

LAMINITIS WARNING

January 2010

Since the end of December we have seen many new cases of laminitis.

This can be attributed to several causes:

Cushings Syndrome; *Reduced day length* can exacerbate this condition and result in a heightened risk of developing laminitis.

Frosted morning grass; contains more stored sugars from the day before. This can cause a spike in the blood glucose, causing laminitis.

Sympathy feeding; Just because it is cold it is not necessary to feed more. This has been compounded by the fact that the ice has effectively stable bound many horses.

Very rich hay; last summer was an exceptionally good year for making hay. There may have been a lower quantity but a much better quality than usual.

Less riding; due to short days, muddy or frozen fields many horses are getting less exercise than usual.

The sum total of all these effects has resulted in increased incidence of laminitis, not only in the pony population but also in horses of all breeds and with no previous history. Please keep your horses fit, avoid frosted grass and only feed more if they are working harder. A good rug is more use than a bigger feed at keeping them warm.

STRANGLES WARNING

Jan 2010

PLEASE BE VIGILANT WE HAVE HAD CONFIRMED CASES OF STRANGLES WITHIN THE PRACTICE AREA.

This disease is almost always brought into a yard by an otherwise healthy horse who shows no signs of illness but intermittently sheds small amounts of this highly contagious bacteria. To prevent this happening all new horses should be isolated for **THREE WEEKS**. After two weeks in isolation a blood test for strangles antibodies will detect many of those apparently healthy horses carrying the disease. Allowing us the opportunity to release the horse from isolation, in the case of a negative blood test or perform more tests in the case of a positive blood test.

Incubation Period: This is the time it takes from when the horse first picks the bacteria up to the development of the typical signs of strangles. This is 7-10 days.

Symptoms: Typically horses have a high temperature, go off their food, have a cough, nasal discharge and a swelling under the back of the jaw. These swellings may burst, releasing puss. However, rarely do all these symptoms show in one horse.

Once again strangles is suspected of doing the rounds. Please be vigilant as we can only control the disease if it is picked up early and appropriate steps are taken to quarantine those affected.

IF YOU SUSPECT STRANGLES THEN PLEASE CLOSE YOUR YARD TO ALL MOVEMENTS THEN CONTACT US FOR FURTHER ADVICE.

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