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LAMINITIS

Welcome to the Spring 2015 equine edition of our newsletter including:



Laminitis



Worming

Worming

Prevent Resistance by being **SMART**.

Simply **Monitor** and **Assess** the **Risk** and **Treat** accordingly.

Monitoring— Regular faecal egg counts. These are a brilliant tool at assessing your horses worm burden (not tape worm). However, from late autumn until spring when redworms encyst in the gut wall these can give false negatives. We recommend starting these from early April time, and repeating every 8 to 10 weeks.

Price- £14.04 / sample

Reducing Risk— Pasture management is a key to reducing your horses worm burden. Do not overstock your fields, the BHS recommend a ratio of two horses per hectare on permanent grazing. Poo picking your paddocks, stops the re-infection cycle in its tracks. Sub-divide pasture into smaller areas and rotate grazing. Where possible rotate grazing with cattle or sheep as they do not share the same the same worms as horses.

Treat Accordingly— We can provide advice as to which wormers to use, according to the worm burden found, and risk periods during the year.

Laminitis is a serious and very painful disease of horses, ponies and donkeys. Every case should be dealt with as an emergency. In a recent study, 1 in 5 horse suffering from laminitis had to be euthanased as they were unresponsive to treatment.

Causes of laminitis

- Good grass - type of grass and sugars which it contains are important. Typically lush spring grass.
- Poor pasture— grass which is stressed by an overnight frost or overgrazing produces fructans, this form of sugar can directly cause laminitis.
- Delayed farriery— delays between foot trimming can cause stress and damage to the laminae. Farriers may also be able to pick up early signs of laminitis.
- High body condition score— horses and especially ponies are at a much higher risk of laminitis when they are even slightly over weight. Insulin resistance caused by this, changes the blood flow within the laminae of the hoof and can predispose to laminitis.
- Dependent laminitis— if the one leg has a condition affecting it eg foot abscess then the opposite leg bears more weight, which can result in laminitis.
- Other conditions - Equine Cushings Syndrome, diseases involving septic processes, certain drugs eg corticosteroids.



Signs of laminitis

- Mild— Pottery gait, shifting weight from one foot to another, hooves feel warm, increased digital pulses.
- More advanced - lying down, reluctant to move or if very severe unable to rise from being down, sweating, breathing faster, resting on back heels.

Treatment

- **CONTACT US IMMEDIATELY**
- Do not force the horse/pony to walk, do not place feet in cold water/hose, do not starve even if overweight
- Medication - pain relieving drugs, always contact your vet before giving anything.
- Box Rest— at least 30 days on a deep bed.
- Weight loss— controlled fashion with vet/nutritionist advice.

For a more in depth discussion and additional informant please visit-

www.talkaboutlaminitis.co.uk

Arrowfield Veterinary Practice

Opening Hours - Consultations by Appointment

Kington	Presteigne
Mon - Fri: 9:00am - 6:30pm	Mon—Fri: 9:00—10:00 am 4:45—5:30pm (not Wed)
Sat: 9:00am -1:00pm	Sat: 9:00—10:00am

24 hour Emergency Cover
Phone our usual Number 01544 230567