



Happy Easter to you all from Kernow Farm and Equine! 2019 is well underway and plenty has been happening here at KFE! It has been a busy few months for the vets here and was lovely to see so many familiar faces at our evening all about Colic! We will be holding and attending more events so keep up to date with us on facebook and on our website!

Laminitis

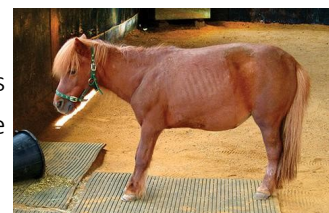
We've already started to see some cases of laminitis so we thought an article on prevention may help. Laminitis is an extremely painful and potentially devastating condition affecting horses' feet.

SO, WHAT IS LAMINITIS?

The hoof wall and the pedal bone (the lowest bone in the foot) are joined together by velcro-like tissue called laminae. One set of laminae is attached to the hoof wall, and the other set is attached to the pedal bone. These 2 sets of laminae are normally folded together and form a tight bond. This enables the horse to bear its full weight on its hooves rather than through the pedal bone. The equivalent for humans would be for us to bear weight on one of our fingernails!

Laminitis is the name given to inflammation of these laminae which make the connection between the bone and hoof unstable – this is very painful because the hoof is an enclosed space as well as the weight of the horse adding pressure to the foot.

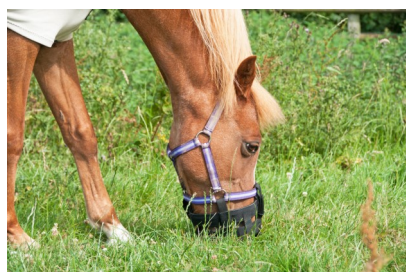
In the past we always focused on the treatment of the symptoms alone. Of course, this is important, but we now know that most cases of laminitis are a clinical sign of disease elsewhere in the body– either severe systemic inflammatory disease or a metabolic condition.



SO HOW CAN WE PREVENT LAMINITIS?

- Pay attention to your horses' weight. Obesity is a growing problem and can lead to Equine Metabolic Syndrome (EMS) which can lead to acute (suddenly occurring) or chronic (grumbling on for a long time) laminitis.
- Watch that spring lush grass. As we get more sunshine the grass will be thriving and full with sugars which could cause a laminitic episode. Try grass restriction techniques – grass muzzles, strip grazing and night time turn out are helpful to reduce the sugar load in the diet.
- Watch those extras! Factor in how those extra treats are adding sugary calories. Try low or sugar free options.
- If your horse is over 12 years old, consider other diseases contributing to laminitis risk such as PPID (or Cushing's) which we can easily test for with a blood sample.

As always, if you are concerned that your horse has laminitis give us a call. Quick and effective treatment of the feet is essential to ensure your horse is comfortable and can make a recovery. We are always more than happy to work with and speak direct to your farrier should the need arise.



Please do not hesitate to call us on 01208 76403. Office hours 8.30am-5-30pm Mon-Fri and 8.30am-12pm Saturday and we have vets available 24 hours a day.



@kernowfarm



@KernowVets



@Kernowfarmandequine

OUR CHOSEN CHARITY OF THE YEAR

This year KFE have chosen Bodmin Moor Pony Rehabilitation as our charity of the year. We will be fundraising for the next 12 months to help support this cause. If any of you have any unwanted gifts that we can use for raffle prizes or have any services that you can offer to help we would really appreciate it. Equally should anyone wish to make a donation we will have a collection pot here at KFE. BMPR is a small equine rescue, rehabilitation & rehoming charity based in Bodmin that was established in 2014 to help abandoned and neglected semi feral moorland hill ponies from the South West & more recently fly grazed cobs from across the U.K. A small 100% voluntarily run registered charity, BMPR provides a second chance at life to equines in need by way of health & nutritional support & trust based training to give the ponies that enter their care the foundations to ultimately become wonderful family companions, riding ponies or best friends.



The Kernow Farm and Equine worm care package costs just £55 a year!

Let us take the worry out of worming, worms are kept under control helping to keep your horses healthy and active.

FIVE FOR FREE!

AN EXCITING OFFER FOR KERNOW FARM AND EQUINE CLIENTS

If we examine, vaccinate or perform a dental examination and teeth rasp on **FIVE OR MORE** horses in your yard, **NO visit charge will be applied.**

EQUINE INFLUENZA UPDATE

The Equine Influenza outbreak is still occurring throughout the UK, with cases being confirmed in Suffolk, Staffordshire and Sussex in March. On 22nd February there was an isolated case in North Cornwall with unvaccinated horses imported from Ireland. These horses were isolated and now clear of flu. It is important to still follow the current recommendations set out by the Animal Health Trust which are:

1 – VACCINATE—Boost your Horse's Flu vaccination if it was given more than 6 months ago. If your horse is unvaccinated it will need to start a course of vaccinations and will not have protection until two weeks after the second vaccine is given.

2- ISOLATE—Does your yard have an isolation protocol and good biosecurity. Any new horses on a yard should be isolated in a separate field or stable for 3 weeks upon arrival. Not only will this help with the current flu outbreak but it is best practice in the event of a potential Strangles outbreak. And other contagious diseases.

3- INVESTIGATE—If you suspect a case of equine flu, horse is unwell with high temperature, nasal discharge, not eating, cough etc then CALL US IMMEDIATELY to investigate. If you are planning on going to an event or equine gathering, contact the organisers and ask about their vaccination policy and biosecurity – If you are not comfortable with what is in place, don't attend!

4 – COMMUNICATE—Be Open – If you have a suspected or confirmed outbreak, tell others and help to minimise the spread of flu.

5- THINK—Know the risk of moving your horses or attending an event. Mixing unvaccinated animals with animals who have travelled and come into contact with other horses.

6- PREPARE—If you are planning on going to any competitions check the vaccination requirements early enough to ensure your horse is properly covered. If your horse is unvaccinated, then please allow 6 weeks from your first vaccination (second vaccine after 4 weeks) until your horse is protected and ready to compete.

7 – KEEP RECORDS—When are your vaccines due? It is your responsibility as an owner to keep track of when your horse's vaccinations are due, we send out vaccine reminders as a courtesy, however if you change your contact details then please inform us.

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