



# Ark Vet Centre

## Equine Newsletter



❄️ January 2025 ❄️

Welcome to the January newsletter, following on from last months newsletter on winter health conditions we will be discussing winter laminitis this month as we have seen an increase in cases in the colder weather this month, as well as an update on vaccinations for those of you competing at FEI level.

### FEI Horse App



**HORSE APP**

As of 3rd February any flu vaccination administered to an FEI horse will need to be registered on the FEI Horse App by the administering vet. Vaccination details must be entered on the same day the vaccine is administered, including the vaccine name and batch number. It will also involve us taking a photo of the horse to ensure it matches up with the passport details so making sure your horse is clean and dry before our arrival would be helpful. If the horse does not have any vaccination history registered on the FEI Horse App, historical vaccination details can be recorded on the FEI Horse App by the vet or owner.

Any vaccination details recorded on the FEI Horse App will then go through a verification process to ensure the data is accurate.

### Winter Laminitis

We have been seeing an increased number of horses and ponies with laminitis over the past few weeks. The rise in cases has coincided with the period of cold weather and frost. At this time of year its best to avoid turning horses out onto the frost and if we have multiple days of frosty weather, especially if it doesn't thaw during the day, the safest option is just for the horse to stay in with no turnout. This is due to the frost causing sugars to accumulate in the grass overnight meaning if you turn your horse out onto the grass they will be ingesting more sugar than normal.



Laminitis occurs when the sensitive laminae within the hooves become inflamed which can lead to changes structurally within the hoof capsule and severe pain. It can range in severity from a stiff potterly gait to being unable to stand, classically you see the pony rocking back onto their heels, reluctant to walk, warm feet and weight shifting from leg to leg. It is important to spot and manage laminitis as soon as possible as it can become a fatal condition.



The main predisposing factor in laminitis is an underlying metabolic disorder such as Equine Metabolic Syndrome (EMS) or Cushings disease. Its not just spring grass that you need to be wary of if your horse does suffer from one or both of the above conditions and you must be really vigilant in cold weather. As well as the increased sugars in the grass, cold stress can also contribute due to a decreased blood supply to the foot which in turn can also increase the laminitis risk.

Management is key in both treating the current laminitis flare up and preventing it from happening again in the future, in the first instance you should bring your horse or pony inside and give them a deep bed making it less painful for them to stand. They must then go onto a strict diet that contains very little sugars, just a handful of simple unmolassed chaff (look for the laminitis trust feedmark on feeds to ensure they are suitable for laminitics), a balancer and some soaked hay is enough until the horse is fully recovered.



**THE LAMINITIS TRUST**



Please speak to your vet if you are concerned your horse has laminitis as it should be examined, go onto pain relief and a diet and management plan made. In some cases we may want to do some blood tests for Cushings or EMS or we may want to x-ray the feet to gauge the severity of the changes within the hoof. This can assist your farrier in correctly trimming or shoeing your horse.

Laminitis is easiest to treat when caught early so if you notice your horse appearing a little footy or being not quite right please get in touch.

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