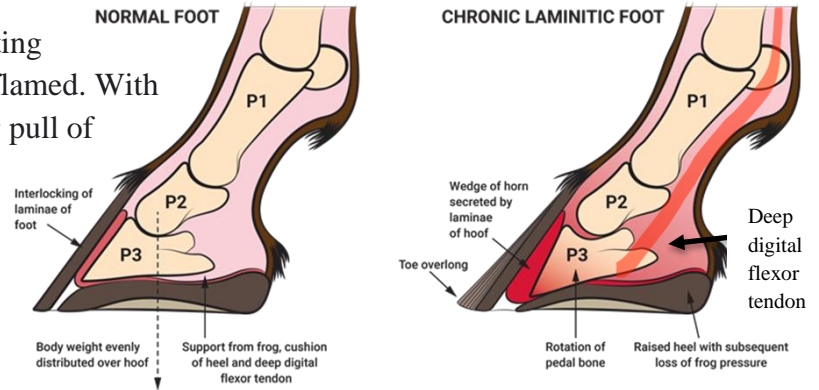


## Laminitis

### What is Laminitis?

Laminitis occurs when the laminae connecting the coffin bone to the hoof wall become inflamed. With this connection damaged, the counteracting pull of the deep digital flexor tendon causes the coffin bone to rotate toward the bottom of the hoof. Clinical signs of laminitis include lameness, heat in the hoof, shortened/tender stride, and a rocking/leaning back stance. Lameness can become more noticeable on turns or when the horse is walking on hard ground.



### Factors that increase risks and severity of laminitis:

- Metabolic Diseases such as Insulin Dysregulation or PPID (Equine Cushings Disease)
- Overweight/obese body condition
- Regional adiposity: cresty neck, fat deposits behind shoulder and at tailhead
- Sudden or excessive amounts of lush forage or grain
- High fevers
- Miniatures, Ponies, Morgans, and “easy keepers” are predisposed
- Draft breeds typically have more severe cases due to their size

### Treatment Plan:

- **Rest**
  - Stall rest in a deeply bedded stall or a sand arena with soft footing.
  - No forced exercise until the horse is sound.
- **Control Pain and Inflammation**
  - Medication instructions: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Ice Therapy (acute cases)
    - Fill boots with an ice/water bath up to mid-cannon and apply continuously for as long as possible, up to 72 hours. Refresh ice every few hours.
    - Shorter icing periods may be beneficial, but intermittent icing can cause vasoconstriction/vasodilation cycling that may do more harm than good.

- **Weight loss**
  - Feed 1.25-1.5% of body weight in dry matter per day to achieve an ideal Body Condition Score (BCS) of 5.
  - Hay can be offered in a slow feed hay net to make it last longer.
  - Thyro-L can be used for weight loss if dietary changes are not enough.
- **Minimize NSC (starch and sugar) in the diet**
  - NSC of the total diet should be less than 15% and ideally less than 10%.
  - Hay can be tested to determine NSC levels or soaked for at least 30 minutes to decrease the sugar content. **Safe Starch Forage** has a guaranteed low NSC level.
  - Discontinue treats except low sugar treats in moderation.
  - No pasture turnout during the active laminitic phase.
  - Once stabilized and sound, your veterinarian may approve limited pasture.
    - A grazing muzzle must always be used, and total pasture limited.
    - The use of a dry lot can be helpful to allow turnout without a muzzle.
    - Short, stressed grass or rapidly growing grass have higher sugar content.
    - Some horses cannot handle any pasture without laminitis flare-up.
- **Address Metabolic Conditions**
  - Recommend testing for PPID/ID after the laminitic episode has resolved.
- **Corrective Podiatry**
  - The veterinarian and farrier should work together to perform x-ray guided corrective trimming and shoeing. Each case is treated differently based on x-rays.
  - De-rotation trim:
    - Do not remove any sole from the middle of the hoof forward to the toe.
    - Trim the heels to the widest point of the frog, trimming from the middle of the hoof back to the heels. The bottom of the hoof may be rockered.
    - Back up the breakover as much as possible by removing excess toe.
  - Corrective shoeing:
    - Nanric Ultimates may be beneficial in the acute phase.
    - Apply a shoe with breakover under the tip of the coffin bone.
    - Built-in shoe mechanics or the use of a wedge pad can be used to raise the heel to decrease DDFT strain, especially after derotation trim.
    - Soft Rider clogs provide excellent mechanics.
  - Soft Ride Boots increase comfort but do not treat the mechanical changes, which should also be addressed with corrective trimming +/- shoeing.

Additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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