

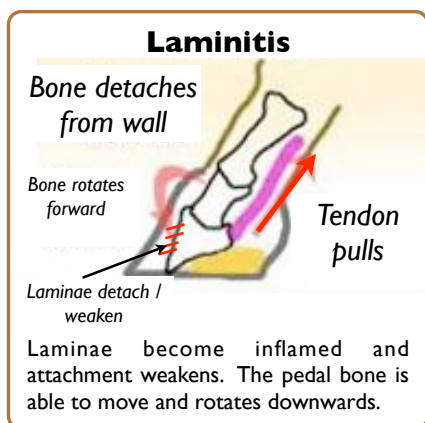
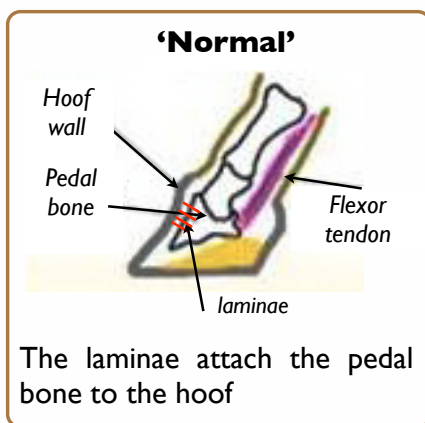
FACT SHEET

MILTON

This fact sheet is about Laminitis - relevant all year round, but especially so in April and May when the grass is at its lushest. Always serious, sometimes life-threatening, we thought you might like an update on this familiar condition. We have also included news on our first aid talks and equine first aid kits, keep reading for details!

Laminitis: What Happens?

In a normal horse the laminae are responsible for attaching the bone in the foot to the hoof. When Laminitis strikes, this attachment weakens so that the bone moves within the foot. This movement is very painful



This painful disease affects all types of equine animals including pregnant mares. The bone inside the horse's foot is attached to the hoof by means of the laminae. Inflammation of the laminae causes this attachment to come loose. With the horse's bodyweight acting downwards,

the bone within the foot becomes unstable. Pain – which can be mild and largely unnoticed or so severe the horse lies down – results from this instability. Treatment is aimed at relieving pain, by means of drugs and by supporting of the foot and at addressing any underlying cause.

Not many people know that....

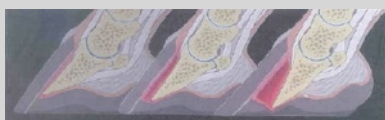
- Laminitis can strike at any time of year.
- Hormonal conditions including resistance to the effects of insulin can cause the disease.
- Obesity at any stage of life can increase the risk of later laminitis attacks.
- A serious episode should be treated as an emergency.
- Laminitis is caused by sugar in the diet and not by protein.



What can we do if laminitis is suspected?

What Can YOU do?

- House the animal on deep bedding
- Restrict diet
- Contact the clinic for advice



What might WE do?

- Provide support to the whole foot
- Give pain relief
- X-ray to assess severity and outlook for future
- Work with the farrier to change the shape of the foot
- Blood test to investigate the underlying cause
- Give treatment for hormonal conditions as necessary



CASE STUDY

Henry used to be a successful show pony and so tended to be obese for prolonged periods. Attempts to reduce his weight were not very successful and he was prone to recurrent attacks of laminitis.

Blood tests revealed that he had a resistance to insulin which made him accumulate fat and increased his laminitis risk. He underwent prolonged box rest with corrective farriery. His bloods were monitored and he has started on treatment to correct his metabolic problems

BLOOD TESTS

Blood tests are now available to assess a horse or pony's risk of getting laminitis

A recent American study has proven a new blood test to be 80% successful at predicting likely laminitis sufferers. If your horse/pony is over-weight then a simple blood test can give you valuable information. The cost of is approximately £45 + vat for lab fees. Please contact us at either surgery for further advice and details.

First Aid Talks and Kits

It has come to our attention that horse owners are wishing to learn more about how to administer first aid to their horses; we have therefore decided to run some first aid talks in evenings throughout June. These will be run by Roger and will take place at both surgeries;

Thursday 22nd May and Thursday 12th June at the Weymouth Clinic.

Thursday 29th May and Thursday 19th June at Matravers.

Talks start at 6.15pm. There is no vet fee, all we ask is for a £6 donation to the Animal Health Trust. Please call the surgery if you would like to register.

To support the first aid talks, as you may have already heard, we are currently putting together a **horse first-aid kit**; an essential item in any tack room. The kit comes in a handy travel bag and contains a dozen of the most essential items for administering first aid to your horse, including; bandages, poultice, chlorhexidine, aloe vera gel, cotton wool amongst others. The bags are being sold at cost price for £28 and are available from either surgery.

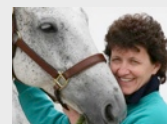


How can we reduce the Laminitis risk?

- ✓ **Never assume** your horse or pony is not at risk
- ✓ **Closely monitor** body condition and reduce calorie intake before animal gets too fat
- ✓ Take steps **now** if necessary, stabling, strip grazing or muzzling may be required
- ✓ If diet is to be restricted remember to feed a good quality hoof **supplement** - Starvation is not the cure!
- ✓ Make sure you have regular visits from the **farrier** even if the animal is unshod
- ✓ Have the Laminitis **blood test** to see if your horse/pony is likely to develop the illness

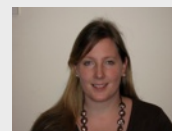
Contacts and Contributors

SARAH COOMBS, MRCVS



Sarah is one of the vets at the surgery and is also the primary source of knowledge for this newsletter! She would be pleased to answer any further queries you may have.

JOANNA SCAMMELL, BSC, MSC



Part-time project manager for Milton, Jo puts together graphics & design for the newsletter

Clinic Details



Please don't hesitate to call us if you would like any further advice or information on laminitis: 01308 814433 or 01305 814318, alternatively pop in or email: mail@miltonequine.co.uk