



So with summer starting to edge its way out, Autumn will soon be upon us. It has been a busy summer for us here at KFE attending lots of shows, and it has been great seeing lots of our clients doing so well on the competition scene. If you have any photos of you and your steed out competing we would love to see them! Find us on facebook and send them to us.

Atypical myopathy (seasonal pasture myopathy) can 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.



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

- Visual analysis 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.

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 choose to eat the seeds if there is sufficient grass.
- Reduce stocking density within pastures.
- Stable horses and turn out for short periods of time.

CLINICAL SIGNS:

- Stiffness.
- Unwilling to move.
- Difficulty swallowing.
- Colic.
- Sweating.
- Trembling.

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 relief is 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.

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.

EQUINE OUT OF HOURS UPDATE:

Penmellyn and Kernow Farm and Equine vets are pleased to announce an exciting collaboration between our equine departments.

We are trialling a combined out of hours service using our equine team members. This positive move provides benefits for clients and both teams such as access to hospital facilities and improved rotas.

During the trial over the next few months we would welcome any feedback good or bad on how the service is working.

*Please note there will be no changes in our respective professional fees.



CUSHINGS DISEASE

Autumn is the perfect time to have a horse tested for PPID (Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysfunction or known more commonly as Cushing's disease). The disease releases excess hormones from the pituitary gland, found near the brain. These extra hormones circulate the blood stream and can cause a variety of symptoms, but most worryingly increase the horse's risk of laminitis and lowers the immune system.

If your horse is over the age of 15 years old and has had any of the symptoms below, it would be worth considering a blood test for the disease

- They are more lethargic – poor performance, less interested in people or other horses at the yard, less enthusiasm for things they would usually enjoy
- Any bouts of laminitis
- Drinking more or urinating more
- Any abnormal coat changes – thicker than usual, shedding later in the year or not at all, unusually long hairs on legs or belly
- Recurring infections or slower wound healing
- Loss of topline, loss of muscle over rump
- Fat pad development around the eyes, pot belly, increased crest
- Abnormal sweating

If you are at all worried about any of these symptoms in your horse, discuss this with us or book in for a blood sample to be taken from your horse. If we do find Cushing's, we can successfully treat the condition with oral medications which regulate the release of hormones.

We currently have a Cushing's test offer for horses that are not on treatment– sampling and lab fees for £25 (excluding visit charge), usual price £56.33.

****BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEW GRAD RACHEL LYE ****

Throughout Vet School Rachel enjoyed all aspects of large animal veterinary medicine and enjoy both farm and equine work in equal amounts. She aims to become a good well-rounded large animal vet but does have a keen interest in reproduction across all species including both dairy fertility and mare scanning. Other main interests include lameness across all species, equine internal medicine and smallholder work, especially those with goats!

In her spare time Rachel is looking forward to exploring the coasts of Cornwall with her old boy Archie. Im sure you will all make Rachel feel very welcome as a new member of the Kernow Farm and Equine Team.



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



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