

## FEEDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HORSES WITH LAMINITIS IN WA

There are many causes of laminitis. Any horses or ponies with laminitis require immediate veterinary attention. Recovery can be prolonged and requires continuous medical and dietary management.

### Nutritional Management in Acute Stages

- Access to pastures and feeds high in NSC should be prevented.
- Now is not the time to starve the horse or feed only poor quality hay as the horse needs a diet which meets requirements for energy, protein, amino acids, minerals and vitamins.
- Provide good quality low carbohydrate feed and water.
- Suitable forages include grass or lucerne hay, super fibres such as beet pulp or soy hulls.
- Meet nutritional requirements through using low starch feeds (**Pegasus Liberty**), or balancer pellets (**KER All-Phase or KERx Gold Pellet**) for horses requiring calorie restriction. Vitamin and mineral supplements in powder form such as **KER Nutrequin** are also suitable.
- Horses that are not drinking properly should be supplemented with water and electrolytes via nasogastric tube or intravenously.
- Oral antacids or omeprazole pastes may be required to prevent and treat gastric ulceration that develops in conjunction with confinement and NSAID administration.
- If the laminitis is related to hindgut acidosis eg grain overload, digestive upset or pasture related, stabilise hindgut pH and bacterial populations by limiting carbohydrate intake from pasture or concentrates and supplementing with a hindgut buffer **KERx Equi-Shure**.
- Combat oxidative stress by anti-oxidant supplementation with natural vitamin E. Use **KERx Nano E**.
- Give the horse access to rock salt or a salt block.

### Prevent recurrence of Laminitis

- Determine the cause and give appropriate veterinary treatment and or dietary management.
- Manage and maintain hoof health with the help of a Vet and Farrier.
- Feed **KER Bio-Bloom** to increase hoof growth and allow more rapid hoof reshaping after a laminitis episode.

For detailed diet advice for an individual horse contact Kentucky Equine Research or Milne Feeds.

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