

## HELPING THE LAMINITIC

An extremely painful condition, laminitis is highly traumatic for the equine. Possible causes include stress, concussion, toxæmia and dietary or metabolic disorders.

### Symptoms

- Poor movement
- Inability to bear weight evenly
- Shifting weight from one leg to another
- Hooves warm to the touch
- Increased artery digital pulse
- Depression at the coronary band
- Difficulty in turning.



### Treatment

Laminitis requires immediate professional help. Veterinary evaluation should always be the first "port of call" but remedial farriery and complementary therapy will also be of assistance.

Eminent Australian veterinary surgeon and laminitis specialist Chris Pollett confirms in studies that ice cold water is a very effective treatment for stress induced laminitis.

The Hydrotherapy Spa can offer much in the rehabilitation of the laminitic - with water kept at a constant 2°C, it can get feet colder than any other treatment - accelerating hoof growth and offering much needed pain relief.



We've had remarkable responses in the treatment of laminitis here at Flawborough, - we work as a team with vets and use other complementary therapies to achieve success.

A mare with a case of drug induced laminitis was very lame on arrival but after a week of Spa treatment twice daily, she was sound enough in walk and rehabilitation continued. You could almost see the relief in her face during Spa

treatment! She returned home after six weeks of daily treatment and went on to make a full recovery.

### **Cushing's Disease**

Laminitis is a characteristic of Cushing's Disease but is usually much milder than the rapidly progressive and highly dangerous laminitis that is a feature of grain overload, pasture founder and toxic laminitis.

An owner may not be able to pinpoint 'a day' when the laminitis first developed. Furthermore, management is usually far more variable – often little or nothing seems to be detectable and improving the problem can be difficult.

Pip - a 19 year old pony - came to Flawborough with Cushing's Disease. And, we could offer him the rehabilitation he required - both through our facilities and the therapies we can offer. Working with vets and other professionals, we were able to deliver a bespoke rehabilitation solution to meet his needs.

This included applying Imprint shoes. Developed by Andrew Poyton (FWCF), they are made from a patented, low melt, thermoplastic that enables the shoe to be moulded and glued to the hoof without nails - this non traumatic for the patient.



Within a few hours of the Imprint shoes being applied, the results were amazing. Immediate support stabilised and inhibited pedal bone movement - and took pressure off the sole. Much needed pain relief resulted.



A dietary review was made and recommendations followed. Continuing on box rest for 60 days on a deep supported bed of clean dry shavings, his feet were picked out regularly and thoroughly disinfected to avoid any muck build up.



Gentle exercise and turnout in a sand pen followed. Every 5 weeks he was re-shod and X-rayed to ensure everything was progressing correctly. Now retired, his Cushing's Disease is stable and he leads a normal life.