

# White Lodge Equine Clinic

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## Welcome to our Spring Newsletter!

With Veterinary Receptionist week being celebrated at the end of April we wanted to take the opportunity to put names to faces for the wonderful ladies that keep the clinic running!



Claire- Branch  
Manager



Liz- Receptionist



Marie- Receptionist



Lucy- Feed store  
manager, VCA,  
receptionist

## New Product Alert!



### BozMerix CrunchTabs Apple Flavour

Palatable tabs to support the body's natural anti-inflammatory system and promote orthopaedic comfort.

Contains natural ingredients: Boswellia Serrata, Micro-encapsulated curcumin, avocado/ soybean unsaponifiable, omega powders and apple pomace.

Competition safe, low sugar  
1 tab per 100kg bodyweight  
Ask at reception for a free sample.

£86.10 for up to 56 days supply

## Tiny pony, BIG success

Little Bolt was presented with a non-healing, intermittently discharging wound on the bridge of his nose. After further investigation and x-rays, we found he had a chronic tooth root infection in his cheek tooth.

Dental extraction was the best option for a full recovery, which was successfully completed at Ellicombe by Dr Sam Bescoby MRVCS under standing sedation.

Bolt is making an excellent recovery at home with the support of his friends.

If you spot any changes or discomfort in your horses eating, swelling of the face or jaw, quidding, weight loss or nasal discharge please do give us a call and our vets would be happy to speak with you.



**FOCUS ON: WEIGHT MANAGEMENT AND LAMINITIS PREVENTION**

Spring is always a tricky time of year for laminitis prone horses and easy keepers. Managing your horses' weight is important for overall health and preventing laminitis.

**Calculating daily intake of feed**

Measuring the total daily feed intake helps to ensure you do not over-feed your horse. The average horse should receive 2% of their body weight in feed per day. For example, a 500kg horse should have 10kg of dry matter a day. This includes all feed (grass, hay, concentrates and any treats).

For good-doers or for weight loss, this should be reduced to 1.5% of their body weight a day. This usually consists of a hay-only diet to aid weight loss. It is important to weigh your hay, some slices are heavier than others.

**Top Tips for Feeding a Hay Only Diet:**

- ◇ Break up the total amount of hay into multiple servings throughout the day
- ◇ Use small hole haynets or double nets to slow your horse's intake
- ◇ This encourages natural foraging behaviour and makes the feed last longer

**Risk Factors of Grazing**

Water soluble carbohydrates (WSC) are types of sugars found in grass and hay. If these sugars are present in high levels, they can increase the risk of laminitis. The level of WSC in the grass varies according to season, time of day and stress. It is therefore important to avoid turnout on pasture in these high-risk periods for horses prone to laminitis.

**High Risk Grazing:**

- ◇ Spring and Autumn
- ◇ Dawn and dusk
- ◇ During and 12 hours after a frost
- ◇ Drought or extreme changes in weather



Reducing total grass intake is a good way of managing horses prone to laminitis. In some cases, it may be necessary to remove grass from your horse's diet completely, for lifelong management and prevention of laminitis. Your vet can discuss this with you. Studies show that limiting the duration of turnout does not reduce the total grass intake!!

**Ways to reduce grass intake:**

- ◇ Wearing a grazing muzzle
- ◇ Reduce paddock size and strip grazing
- ◇ Track systems
- ◇ Short grass or bare paddock is better than longer grass for reduced intake, although it has higher sugar content, so care must still be taken

We often advise soaked hay when feeding laminitis prone horses. This is because soaking reduces the amount of WSC (sugars) in the hay. Studies have shown that soaking the hay for 3 hours is sufficient to reduce the level of WSC sufficiently. In addition, larger volumes of water are better than smaller volumes, and must be discarded after each use. Haylage should be avoided in horses at risk of laminitis, as it is generally higher in sugars than hay.

Balancers ensure your horse gets adequate vitamins and minerals if feeding forage only diets.

**Exercise**

If your horse is comfortable and not experiencing an acute bout of laminitis, exercise is key to weight management and laminitis prevention! Track systems for turnout is another way of ensuring daily exercise for your horse, as well as reducing grass intake.

