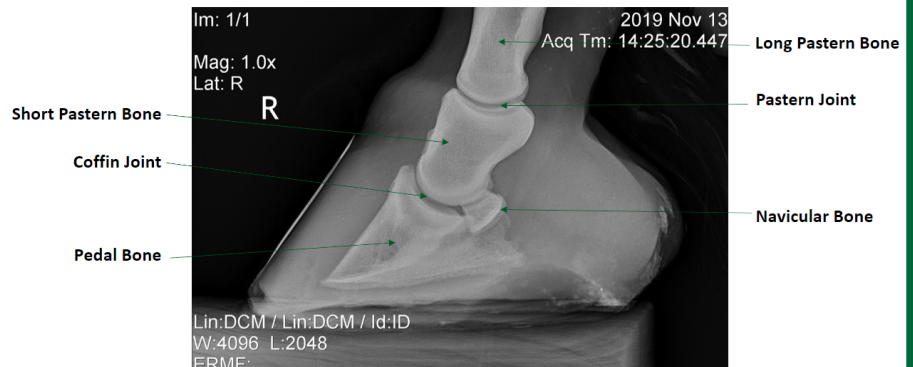


Laminitis is an extremely painful condition affecting a horse/pony's feet during which inflammation of the laminae (the connective tissue holding the pedal bone to the hoof wall) causes instability of the structures within the hoof.

## Clinical Signs:

- Lameness or shortened, pottery gait
- Reluctance to move or turn
- Weight shifting regularly
- Increased frequency lying down or inability to get up
- Rocked back stance
- Increased heat within the foot
- Altered growth of the hooves
- Tentative walking over stony/hard ground



A diagnosis of laminitis is usually made based on the history, signalment and a clinical examination. We will often recommend foot x-rays are taken to assess whether there has been any unwanted changes to the bony column (e.g. pedal bone rotation). X-rays are also an important part of assessing foot balance and assisting farriers in their trimming and shoeing.

## Treatment:

- Pain relief (typically NSAIDs e.g. Danilon or Equipalazone) - follow your vet's guidance re dosage and frequency
- Strict box rest on a deep, comfortable bed covering the entire stable floor including up to the door
- Dietary changes to include feeding 1.5-2% body weight in kg of dry hay in a 24 hour period. This should then be soaked for ideally 6-12 hours prior to feeding. This total amount should be split into multiple small hole haynets given throughout the day.
  - ⇒ Hard feed should be kept to a minimum (e.g. only enough to give any medication). This should be <10% (ideally <5%) sugars and starches.
  - ⇒ A low calorie balancer can be fed to ensure your horse is not lacking any vitamins and minerals.
- Remedial farriery – We will work alongside your own farrier or a recommend remedial farrier to address foot balance and support which may involve different types of shoes from what your horse would normally wear.

## Address any underlying diseases:

- Approximately 90% of laminitis cases have an underlying metabolic condition.
- The two most common conditions are Cushing's (Pituitary Pars Intermedia Disease, PPID) and Equine Metabolic Syndrome (EMS).
- These are most commonly diagnosed with blood tests and have different treatment and management regimes.