

RUN BY VETS, OWNED BY VETS



The wonderful cover photo this month is of Georgina and Tia. They were selected to represent England at the Home Internationals in Scotland competing in the 43km ride on what proved to be a very technical and hilly route. Tia finished on her best heart rate of 42bpm placing them 2nd. Well done!

North Park Veterinary Group Trading as:

EQUUS VETS NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2026

Equine Health Plans

Are you aware that we have a variety of Health Plan Options catering for all horses?

- *We have a Standard Plan, Comprehensive Plan & Veteran Plan*
- *One off annual payment or a pay monthly option*
- *Plans include annual visits, vaccines, dental checks, dietary advice, worm eggs counts, saliva kits and more!*

To find out more information, please visit our web site www.equusvets.co.uk

FREE

Do you worry if your horse has an underlying condition such as Cushing's disease?

Throughout the month of October we are offering free diagnostic lab testing for Cushing's disease (ACTH).

If you would like to book in for a blood sample, please contact the Equus office on 01837 214004.

**Visit and blood sampling will be chargeable

Did you know that preventative treatment can help improve sustainability to the environment?

What do we mean by this?

Preventative treatment such as vaccinating your horse, worm egg testing, weight management, testing for EMS, Cushings disease etc... can have a long-term impact on sustainability. By avoiding sickness from diseases which can be prevented/ managed as well as not over worming, we decrease the level of harmful medication entering the environment. Emergency treatments such as antibiotics are deemed as harmful to the environment so should be avoided if possible. If you would like any further information on preventative treatment, please do not hesitate to contact a member of our team.

**EAST
CORNWALL AREA
DAY
w/c 19th October**

CUSHINGS DISEASE

Cushings is a hormonal disorder that is very common. It is caused by an overactive pituitary gland (that is located at the base of the brain and predominantly affects horses older than 10 years old. Ponies are more likely to be affected.

**DID YOU
KNOW....**
Cushings is
otherwise known as
PPID - Pituitary Pars
Intermedia
Dysfunction

CAUSES

The cause of PPID is the loss of inhibition of the pars intermedia region of the pituitary gland. The gland becomes enlarged, there is a great increase in the production of certain hormones such as ACTH (adrenocorticophic hormone) which in turn causes some of the signs the horses may have the disease.



Picture taken from www.vettimes.com showing the distinctive longer curly coat.

DIAGNOSIS

If your horse is showing some of the Clinical Signs and you suspect PPID, please contact us and our vets will be happy to discuss your suspicions and likely come and take a blood sample to get a definitive answer.



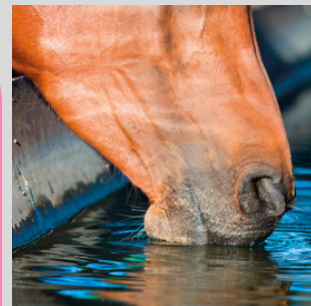
Picture taken from www.careaboutcushings.co.uk showing the fat bulges above the eyes.

CLINICAL SIGNS

- Increased coat length and lack of shedding in the summer.
- Weight loss.
- Increased drinking & urination.
- Lethargy.
- Increased sweating.
- Laminitis.
- Fat bulge above the eye.
- Reduced immune function.

TREATMENT & MANAGEMENT

The treatment and management of the disease will be relevant to the individual horse. Pending the result of the blood sample, your vet will advise accordingly regarding medication. Clinical Signs will also be taken into consideration and how to best manage them will also be discussed. It is however an incurable disease.



Picture taken from www.careaboutcushings.co.uk increased drinking & urination are a Clinical Sign.

INTERESTING FACT....

PPID is the 5th most common disease syndrome recognised in horses & ponies in the UK

Most ponies, like Quest, respond positively to Cushing's treatment. In a study following owners and their horses for several years, almost all (96%) said they saw improvement in their horse's quality of life¹.

If your horse is over the age of 10 and showing signs of Cushing's a complimentary* ACTH diagnostic test is now available until the 31st of October. Check your horse's eligibility with us and find out more at: <https://careaboutcushings.co.uk/?cid=os-68b804>

¹Schott, HC 2nd. et al. (2025). J Vet Intern Med, 39(3): e70109.

CARE ABOUT CUSHING'S

"Quest was drinking and weeing a lot and holding onto his coat much longer..."

CARE ABOUT CUSHING'S

"Since being treated for Cushing's we haven't had to clip him and I have peace of mind that his condition is under control."

Samantha