

LAMINITIS (FOUNDER)

The bone inside the hoof (pedal bone) is connected to the outer hoof wall by laminae or 'fingers' of tissue that intertwine like tongue and groove. Laminitis is swelling of these connections which can lead to instability of the bone within the foot.

Causes: Often thought of as a fat pony issue, this is not necessarily the case. There is also a higher incidence in those with underlying conditions such as PPID and EMS. The most common trigger is grazing rich pasture (which may be short, or following frosts) but also grain engorgement, post foaling, or due to bacterial infection and can occasionally occur from increased weight bearing e.g if the other leg had a lameness issue.

High carbohydrate diets (sugars, grain and lush pasture) increases lactic acid in the blood which increases blood flow to the foot. I would liken the feeling to the throbbing you might get if you bang your thumb with a hammer!

Clinical findings:

- Usually front feet but can involve all four feet.
- Reluctance to move, 'sawhorse' stance with forelimbs placed well out in front of the body, possibly reluctance to pick up one leg.
- Increased heat of the feet and around the coronary band, pain on hoof testers, increased bounding pulse to the hoof.
- Some horses can be very unwell and be sweaty or colicky.
- In severe or chronic cases there may be signs of pedal rotation or 'sinking' as a palpable indentation on the top of the coronary band and a protrusion of the sole of the foot just above the tip of the frog.

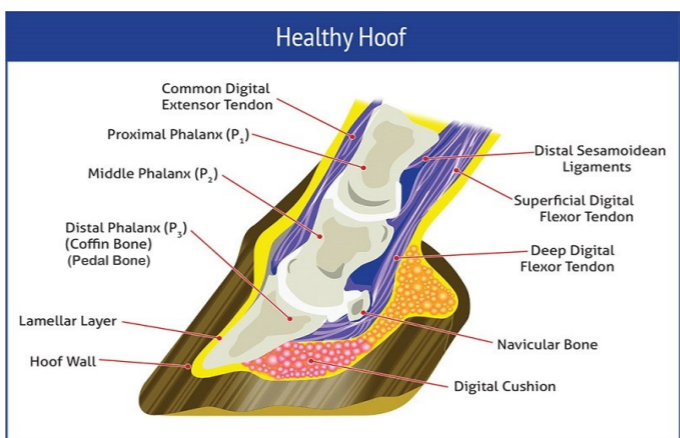
X-ray can be used to assess this particularly in laminitic prone horses

Treatment:

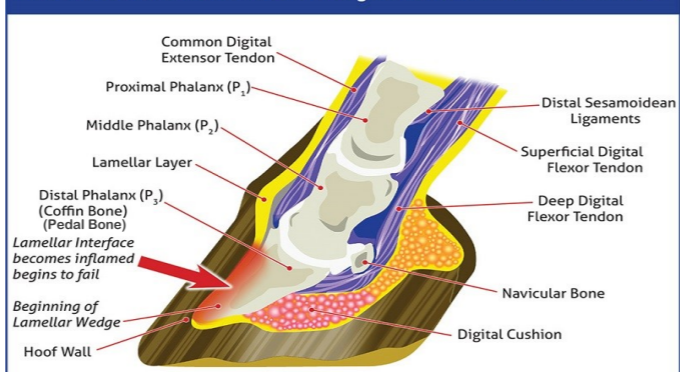
Depends on cause but in general it is about controlling pain and preventing further damage.

- Stand horse in cold water to ease pain.
- Standing on soft surface e.g. sand can help reduce pain
- Restrict movement as this can exacerbate rotation of an unstable pedal bone.
- Non steroidal anti-inflammatories (Bute) is essential.
- Remove shoes, and avoid shoeing in the acute case due to the concussion
- In the chronic case good farrier can go a long way to relieve and prevent issues.

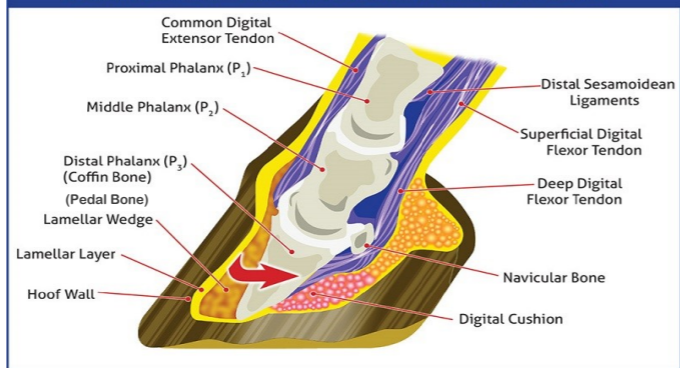
Dietary management is key to prevention as well as identifying and treating any underlying causes (e.g. EMS). There are several specialised feeds and additives available to try to help prevent laminitis. However, what works well in some may not work in others. For further advise contact us here at NSVets.



