



KERNOW

FARM & EQUINE

Together delivering veterinary healthcare for the future

NOVEMBER 2020



NOVEMBER EQUINE NEWSLETTER

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ATYPICAL MYOPATHY

Atypical myopathy (seasonal pasture myopathy) has been known to occur even in areas where the disease has not previously been reported. Research carried out has shown that atypical myopathy is caused by a toxin (Hypoglycin A) in the 'helicopter' seeds of the sycamore tree (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). The warm summer and early autumn has seen an abundance of seeds within sycamore trees. The recent high winds and heavy rain has resulted in large numbers of seeds falling from trees in a very short period of time posing a risk to horses grazing on surrounding fields.

CLINICAL SIGNS

- **Stiffness.**
- Unwilling to move.
- Difficulty swallowing.
- Colic.
- Sweating.
- Trembling.
- Weak/lethargic/un-coordinated.
- Passing dark coloured urine.
- Young horses are possibly more at risk.
- Increased heart rate.



ACT FAST!

- THIS IS AN EMERGENCY CONDITION AND REQUIRES IMMEDIATE VETERINARY ATTENTION.
- PROMPT TREATMENT TO MAXIMISE CHANCE OF SURVIVAL.
- LOW SURVIVAL RATE OF AROUND 25%

DIAGNOSIS

- Clinical examination of horse having difficulty standing/walking during the autumn months.
- Blood test to determine high levels of enzyme which is a product from muscle breakdown. This may also show signs of organ failure.
- Dark, red/muddy colour urine.
- Urine can also be tested for muscle breakdown.

TREATMENT:

- EMERGENCY veterinary attention to maximise survival chance.
- Intravenous fluids to help flush out the enzymes from the muscle breakdown which are toxic to the organs.
- This can also cause a lot of pain so pain killers are also used.
- An injection of multivitamin to include B, E and selenium have been shown to increase survival chances.
- Keep horse warm with rugs, blankets and warm fresh bedding
- Horse should be encouraged to eat and drink.
- Those that cannot stand should be turned every few hours to avoid further muscle damage.



Please do not hesitate to call us on 01208 76403. Office hours 8.30am-5-30pm Mon-Fri and 8.30am-12pm Saturday

ATYPICAL MYOPATHY CONTINUED.....

TAKE PRECAUTIONS:

If horses are grazing on pasture surrounded by sycamore trees or if large numbers of seeds blow into field's clients can:

- Consider fencing off areas around trees.
- Removal of sycamore seeds/trees.
- Supply extra forage hay or haylage especially if the pasture quality is poor; horses will not chose to eat the seeds if there is sufficient grass.
- Reduce stocking density within pastures.
- Stable horses and turn out for short periods of time.
- You are encouraged to walk around your pasture to identify any sycamore trees within or adjacent to grazing land so that you can take steps to reduce the risk of this disease.

The RVC have recently developed a test for the presence of HGA in your pasture. To find out if your property has plants that contain the toxin HGA, you can send plant samples directly to the RCV Comparative Neuromuscular Diseases Lab. You can find the submission form here <https://bit.ly/359yGZ4>

Given how quickly this disease acts, if you are in any doubt please contact us immediately on 01208 76403



After the recent government announcement we would like to assure clients that we are classed as an essential business and will be remaining open as usual. We are still intending to offer our full range of current services so please continue to book in as normal.

We are asking clients to:

- socially distance whilst attending your horse/farm
- please ensure you have a mask available if needed
- if you have any symptoms, have been in contact with anyone that has Covid or if you or anyone in your household are awaiting test results please re book your visit or ensure there is someone else to attend your horse/animal on your behalf above the age of 18.
- our vets, where necessary, will be wearing full PPE to protect you and themselves.



Any concerns then please do not hesitate to contact us on 01208 76403

SUPPLEMENTS

Don't forget we have our own range of Equine Supplements.

- Joint Supplement
- Gastric Aid
- Haemotonic
- Multi-Vitamin
- Hoof Supplement



Please get in touch for more information

BILLS - Help us be GREEN!

We would prefer to send your bills via email to help the environment.

We send our equine bills every two weeks. Bill are due to be cleared within 30days of being invoiced.

With the current pandemic, emailing is also much safer.

Please call us if you need to update any of your details and give us your email address

TIME HAS RUN OUT!

EQUINE MICROCHIPS

If horse owners have not microchipped their horses by now, they could face sanctions from their local authority including a compliance notice and, as a last resort, a fine of up to £200.

GET THEM BOOKED IN ASAP!