

Health and Disease Issues

Laminitis

Laminitis is caused by the release of toxins within the bloodstream following consumption of excess dietary energy or protein. This causes a swelling of the sensitive part of the hoof, cutting off blood flow to the bone part of the hoof which then becomes soft and weak and easily bruised or damaged.

Predisposing Factors:

- Excessive consumption of grain, lush grass or legumes
- Rapid changes in diet
- Excess protein in diet relative to forage.

Signs and Symptoms:

Affected animals appear lame and are hesitant to stand or move unless provoked. Animals can also suffer from a fever. Chronic laminitis may lead to hoof malformation.

Control and Prevention:

Provide reasonable-quality roughage and/or remove affected animals

Treatment:

- Prolonged rest
- Painkillers
- Anti-inflammatory drugs
- Carefully balanced rations.



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