken glass, with a very tentative and careful placement of the foot, with short striding and extreme difficulty when turning.
3. Lying down more frequently than normal – the pain the horse is experiencing in its feet will cause him or her to lie down more often than normal.
4. Pain at the region of the toe – this is not something you will be able to test as an owner, but is something that your vet will be able to detect with a pair of hoof testers.

What to do:

If you notice any of the above signs, or if you are concerned at all about your horse suffering from laminitis, then please call your local branch of Milbourn Equine ASAP for a vet to come and examine your horse. Prompt veterinary treatment is essential in managing acute laminitis and helping to work towards a positive outcome. Basic first aid will involve bringing your horse into a stable on a very deep non-edible bedding (i.e. shavings/paper etc, NOT STRAW), and feeding them soaked hay to reduce the calorific intake.

When your vet is able to examine your horse, they will be able to advise on an appropriate course of action, which will often include a combination of some, or all of the following: pain relief, foot supports, remedial farriery, dietary modification, blood testing for cushings and equine metabolic disease, foot x-rays and mild sedation as necessary.



X-ray showing a pony with chronic laminitis – note how the pedal bone (the last bone in the horses foot) has dropped and rotated in the hoof due to inflammation of the laminae at the toe region. Also note the tip of the pedal bone has remodelled due to the chronic nature of this case.

Text Reminders

We offer an SMS text service for important reminders such as your horse's annual booster and dental check.

In order to receive these messages it is important that we have the correct mobile for you. If you are unsure please ring us and we

can check or add any additional details to your record.

Don't worry if you don't have a mobile you will receive a postal reminder instead.

We also send out newsletters and details of offers and promotions via e-mail, so let us have your e-mail address if we don't already have it.

Spring Health Hazards for Horses

Every season has the potential for health problems for your horse, early treatment can save much discomfort (and cost).

Be on the look out for:

- LAMINITIS • SWEET ITCH
- SUNBURN • COLIC • HEADSHAKING

Spring time Worming Actions

Now is the time to bring us a dung sample to see how effective your worming program is, depending on the results your horse may need treating for roundworm alongside their six monthly tape wormer.



Equine Springtime Checks

Is your horse ready for the summer season?

- Vaccinations up to date?
- Teeth checked and rasped?
- Is he/she in tip-top condition?

If you answered 'No' to any of the above we can help, be it a routine vaccination or if your horse is just 'not quite right', give us a call. It may be that your horse would benefit from further diagnostics in the form of a blood test, gastroscopy, lameness workup or supplement.



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Spring Issue
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www.milbournequine.co.uk



Horse First Aid

What to do when your horse is injured

by Sarah Emptage BVetMed, MRCVS

If you own a horse for long enough, sooner or later you are likely to have to deal with an emergency. No matter what the problem, it is helpful to be well prepared and essential to stay calm. Keep your vets number on your mobile phone and also in the tack room along with a well-stocked first aid kit. **First aid kits can be purchased from the practice, please contact your branch for details.**

If you discover that your horse is injured, first assess the situation quickly to get an idea of the severity of the problem. If your horse is panicking, keep at a safe distance, if you are injured you will not be able to help. Before you ring the veterinary surgeon it is helpful to note the following;

- The position of any wound or swelling - location and also the distance or involvement with surrounding structures, such as joints, the eye etc.
- The depth and type of any wound – eg. graze, puncture, laceration.
- The extent and colour of any discharge – eg. blood, clear yellow fluid or pus.
- The severity of lameness and the effect of this on the horse – is he/she eating and bright or shaking, sweating and shocked?
- The presence of a foreign body – nail, barbed wire, gravel, grass etc.

Once you have assessed the situation you can call your vet and give him or her detailed information which will help them to give the best advice on appropriate first aid. Do not administer anti-inflammatories, eg. Equipalazone or Danilon, unless advised by your vet, as these may mask symptoms, making appropriate treatment more difficult. While the vet is on their way, they will advise you regarding first aid treatment which may include;

- **Application of pressure to stem blood loss.** If there is heavy bleeding place a clean and non-adherent dressing directly over the wound and cover with a layer of gamgee. Then apply a vetrap with firm even pressure. If the wound bleeds through this, do not remove the first dressing as this will disrupt any clotting that has taken place. Place a further dressing over the first, using another layer of gamgee and a firmly applied vetrap. This dressing will be fine whilst waiting for the veterinary surgeon to arrive, but must not be left on for too long as excess pressure can be detrimental (see images top right).
- **Cleansing to reduce infection.** Use Hibiscrub diluted 1:20 in warm water and clean swabs or cotton wool to remove debris and dirt from the wound. Ensure that once used, swabs are discarded and are not re-introduced into the Hibiscrub solution, causing contamination.
- **Cold hosing.** Application of a steady stream of cold water over an injury helps to reduce swelling and clean away bacteria and debris. To be effective this needs to be for 15 – 20 minutes.
- **Application of a bandage.** Ensure that any wounds are covered by a non-adherent dressing. Then apply a layer of padding, such as gamgee and then finally a bandage. It is essential that the padding is sufficient, not wrinkled and that firm even pressure is applied, excessive pressure can result in permanent damage to the leg.



Planning a new Equine addition to the family?



Buying a horse

If you are on the market for a new horse this year we can provide advice on whether a 2 stage or a 5 stage vetting is more appropriate and whether you should consider x-rays or any further diagnostic test.

Breeding from your Mare.

We are here to help, call for advice on how to go about breeding from your mare, whether Natural covering or Artificial Insemination is more suitable, what reproductive options are available and when to scan your mare.

INTRODUCING TWO NEW MILBOURN EQUINE VETERINARY SUPPLEMENTS

The Milbourn Equine Concentrated Veterinary Multi-Vitamin is a nutritional supplement designed to promote and maintain optimum health.

A complex multi-vitamin feed supplement providing necessary vitamins and minerals on a daily basis to all age horses. With no added sugar it is suitable for horses with EMS/IR and for horses suffering from, and prone to, laminitis. 3kg £33.49

The Milbourn Equine Veterinary Liver Aid supports the reduction of blood enzymes & the increase in blood glucose levels for maximum performance.

It supplements vitamins & other nutrients to support liver function. The horses' liver is important for secretion of bile and also the metabolism of carbohydrates, fat and drugs. 1 ltr £50.28 They join our existing range of Milbourn Equine Veterinary supplements;

Iron & Vitamin tonic 1.2 ltr	£20.76
Gastri-Aid 3.2kg	£76.10
Hoof supplement 1kg	£59.50
Immunity Aid syringe 60ml	£11.53
Joint Supplement 1kg	£66.94
Probiotic 750gm	£31.13

