

LAMINITIS ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST



The signs of laminitis can be broadly classified into two groups:

1

Signs associated with pain or inflammation in the hoof/hoooves

2

Signs associated with abnormal hoof growth

Experts now believe that laminitis is often present and causing abnormal hoof growth for some time before signs of pain are noted. It is therefore useful to monitor your horse's hooves in order to identify and treat cases of early laminitis and prevent painful episodes from developing.

1. SIGNS OF PAIN ASSOCIATED WITH PAIN OR INFLAMMATION IN THE HOOF/HOOVES

A. Observation at rest	Yes	No	Maybe
Is your horse lying down more than normal?			
Is your horse unable or unwilling to stand?			
Does your horse have a rocked back stance? ie are they putting their weight onto their hindlimbs and straightening their forelimbs?			
Is your horse unwilling to move around the paddock/stable by him/herself?			
Is your horse lame or stiff when they move?			
Does your horse constantly shift their weight from leg to leg?			
Is your horse at all foot-sore after a farrier visit?			
B. Examination	Yes	No	Maybe
Please make sure that your horse is appropriately restrained by a reliable handler. Do not examine your horse if you are not comfortable doing so, and take great care examining the hooves of a painful horse.			
Pick each of your horse's feet up in turn: Does your horse resist you picking up one or more of his/her feet?			
Can you feel an unusually strong pulse in one or more of your horse's digital arteries? This pulse can be felt if you place your fingers below the back of the horse's fetlock.			
Do any/all of your horse's feet feel hotter than usual? Or do they feel hotter than your horse's stablemate's feet?			

C. Observation walking on a hard surface <small>(Do not force your horse to walk if they are unable or unwilling to move)</small>	Yes	No	Maybe
Is your horse lame on one or more legs when they move?			
Is your horse unwilling to walk on a hard surface?			
Does your horse have a 'footy' or 'pottery' walk?			
Does your horse have a stiff or stilted gait? i.e. is their stride length shorter than normal?			
Is your horse walking on his/her heels?			
If you turn your horse in tight circles is he/she uncomfortable? Does he/she resist this movement or become pottery when you do this? Does your horse lift his/her head when you do this?			

D. Observation walking from a soft to hard surface <small>(Do not force your horse to walk if they are unable or unwilling to move)</small>	Yes	No	Maybe
Is there a change in your horse's stride length when moving from a soft to hard surface?			
Is there a change in your horse's pace when moving from a soft to hard surface?			

2. SIGNS OF HOOF CHANGES THAT MAY INDICATE LAMINITIS

A. First of all, look at each of your horse's feet in turn from all angles.	Yes	No	Maybe
Please make sure that your horse is appropriately restrained by a reliable handler. Do not examine your horse if you are not comfortable doing so, and take great care examining the hooves of a painful horse.			
Can you see divergent hoof rings? ie hoof rings which are wider at the heel than the toe			
Can you see any cracks in the walls of the hooves?			
Can you see any changes in the angle of the hoof wall, either compared to the hoof walls on the other feet, or compared to the last time you examined this hoof?			
Can you see an increased amount of horn at the toe of the hooves?			

B. Then carefully lift up each of your horse's feet in turn to assess the sole of the foot.	Yes	No	Maybe
Is the white line on the sole of any of your horse's feet unusually wide?.			
Is there a deep black line between the wall and the sole?			
Is there any bruising in the wall or the white line? (This can appear as black marks)			
Does the sole of the foot look 'flat'?			
Does your horse resist or find it painful if you press the soles of his/her feet?			