Hoof with Acute Laminitis Showing Inflammation of the Laminae



Hoof with Acute Laminitis Showing Coffin Bone Rotation DETACHED DISTAL PHALANX ROTATES AND DISRUPTS WEIGHT DISTRIBUTION



Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS

Horse Reminders

- Selenium & Vitamin E to new born foals
- Watch for founder in ponies

STAFF COMMENT

We welcome Tash back to the team in Te Anau and Julie to Riversdale after their respective maternity leaves. They have both settled back in like they were never away. A big thankyou to Melissa who filled in while Tash was off.

We have had to say farewell to Charlotte who's sense of humour and fun will be very much missed. We wish her all the very best as she pursues a career in primary teaching. Those kids will learn some things!!! We welcome Ashley McDonald to take her place. Ashley will start in late October.

Additionally, we will be delighted to welcome Shaun Campbell to the vet team around this time. Shaun is returning home after 10 years near Auckland and his major focus will be equine work.

Paul had his "vet retirement" combined "significant birthday bash" do in July and also received Life Membership of the Northern Southland Veterinary Club. He remains the most over qualified delivery driver on Berwick Street. Congrats Paul.



As usual Andrew managed to take an extended break but he did come back with some amazing photos of his and Nicole's trip to Africa.

Please don't mention the Bledisloe Cup or ball tampering to Mike and Kate.....ah, no, go-on bring it up again!!

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Deer Reminders

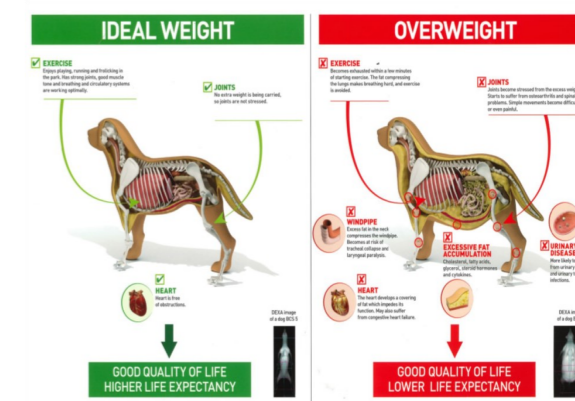
- Hinds - pre-fawning clostridial vaccination
- Pre-calving worming & copper
- De-velvetting
- Check copper & selenium in pregnant hinds
- Sort stags into de-velvetting mobs

PET SLIMMERS

1 in 2 dogs and cats are considered overweight!!

Being overweight is linked to several diseases with diabetes, joint pain, extra strain on the cardiovascular system and increased risk of orthopaedic injuries being just a few. Animals that are a healthy weight are more playful, active and live longer.

We are here to help your pet achieve their ideal weight!



We offer a free weight loss programme with one of our lovely nurses. They will help your pet reach their healthy body weight with regular weigh-ins and support.

Plus, if you sign up during the month of October you will get 20% off their first bag of Royal Canin Satiety diet.

Phone the clinic today to book your appointment.



Rebecca Morley BVSc

Pet Reminders

- Worm cats and dogs
- Flea prevention and treatment



WHAT COULD BVD COST ME?

A REAL LIFE EXAMPLE.

A great example of the impact BVD can have was described to me recently by a beef farmer who had felt the full effect of a BVD outbreak. This farmer had tested for BVD in the past and was found to be clear, with a relatively naïve herd. All was well for a couple of years until scanning in 2016, when the empty rate was close to 20% (normally closer to 5%). Subsequently, a quick blood test confirmed that BVD was now circulating on the farm and was likely to be the culprit. So where did this BVD come from? An investigation was carried out and a single calf was found to have BVD – this unweaned calf had gone on to infect a number of cows during mating and resulted in the poor reproductive performance found at scanning. But this wasn't the end of losses – as they knew a PI (persistently infected) calf had been present at mating, they were concerned more PI's could be born during the next calving. Subsequent testing of the calves born that season, found a further 13 PI calves (out of approximately 50 born)! General advice for these BVD virus super shedders is to cull them ASAP, but because many of them looked OK the farmer chose to separate them and manage them on their own, to try and grow them out. Unfortunately (but not unexpected), over the next few months these calves slowly started dying and the farmer was forced to cull the remaining calves without finishing them as planned.

Let's extrapolate these results into a beef herd of 100 cows to see what this situation might cost.

