

# EQUINE CUSHING'S DISEASE ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

This checklist is designed to provide you with an easy-to-use guide so that you can check for signs of Equine Cushing's disease in your horse. Please note that this list of signs is not exhaustive, and if you have any concerns about your horse's health you should contact your veterinary surgeon. Please note that Equine Cushing's disease is uncommon in horses and ponies under the age of 10.<sup>1</sup>

Lethargy	Yes	No	Maybe
Is your horse less keen to exercise than normal?			
Has your horse's athletic performance reduced?			
Have you noticed that your horse has become less interested in other horses or activity on the yard?			
Does your horse appear less engaged with you or less enthusiastic about activities they would usually enjoy?			
Abnormal coat changes	Yes	No	Maybe
Does your horse's coat appear generally thicker than normal?			
Is your horse shedding his/her coat in a later month than previous years?			
Is your horse's coat shedding in a more patchy way than usual?			
Is your horse not shedding his/her coat at all this year?			
Have you noticed unusually long hairs on your horse's legs/belly?			
Abnormal sweating	Yes	No	Maybe
Does your horse sweat in moderate temperatures even when he/she has not been exercised?			
Have you noticed patchy sweating in your horse?			
Abnormal muscle wastage	Yes	No	Maybe
Has your horse lost his/her topline?			
Has your horse lost muscle over the rump area?			

<sup>1</sup>Burns, T.A. and Toribio, R.E. (2015) 'Endocrine diseases of the geriatric equid', in Sprayberry, K.A. and Robinson, N.E. (ed). *Robinson's Current Therapy in Equine Medicine (7th Edition)*. US: Elsevier, pp. 582-590



Abnormal fat distribution	Yes	No	Maybe
Has your horse developed fat pads over or around their eyes?			
Has your horse developed a pot belly?			
Has your horse's crest increased in size or become unusually lumpy?			
Does your horse have unusual deposits of fat around the withers or rump region?			
Has your horse developed a 'lumpy' appearance over the muscles?			

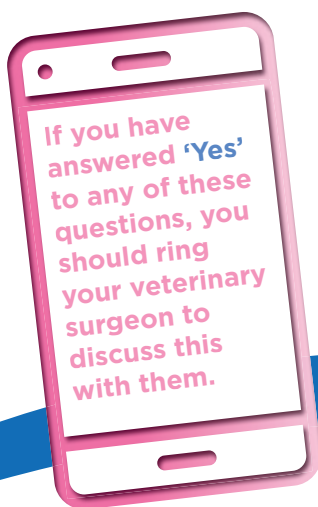
Increased thirst/urination	Yes	No	Maybe
Have you noticed that you are buying bedding more often? Or that you are needing to muck out more frequently because the bedding is wet?			
Have you noticed that you are filling up your horse's water bucket or trough more frequently? Or that when you do fill up the water bucket or trough it is often empty?			
Have you noticed your horse drinking from unusual containers such as other horse's water troughs or puddles?			

Recurrent/long term infections	Yes	No	Maybe
Does your horse suffer from repeated infections such as sinusitis or foot abscesses?			
Does your horse suffer from dental disease?			
Has your horse been treated for an infection which isn't responding as expected to treatment?			
Does your horse return high faecal worm egg count results?			

Reduced fertility	Yes	No	Maybe
Has your mare struggled to get in foal?			
Has your stallion had low conception rates?			

Laminitis	Yes	No	Maybe
Is your horse currently suffering from, or have they previously suffered from laminitis?*			

\*please see separate checklist for signs of laminitis



Your veterinary surgeon will be able to advise you on the likely causes of the signs, and whether the combination of signs that you have found are likely to indicate Equine Cushing's Disease or another problem.

If your vet suspects Equine Cushing's Disease they may wish to perform a blood test. They can claim a free\* test on your behalf from [www.careaboutcushings.co.uk](http://www.careaboutcushings.co.uk)

