

## LAMINITIS

Laminitis is one of the most common causes of lameness in horses and ponies. It is an inflammatory condition of the tissues (laminae) that attach the pedal bone to the hoof wall. It can be extremely painful and debilitating. It is often recurrent for individual horses.

Mild cases can resolve with prompt treatment and have no lasting effect.



If the laminitis is more severe and progressive the laminae may lose their blood supply which results in a loss of support between the pedal bone and the hoof wall which can lead to separation and rotation and/or sinking of the pedal bone. In the most severe cases the tip of the pedal bone can come through the sole of the foot which usually results in euthanasia.

### CAUSES

- Carbohydrate overload- excess grain or spring grass
- Hormonal condition- PPID/cushings and/or Equine metabolic syndrome
- Endotoxaemia- eg sepsis, retained afterbirth,
- Concussion/trauma
- Lameness on another leg causing excessive weight loading,

### SYMPTOMS

- One or more feet involved, often both front feet but can affect hindlimbs too.
- Weight shifting between feet.
- Rocking back on heels.
- Pottery gait, landing heel first worse on the turn
- Lying down more than usual
- Heat in foot
- Increased digital pulses

### DIAGNOSIS

Based on the clinical findings at the time of examination sometimes x-rays are required to check the position of the pedal bone.

### TREATMENT

The mainstay of treatment is the same in all cases

- Pain relief- bute
- Box rest on a deep bed (at least 10cm right up to the door)
- Treating the underlying cause which may involve further testing for Cushings and EMS
- Sometimes- frog supports, supportive shoes.
- Assessing the diet.

### PREVENTION

- Treating the underlying cause is crucial to preventing further attacks
- Diet - grazing restriction, soaking hay