

devoted vets

for your animal's life!



for your horse's health

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Winter 2015

Hi there!

It's rare that a product comes on the market that is a real "game changer" but in this newsletter I'm pleased to announce that this is the case!

Just occasionally too, a product comes on the market that vets and horse owners alike say, "If only I had had access to this medicine one, five, ten, twenty years ago; think of the lives I could have saved!"

This medicine is called Prascend. It treats both laminitis (founder) *and* Cushing's Disease, and this newsletter highlights it.

We also draw your attention to the fact that although lush pasture is often a trigger for laminitis, in most cases *it isn't the underlying cause*.

See you out there
in horse and pony land!

Isn't laminitis caused by lush pasture?

Many horse owners believe that laminitis is caused by access to lush pasture, especially if the horse or pony is overweight. While grass is an important trigger factor, grazing alone does not tell the whole story.

This is why some horses develop laminitis while others grazing the same pasture do not.

New research!

In the past, research into the cause of laminitis focused on the role of sugars in lush grass. It was thought that eating excessive amounts of sugars could disrupt fermentation in the hindgut, resulting in laminitis.



However recent research looking at grass intake in grazing horses and ponies has shed doubt on this theory.

Instead, it is proposed that when horses and ponies with an underlying hormonal disease graze and eat soluble carbohydrates such as sugar, it causes abnormally high levels of a hormone called insulin.

Insulin is responsible for moving sugar from the blood into the tissues. There is very good evidence that high levels of circulating insulin results in laminitis in some horses and ponies with an underlying hormonal disease.

The two underlying hormonal diseases causing laminitis are PPID (or Cushing's disease), and another disorder, EMS (Endocrine Metabolic Syndrome).

**Breakthrough
treatment for
laminitis and
Cushing's
disease**

**New
understanding
about the
causes of
laminitis**

**Know the
signs of PPID
(Cushing's
Disease)**

**Is your horse
at risk?
Blood tests
available**

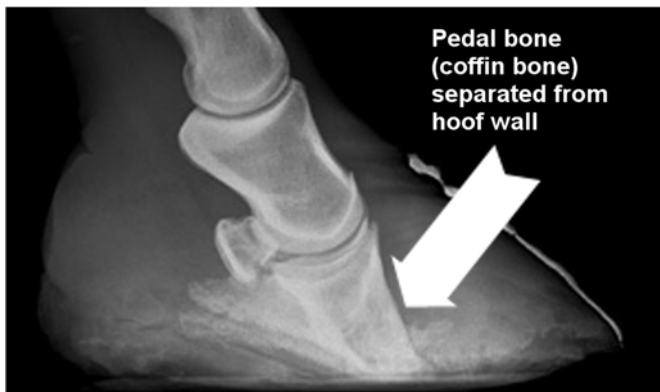
Why is laminitis so serious?

Laminitis is a common, painful and ultimately potentially devastating condition affecting the feet and hooves of horses and ponies.

In the foot of the normal horse or pony, the hoof wall and the pedal bone (the lowest bone in the foot) are joined together by fine tissue called the laminae.

Despite the large weights being borne by the laminae, they are relatively delicate, and easily damaged. In the condition laminitis, the laminae become inflamed and extremely painful, making weight-bearing very difficult for affected horses.

Horses and ponies with laminitis will find it difficult to put their feet down, and will often adopt a "rocked back" stance to take weight away from the painful tissues. If the condition goes on for some time, or there are repeated occurrences in a horse, the damage can become irreversible leading to rotation of the pedal bone and permanent foot pain. In many cases of this severity, euthanasia becomes the only option.



What is PPID?

PPID stands for Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysfunction and is the new and more accurate name for Equine Cushing's Disease.

PPID causes a small gland under the brain - the pituitary gland - to produce an excess of some hormones, and this hormonal imbalance caused by PPID can have devastating consequences for your horse - the symptoms we associate with Cushing's disease and now, *laminitis*.

Three common signs that may indicate that your horse has PPID include:

- An abnormal hair coat (such as long patches of hair or hair that doesn't shed)
- Unexplained lameness or laminitis
- A pot belly or fat pouches around the eyes or tail head.



Additional signs that can indicate PPID:

- Excessive or abnormal sweating
- Increased appetite
- Increased drinking and urination
- Muscle loss
- Slow to heal wounds and more frequent infections
- Dental problems
- Lack of energy or poor performance

If you suspect your horse has PPID or laminitis, or has suffered from laminitis in the past, phone us on 5623 2525 and book in a check up. PPID - or laminitis caused by it - is usually confirmed by a blood test that measures a hormone called ACTH.

To return to the start of this newsletter, Prascend is now registered to treat PPID and laminitis. It is a once per day tablet given in a treat such as a carrot or apple or dissolved in a small quantity of water.

Just horsin' around

- What do horses fear most? Hayfever!
- What is a horse's favourite TV show? Neighbours!
- Some horses are so polite that when they come to a fence, they stop and let you go over first!

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Clinic Hours

Monday and Thursday: 8am to 7 pm

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 8am to 5pm

Saturday: 9am to 12 noon