

SPRING



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LAMINITIS PREVENTION






ALL HORSES CAN BE AT RISK FOR DEVELOPING LAMINITIS

Some of the more common predisposing factors and circumstances for laminitis include but are not limited to;

-  Lush spring or new pastures and pastures recovering from drought
-  Obesity
-  Grain overload (a stealthy feed bin binge)
-  Abrupt diet changes
-  Cushing's disease
-  Systemic illness, high fever
-  Limb injury resulting in excessive weight bearing demands on the paired limb
-  Excessive concussion on hard surfaces (galloping over asphalt)
-  History of laminitis








Signs of laminitis can include

-  Lameness, typically in both forelimbs
-  Heat and strong pulses in the affected hoof
-  Weight shifting in the front feet
-  "Sitting" and rocking back with the hind end to take weight off the front feet
-  Reluctance or refusal to walk and difficulty turning



Here are some of the things that you can do to try to avoid laminitis and prevent founder, a debilitating lameness which can be a consequence of untreated laminitis

-  Review your horse's diet to match his daily ration to his energy needs, and if needed introduce dietary changes gradually. Talk to your veterinarian about the pros and cons of carbohydrates vs. fats in your horses diet
-  Limit grazing time on lush or new pastures and considering a grazing muzzle or dry lot for those that are overweight, have Cushing's disease, have had laminitis before or have any other predisposing factor
-  Secure all food supplies in a horse proof area
-  Support the sound limb in a wounded horse while treating an injured limb
-  Follow good health practices and make sure your horse is on a regular deworming, vaccination, hoof trimming and general health care schedule

Laminitis is a cause of significant lameness and may require emergency medical treatment. Please contact our office immediately if you suspect that your horse is showing signs of this serious hoof condition.

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