

Equine NEWS

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OUR COVER STAR

On the cover this season is Georgina Dean from Dalston on Syfywly Jasen (JJ stable name).

They won 3 classes at Skelton Show in the show jumping, the 50cm 60cm and 70cm.

They are a very successful combination who are a consistently winning together.

They also won 3 classes at Dalston show, the 50 cm 60cm and 70cm.



Georgina is 11 years old and JJ is 21 years old .

In our pursuit of achieving carbon neutrality by 2030, we are discontinuing the paper newsletter and transitioning to a biannual newsletter distributed via email. Should you have any preferred topics for inclusion, please forward your suggestions to equine@paragonvet.com.

We had so many great pictures sent to us for the cover star this month, we wanted to share some more of them here!







CUSHINGS DISEASE

Charlotte Pennington - BVetMed (hons) MRCVS

Equine Cushings Disease or PPID (Pars Pituitary Intermedia Dysfunction) occurs when an area of the pituitary gland at the base of the brain over produces several hormones resulting in excess ACTH and cortisol production. We are not sure exactly why this occurs, in some horses it may be a gradual degenerative changes in the pituitary gland or in others a benign tumour.



Many predisposing factors have been implicated more recently including obesity and Equine Metabolic Syndrome (EMS) earlier in life and environmental factors such as diet, although there is little data to support this at present.

Usually PPID is a gradual age-related change so primarily affects ponies and horses over 15 years of age, but can sometimes affect horses as young as 10. Recent studies have also shown a significant proportion of horses with laminitis also have PPID as well.

The classic symptom that most people associate with PPID is a thick curly hair however there are a range of other clinical signs displayed with PPID:

- Laminitis - occurring acutely or as recurrent bouts and often unresponsive to treatment until the PPID is controlled.
- Hairy coat (hirsutism) which is often preceded by patchy or late shedding of the coat.
- Drinking excessively and producing large volumes of urine.
- Lethargy.
- Loss of muscle with a dipped back and pot bellied appearance.
- Bulging fat pads visible above the eyes.
- Weight loss.
- Excess sweating.
- Repeated infections (due to the immune system being compromised) making affected horses more prone to skin, respiratory, dental infections and parasite infestation .

Diagnosis

Blood tests can be performed to help diagnose PPID. There are several tests available but the most commonly performed one measures the levels of the hormone ACTH. Affected horses usually show a high level when compared to the seasonal reference range. For horses that have not been previously diagnosed with Cushings Disease we can apply for a voucher that will entitle you to FREE lab fees for an ACTH test; a saving of around £40.00.

Treatment

There is no cure for PPID but the disease can be well controlled with daily medication. Pergolide (via a paste or tablet) is the drug of choice for treatment; it acts to control the overproduction of ACTH and cortisol and should be continued for life. Getting the appropriate dose is essential and there can be some side effects. Usually horses are started on a higher initial dose then this is gradually dropped to the lowest dose needed to control symptoms. Follow Up We advise 6 monthly prescription checks for horses on all long term medications to ensure the correct dose is being given and that the medication is working as required, bloods may be repeated at this time. Good management is also very important: clipping hair can improve comfort levels; frequent checks for early identification of wounds and infection; regular farriery, dentistry and worming checks.

Check out www.careaboutcushings.co.uk for more information about Cushings Disease. If your horse has been diagnosed with Cushings Disease you can sign up to join the membership scheme, as part of this you will then be entitled to a yearly voucher for FREE lab fees when performing a monitoring test.

The simplest and most common test for Equine Cushing's disease is the basal ACTH test.

To perform this test your vet will take a blood sample from your horse and send it to a laboratory that will measure the levels of a hormone called ACTH.

The results of the test will then be compared to reference ranges (which will change with the seasons) to confirm the presence or absence of Equine Cushing's disease.

The measurement of insulin and glucose is often recommended alongside the basal ACTH test. These tests help to differentiate Equine Cushing's disease from Equine Metabolic Syndrome (EMS), and also act as an indicator of laminitis risk.

Taken from Care for Cushings website.

DENTAL PROMOTION



- 🦷 During October we are holding our annual Autumn dental promotion.
- 🦷 Any dentals done during this time, either with or without sedation will receive a 15% discount.
- 🦷 Visit charges will apply as normal.
- 🦷 We offer FREE dental checks all year round so the vets are always happy to have a look to see if any treatment is required (please call the office to arrange a slot on the diary).

HORSE HEALTH PLAN




Only £18 a month

Have you heard about Paragon's healthcare plan?

Benefits include:

- 🕒 Annual vaccination for equine influenza & tetanus
- 🕒 10% off first & second vaccines when starting a primary course
- 🕒 10% off additional 6 monthly influenza vaccines required for competing
- 🕒 Annual dental examination & routine rasping, including sedation if required
- 🕒 Annual health check, including examination of eyes, heart, lungs, skin & a trot up
- 🕒 Warming programme consisting of 3 faecal worm egg counts, one equisal tapeworm saliva test & one winter wormer OR one encysted redworm blood test
- 🕒 1 FREE visit per year for routine healthcare
- 🕒 10% off lifetime medications
- 🕒 10% off Paragon equine supplements
- 🕒 FREE use of the weighbridge at our Newbiggin practice
- 🕒 As many FREE telephone consultations as required in the 12 months

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Speak to us today to join our Horse Health Plan:
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