

Acute Laminitis Care

If your horse has acute laminitis, feed this diet. (Based on 1,000 lb horse)

Grass hay	20 lbs, soaked 1 hour in cold water and drained (a hay net is great for slow feeding)
Iodized Salt	1-2 Tablespoons
Magnesium	1 teaspoon. I prefer magnesium glycinate.
Flaxseed	¾ c. freshly ground or stabilized.
Vitamin E Oil	2,000 IU

Further Care

Turnout

While in acute laminitis, a dry lot is best. Your horse is likely in pain so a soft, deeply bedded stall is beneficial. Keep horse friends nearby to reduce stress.

Comfort

In my experience, Bute and Banamine are the most recommended anti-inflammatory drugs. Equioxx carries a lower risk of gastrointestinal ulceration with short-term use. These drugs are reasonable to use for the **first 3-5 days** of an acute laminitis bout, but **should not be used for longer than this**. The best solution is to remove the cause as soon as possible and get insulin levels under control. Willow bark, Devil's claw and Meadowsweet make an excellent pain-relieving tea that work as well as Bute.

Combine:

1 T. Willow Bark

1 T. Devil's Claw Root

1 T. Meadowsweet

Pour 1 c. of water over and allow to steep 1 hour to overnight. Pour over your horse's feed. (Soaked beet pulp and hay pellets work well for this.)

Hoof Care

Hoof care is crucially important in the acute phase. Horses with poor-quality hooves or poor hoof care are **more likely to have problems with rotation or sinking** than those with healthy, well-trimmed feet.

Lateral radiographs of the feet should always be done when the horse has had laminitis. This is the only way to know the position of the coffin bone within the foot. Your veterinarian and farrier can go over the goals of the trim.

Causes of Laminitis

There are many possible causes of laminitis, but by far the most common is **Insulin Resistance (IR)**. Research has shown that 80 to 90 percent of laminitis is caused by this. Unless there is another clear and obvious cause (such as black walnut shavings, retained placenta, horse broke into the grain bin, systemic infection) **it should be assumed that the horse is IR until proven otherwise**, and the above emergency dietary adjustments made. Hoof care is crucially important in the acute phase. Horses with poor-quality hooves or poor hoof care are **more likely to have problems with rotation or sinking** than those with healthy, well-trimmed feet.

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