

## LIFELONG MONITORING

Equine Cushing's disease is a progressive condition. This means that whilst we can treat and manage the symptoms, the underlying abnormality in the pituitary gland will continue to progress even when horses and ponies are medicated appropriately.

Monitoring is carried out using a combination of clinical observations and blood testing. You can make clinical observations on an ongoing basis and discuss these with your vet. A monitoring blood test is currently recommended every 6 months.

Monitoring your horse is simple with the range of tools available on:



Register now to access checklists which you can use to assess your horse, to record your findings in your personal online diary, and to qualify for a voucher for a complimentary\* ACTH monitoring test.

\*complimentary laboratory fees only

**If you have any questions regarding the testing or treatment of your horse please speak to your veterinary surgeon.**

## HERE'S SOME SUPPORT YOU CAN DRAW ON



## CARING FOR A HORSE WITH EQUINE CUSHING'S DISEASE



Brought to you by the makers of Prascend 1 mg tablets for horses. Further information available in the SPC or from Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health UK Ltd, RG12 8YS, UK. Prascend is a registered trademark of Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica GmbH.

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Use Medicines Responsibly

References:

1. NEHS 2018.
2. McGowan TW, *et al. Equine Vet J.* 2013;45(1):74-79.



**Prascend®**  
Forward thinking in PPID



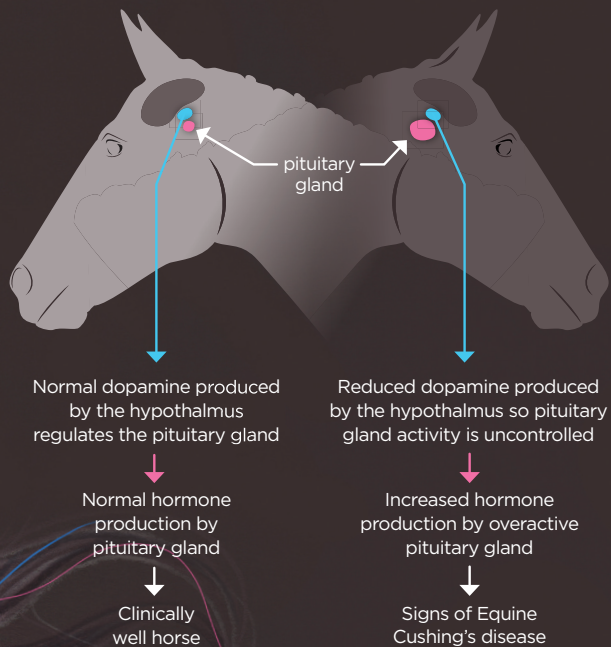
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## MY HORSE HAS BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH EQUINE CUSHING'S DISEASE - WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

This means that your horse has a hormone imbalance which you will need to manage for the rest of their life. This may initially sound daunting, but in the majority of cases this condition is simple to manage.

## WHAT IS EQUINE CUSHING'S DISEASE?

Equine Cushing's disease is a progressive hormonal disease in horses caused by a reduction in dopamine production.



### DID YOU KNOW?

Vets often refer to Equine Cushing's disease as **Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysfunction (PPID)**, because this is a more accurate and scientifically correct name for the condition.<sup>1</sup>

## HOW IS EQUINE CUSHING'S DISEASE TREATED?

Your vet has prescribed Prascend® for your horse. Prascend is the only treatment in the UK licensed to treat the clinical signs associated with Equine Cushing's disease. It contains the active ingredient pergolide. Prascend works by mimicking the action of dopamine and therefore regulating the production of hormones from the pituitary gland.

Prascend tablets should be given once daily by mouth at the dose prescribed by your veterinary surgeon. The simplest way to do this is to place the required daily dose in a small amount of water, molasses or another sweetener and then gently agitate the mixture until the Prascend is fully dissolved. The liquid containing the dissolved tablets should be immediately administered directly into the mouth using a dosing syringe which can be obtained from your vet.

If you have any concerns about your horse's treatment or its effects, or if you are unable to administer the Prascend using this method, please contact your veterinary surgeon who will be able to advise you further.



If left untreated, the clinical signs associated with Equine Cushing's disease will worsen and become more severe. Prompt and appropriate treatment means that horses can quickly return to living a happy and comfortable life.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Equine Cushing's disease is the **5th most common disease syndrome in the UK,<sup>1</sup>** and affects **20% horses over the age of 15.<sup>2</sup>**

## WHEN WILL I SEE A RESPONSE TO TREATMENT?

Clinical improvement is usually expected within 6-12 weeks of starting Prascend treatment, however the length of time between initiation of treatment to being able to see a response can vary from one horse or pony to another.

An improvement in demeanour is often the first clinical sign to improve and anecdotal reports suggest that this can occur in just a few days. Resolution of signs such as abnormal hair coat or loss of topline muscle, however, can take much longer and changes to the severity and frequency of laminitis episodes can be challenging to assess in the first few weeks of treatment as other factors such as diet, weight control and corrective farriery also need to be factored in.

For this reason it is recommended that the response to treatment is assessed by repeating the basal adrenocorticotrophic hormone (ACTH) test 4-6 weeks after initiation of Prascend treatment.

Repeating this test allows your veterinary surgeon to check that the levels of ACTH in your horse's bloodstream have returned to normal. This means that appropriate dose adjustments can be made quickly to ensure that this disease is controlled in your horse as soon as possible, and the risk of recurrence of clinical signs is minimised.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Equine Cushing's disease is not the same as Cushing's disease in people and dogs. In horses, this condition is characterised by an overactive pituitary gland, whereas Cushing's disease in people and dogs is caused by an abnormality of the adrenal glands.