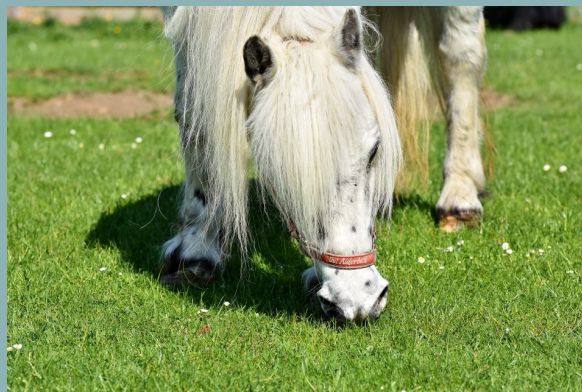


# Equine News: June 2023

## Spring Grass Alert Part 2

Last month we looked at some of the health risks associated with Spring grazing. Perhaps not surprisingly, following the abundance of grass, we are seeing a significant number of horses and ponies who are overweight. Many owners are reporting that they are struggling to manage their weight. Don't forget that all supplementary feeding should be stopped and replaced by a low calorie vitamin and mineral supplement or balancer. The grass at this time can be very high in energy sometimes higher than horse and pony cubes so restricting grazing access is the mainstay of weight management and laminitis prevention.



### Principal methods for restricting access to pasture

#### 1. Confinement in small, 'graze-poor' paddocks:

This method can be useful for reducing the quantity of grass available but it must be remembered that the sugar content in short young shoots and stressed pasture is much higher. These pastures often contain more broad leaf weeds which can also be higher in sugar. Be aware that hungry animals will be more inclined to consume toxic plants (e.g. ragwort, bracken) or damage hedges and trees, so make sure you check for any toxic plants and fence off areas that could be hazardous or damaged.

#### 2. Housing for significant portions of each day

When housed provide a limited quantity of low sugar high fibre forage e.g. soaked hay or hay and straw mixed together. This will provide much needed fibre required by your horse's gut and help them feel full.

#### 3. Strip grazing:

Movable electric fencing can be useful in controlling access to fresh grass, this method allows access to longer grass with higher fibre content but quantity needs to be carefully managed.

#### 4. Grazing muzzles:

Grazing muzzles can reduce the quantity of grass a grazing horse can take in and allow increased time at pasture. Muzzles should be fitted to ensure that access to water is not restricted. Muzzled animals are unable to defend their social position and care should be taken to ensure that they do not become the focus of bullying in the herd. The duration of daily muzzling needs to be adapted as bodyweight changes and some time without the muzzle, possibly in the stable, is needed to allow the animal to groom itself. It must be remembered that short term removal from grazing or use of a muzzle can result in reflex overeating.

## Laminitis Club member talks

We will be running a summer series of talks exclusively for laminitis prevention club members.

### Grazing muzzles— what do they mean for welfare?

### Practical pasture management for the prevention of laminitis

### Understanding Insulin—What we know about the causes of laminitis

Small, friendly interactive group with lots of time for questions and discussion

**\*\*Introductory offer free club membership with an insulin test**



### LAMINITIS PREVENTION PLANS



CLUB	FULL
<p>£20.00 Per Annum</p>	<p>£100.00 Per Annum</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: green;">✓</span> Exclusive Online Club Access</li> <li><span style="color: green;">✓</span> Welcome Goodie Bag</li> <li><span style="color: green;">✓</span> 10% Discount on Insulin Testing</li> <li><span style="color: red;">✗</span> 3 Weighbridge Consultations</li> <li><span style="color: red;">✗</span> First Insulin Test*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: green;">✓</span> Exclusive Online Club Access</li> <li><span style="color: green;">✓</span> Welcome Goodie Bag</li> <li><span style="color: green;">✓</span> 10% Discount on Insulin Testing</li> <li><span style="color: green;">✓</span> 3 Weighbridge Consultations</li> <li><span style="color: green;">✓</span> First Insulin Test*</li> </ul>



\*Visit Charges still apply

### The Secret of Suck-cess!

It's that time of year when the equine team are busy with foals being born and with breeding services for brood mares to make next year's batch of foals.

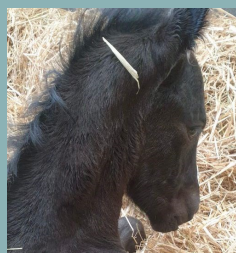


As most breeders are well aware, getting a foal up and sucking the mare's colostrum (containing antibodies for the foals immune system) as soon as possible after birth is key to a healthy foal.

Some foals (often called dummy foals) are born in a semiconscious state and without the normal suck and search reflexes to help them to drink soon after birth. Recent thinking is that these foals may not have adequately woken from the unconscious state in the womb. A technique of using a rope to squeeze the foal's body can help simulate the birth process and in some cases help stimulate the suck reflex. A simple and remarkable technique that can change some foals almost instantly.

Blood test taken at 24-48 hours can indicate the foal's antibody levels and indicate if additional antibodies might be considered via the use of intravenous hyperimmune plasma transfusion.

Looking after foals is frequently a round the clock job with lots of the team members taking shifts:



## Zone Visits June and July

Zone 1 (NE44, NE46-47, NE49 & DH8) - Mon 5th June, Mon 3rd July

Zone 2 (NE19, NE45 & NE48) - Mon 12th June, Mon 10th July

Zone 3 (NE1-7, NE12-15, NE18, NE20, NE22-30 & NE61) - Sally - Thurs 1st June, Thurs 6th July Liz/ Steph Mon 19th June, Mon 17th July

Zone 4 (NE8-11, NE16-17, NE21, NE31-43) - Mon 26th June, Mon 24th July

Zone 5 (DH2-7, DH9 & DL13-16) - Tues 27th June, Tues 25th July

Zone visits offer a reduced price visit of £20 for one owner and £10 for more than one owner at same yard for planned routine veterinary work.

### Next Dental Clinic: Wednesday 28th June

The dental clinic allows us to work more efficiently and so we are able to pass on that saving to you with reduced price routine dentistry.



Dental clinics are for routine dental procedures only, for example: examination, power rasping enamel overgrowths; and diastema cleaning and flushing; all carried out under sedation.

**Dental clinic routine dental including sedation £70 inc VAT**

**Dental clinic dental plus diastema flush and sedation £95 inc VAT**

**Dental clinic diastema flush only inc sedation £35 in VAT**

**Terms and conditions:** Payment must be made at the time of treatment. Please arrive at your allocated time and collect your horse promptly after treatment.