

## Laminitis Factsheet

Laminitis is one of the most common causes of lameness in horses, and especially ponies in the UK.

### What is Laminitis?

Laminitis is inflammation of the laminae of the horses foot, which attach the hoof wall to the bones of the foot.

### Causes

- Obesity
- High carbohydrate/high sugar diet
- Endocrine: e.g Cushings disease, equine metabolic syndrome.
- Toxic: e.g septicaemia
- Trauma: e.g concussion, over trimming.

### Common clinical signs of laminitis:

- Lameness
- Lying down more than normal
- Unwilling to walk
- Pain on hoof testers
- Warm feet
- Digital pulses
- Typical laminitis stance (see picture) - stood leaning back on hind legs to take weight off front feet

### Treatment:

- Box rest
- Pain relief
- Strict diet
- Foot/frog supports
- ACP (Sedalin)
- Remedial farriery

### Prevention of Laminitis in Ponies:

- Strict diet
- Limit grass intake
- Low sugar diet
- Regular farriery

### Severe or Chronic Laminitis:





- In chronic or severe disease the pedal bone can sink and or rotate within the hoof capsule due to weakening of the laminae. Treatment is aimed at preventing the pedal bone penetrating the sole of the hoof and restoring normal anatomy with remedial farriery.