



Some advice for our equine clients - Laminitis

The season for this painful disease is approaching fast and every year we see several ponies whose feet are so deformed and painful that they have to be put to sleep.

All the vets here would be perfectly happy never to see another case of laminitis, so if you have a pony under 14 hh please give serious thought to weight reduction now - it is exactly the same as for humans – less food and more exercise. If you aren't exercising your pony try to find a friend who will, or can you lead the pony from another horse, or do you know someone with a horse walker? As the grass starts to grow again, reduce the amount of extra food you give and use a weigh tape to check that the pony's weight is reducing.

Would you like a vet to visit and give your pony a target weight, show you how to use a weigh tape and give nutritional advice for the next few months – it may be well worth it to avoid possible harm to your pony, let alone the cost of treatment – usually £200-£400 – plus the inconvenience of having to stable your pony who will be unrideable for 6 weeks. If you are at all concerned about your pony's weight, please call the surgery and arrange to speak to one of the vets and if you need a weigh tape they are for sale from the Lyndhurst surgery.