



FEEDING THE LAMINITIC HORSE OR PONY

GAIN
EQUINE NUTRITION

Laminitis is a painful condition which can lead to lameness in affected horses and ponies and in the most severe cases can be lead to total debilitation and even death. There are several factors that are linked to the onset of laminitis from obesity, insulin resistance, non-structural carbohydrate overload, drug induced complications to endotoxaemia (commonly associated with retained placenta post delivery) and overconsumption of lush young pasture.

There are some nutritional strategies which have been shown to help in the management of laminitis and even help prevent the onset of acute laminitis.

- Find out the starch content of your concentrate diet – remove high starch feeds and replace with low starch alternatives e.g GAIN Easy Go Cubes
- In obesity linked cases reduce access to pasture by strip grazing, using a grazing muzzle or restricting turn out time. This will help to reduce body weight however do not starve replace pasture with soaked hay or unmolassed chaff
- Feeding a low starch balancer such as GAIN Opti-Care will provide the nutrients to encourage hoof wall growth without providing excess calories in the diet
- Feed later cut hay with a low level of water-soluble carbohydrate (WSC) i.e. sugars of less than 12%
- Soak hay for 30 minutes in warm water if possible before feeding to remove as many residual soluble sugars as possible
- Feed 2% of the horses bodyweight as hay reducing to 1.5% if not losing weight
- Turn out horses only at safer times of the year i.e. not during grass flushing times and overnight if no frost (as fructan content in grass is particularly high after frost)
- If the horse is sound, exercise whenever possible even walking out in hand
- Regularly assess body condition and take into account breed types and natural body frame when assessing condition
- Monitor weight loss and retest for insulin resistance following weight loss programme
- Always check the placenta post foaling if not intact contact your vet to 'flush' the mares uterus
- For underweight laminitics, energy should be supplied as fat and fibre or low starch based concentrates such as GAIN Easy Go cubes which is 8% starch



If you have any nutritional queries please contact our team:

- ☎ Lo Call: 1890 321 321
- ☎ Int: 00353 56 88 3660
- ✉ info@gainanimalnutrition.com

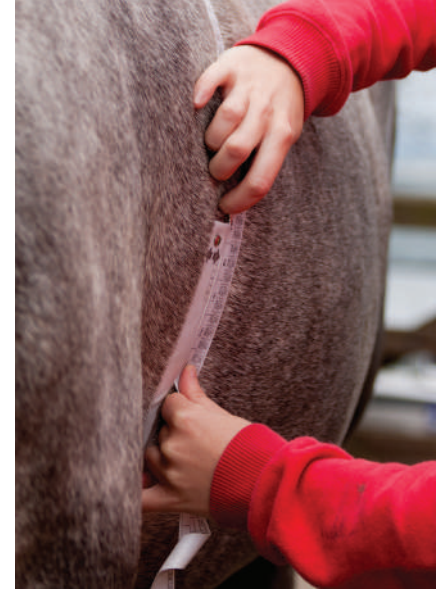
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Please see below a helpful guide to determine your horse's approximate Body Condition Score:

Weighing



If possible horses should be weighed, use of a weigh tape is sufficient but is not totally accurate it is best to keep a record of your measurements to record and relate any changes in weight over time.

It is important when using a weigh tape to ensure that the horse is standing squarely on a hard, flat surface. The weigh tape is placed over the lowest point of the wither passing around the horse as close as possible to the back of the elbow on a slightly diagonal angle. Be careful not to pull the tape too tight and do not hold your fingers under the tape as this may give a false reading.

It is important to have an accurate idea of your horses weight to allow you to calculate the feed ration, to assess any weight gain/loss and to allow you to correctly dose and administer wormers or medication.

GAIN EQUINE NUTRITION **BODY CONDITIONING SCORE**

5	<p>VERY FAT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bulging rump • Deep gutter along back • Ribs buried (cannot be felt) • Marked crest • Folds and pads of fat 	
4	<p>FAT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rump well rounded • Gutter along back • Ribs and pelvis hard to feel • Slight crest 	
3	<p>GOOD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rounded rump • Spinal processes covered but can be felt • Ribs covered but can easily be felt • No crest, firm neck 	
2	<p>MODERATE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flat rump either side of backbone • Ribs just visible • Narrow but firm neck • Spinal processes covered 	
1	<p>POOR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunken rump • Cavity under tail • Ribs easily visible • Prominent backbone and croup • Ewe neck 	
0	<p>VERY POOR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very sunken rump • Deep cavity under tail • Skin tight over ribs • Very prominent backbone and croup • Marked ewe neck 	



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