
#SPILLERSScience: helping to combat laminitis with 28 publications in 16 months

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Many owners live in fear of laminitis, and we are on a mission to reduce the number of horses and ponies affected by this painful and potentially devastating condition. We have

been researching laminitis for over twenty years and together with our collaborators around the world, have published 28 laminitis-related papers, chapters and abstracts since the beginning of 2023 alone. Much of this work has been presented at key equine veterinary internal medicine and laminitis meetings as well as conferences in the UK, Europe and the US during the past 16 months.

Our recent work

Ultimately, by increasing understanding of the risk factors for laminitis, we hope to help prevent it. Hyperinsulinemia associated laminitis or 'HAL' is now considered the most common form of laminitis and includes cases of laminitis associated with equine metabolic syndrome (EMS) and typically with Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysfunction (PPID) or 'Cushing's syndrome'. Much of our recent work has been related to various aspects of endocrinology (the study of hormones), but we've also carried out work related to forage analysis, faecal metabolite profiling and strip grazing. You can read about our latest strip grazing research in our recent [blog](#).

Five SPILLERS associated papers were published in a special endocrinology issue of the Equine Veterinary Journal (EVJ) in February, accounting for more than 25% of all the papers included. One of these papers (Predictors of laminitis development in a cohort of non laminitic ponies) won the prestigious Peter Rosedale Equine Veterinary Journal (EVJ) Open Award last year. The award is given for the paper that best achieves the Equine Veterinary Journal's mission to publish articles which influence and improve clinical practice and/or add significantly to the scientific knowledge that underpins and supports veterinary medicine in relation to the horse. You can read more about this research in our previous blog or read the published abstract [here](#).

How and why is research published?

For research to make a difference to the health and welfare of horses and ponies, it must be shared and publishing the findings in scientific journals so that it can be accessed by vets and other researchers around the world is the first step in this process.

To be published, research must be written up into either a 'paper' or an abstract (short research summary) and submitted to a scientific journal or conference committee for review. Before it is accepted for publication, it must be independently reviewed by a panel of scientists (chosen by the journal or conference) with suitable expertise to ensure the research methods used were robust and the results were correctly interpreted.

Looking ahead

Rest assured, we will continue with our work until we can find ways to help keep every horse and pony as safe as possible from this dreaded condition. We also promise to share the results with you and wherever possible, translate them into practical advice to help owners reduce as many of the risk factors as possible, all year round - watch this space!

For advice on managing your laminitic horse or pony contact the SPILLERS Care-Line on

01908 226626 or by completing this [enquiry form](#)

References available on request.

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Popular Blogs



[Competing with gastric ulcers: What you need to know](#)

With gastric ulcers thought to affect approximately 60% of competition horses (and up to 50% of leisure horses), it's no surprise that we receive lots of questions about gastric ulcers via our Care-Line.

[Read now](#)



[The importance of lysine for overweight horses](#)

Cutting calories is essential for weight loss but this shouldn't come at the expense of providing a balanced diet. Lysine is an essential amino acid and is one of several nutrients that may be deficient in a calorie restricted diet.

[Read now](#)



[Breaking down the diet: What ex-racehorses need to thrive](#)

Whilst the stereotypical ex-racehorse might be prone to excitability, have poor feet and struggle to maintain weight that's certainly not the case for all thoroughbreds. Indeed, once settled into their new workloads and routines, many can be incredibly good-doers!

[Read now](#)



Everything you need to know about laminitis

With laminitis a worry for many owners we're here to help you brush up on your knowledge of the potential causes, risk factors and management advice!

[Read now](#)



What to do when laminitis strikes

Being able to spot the signs of laminitis early maximises your horse's chance of recovery. It pays to be vigilant, especially as subtle signs such as slight reluctance to turn or shortening of stride can be easily missed. While laminitis can strike in any season, a 'flush' of rapid grass growth makes spring a high-risk period, and so can turnout on a sunny frosty morning. Brush up your knowledge of the signs and what to do if you suspect your horse/pony may have laminitis in this blog.

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