Poor reproductive performance – 20% empty (normally 5%)

- 15 extra dry cows to replace with in-calf heifers
 - * 15 cows to work @ \$1100/kg
 - * Purchase of 15 in-calf heifers @ \$1500ea.
 - * Changeover cost of \$6000 (not including genetic loss etc)

Production of PI calves (25% of calf drop)

- 85 potential calves from remaining pregnant cows on farm = 21 calves born as PI
- Assuming these calves might have otherwise been sold store at weaning at 220kg average
 - * 21 calves @ \$3.50/kg
 - * Loss of income of \$16,170

Total cost to system of over \$22,000

Have you tested your herd for BVD yet?

What would this situation cost you?

Give me a call at the vet clinic to discuss your herd and you may even be eligible for some free blood tests to check if BVD is present in your herd. What's the potential cost if you don't...

Andrew Cochrane BVSc

DAIRY CALF DRENCHING

Depending on your rearing system you may be considering drenching calves for parasites.

Calves will not have pasture parasite burdens until at least three weeks grazing pasture. Even then intakes of worms are likely low as they are often in high pasture cover areas. Where challenge may be higher is if covers are short, calves are on restricted milk diets, and they are grazing paddocks consistently used by calves and seldom grazed by older cattle or other species.

Combination drenches (double or triple) are always the best choice to protect against drench resistance, and of these orals are generally best at getting to the source. Three of the main worms we are concerned with are cooperia, ostertagia and trichostrongylus, as well as lung worm in summer. Levamisole should be included in the drench for the first year until calf immunity can combat cooperia. The 'mectins are most useful for ostertagia and lung worm and should be included from the new year.

There is a low drug safety in calves under 120 kg so you must take care with dose rates. Products with ivermectin can be safer than abamectin products early on.

Although it may be easier, do not drench while on the feeder and NEVER pour drench into the milk. Drenching at the time of suckling will send the product straight to the fourth stomach where it may be too concentrated, and pouring into the feeder gives zero control on dose rates, in both cases leading to death in calves!

Other treatments to consider include lepto vaccinating (from 4 weeks of age) and as they get older, B12 and selenium.



Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS

Cattle Reminders

- Dairy - pre-mating check of 'at risk' cows
- Pre-mating trace element check
- Tail paint - 4 weeks before PSM
- Organise mating programme - cows and heifers
- Treat non-cyclers one week before PSM
- BVD booster bulls & cows 4 weeks before PSM
- Metricheck late calvers

ANIMAL REGULATIONS

Are you aware of the new animal welfare regulations that came into effect on the 1st of October?

If you own animals (farmer/lifestyle block/pet) or if you transport animals then it is your responsibility to know the regulations.

Some of the new rules include:

Dogs:

- Routine tail docking is no longer allowed. If you dock your dog's tail OR allow it to be docked you may face criminal conviction and fine of up to \$3000 for an individual or \$15,000 for the business.
- There are new restrictions on removing dogs dewclaws. If you remove the front limb dewclaw or an articulated hindlimb dewclaw from a dog of any age you could face a criminal conviction and a fine of up to \$3000 for an individual and 15,000 for a business.
- Dogs must have dry and shaded shelter and access to water (fine of \$300) if you leave a dog in a hot car and it becomes heat stressed you (and the owner of the vehicle) can be fined \$300
- Dogs on moving vehicles must be secured in a cage or crate or tied up safely when on the back. They must be prevented from getting their legs over the side of the vehicle but be able to stand and lie down in a natural position (fine of \$300). NB: farm dogs can be loose on a vehicle when they are actively working.
- Collars need to be correctly fitted (fine of \$300)

Cattle:

- Removing any part of a cow's tail is prohibited. If you dock a cow's tail you could face a criminal conviction and a fine of up to \$3,000 for an individual, or \$15,000 for the business.
- If you stimulate milk let-down by inserting objects into cows you may be fined \$300.
- Ingrown horns – fine of \$500
- If you calve a cow with a moving vehicle (or any instrument that doesn't allow for immediate release of tension) then you face a criminal conviction and a fine of up to \$3000.
- The use of electric prodders is restricted – see website below for full details.

Vets are obligated to report offences of the animal welfare rules to the SPCA or MPI. If you are concerned about an animal welfare issue phone 0800 00 83 33 or email animalwelfare@mpi.govt.nz. Alternatively, contact the clinic to speak to one of our vets

For more information about any of the new rules go to www.mpi.govt.nz/animalregs

Rebecca Morley BVSc

Sheep Reminders

- Tailing
- Feeding prioritisation
- Pulpy kidney vaccination
- B12 injection lambs
- Scabby mouth vaccination of lambs
- 'Flockcheck' blood test on wet dries
- Blood test rams B Ovis