Autumn 2026 Newsletter

www.penbodevets.co.uk/equine



Penbode Equine Vets

Since 1840

Celebrating Charly: BEVA Member of the Month



June was an exciting month for our vet Charly Mould, who was chosen as BEVA Member of the Month. This campain, run by the British Equine Veterinary Society (BEVA) launched last year to celebrate equine vets, nurses and students who are going above and beyond and deserve some recognition. Charly was nominated by our clinical director, Hermione Jane, for supporting the whole team, always being around to lend a helping hand and for her excellent clinical work looking after a very poorly foal who needed a plasma transfusion at just 2 days old. We are pleased to report the foal is now five months old and charging around, happy and healthy.



Charly recieved a wonderful goody box from BEVA as part of her award that included tasty biscuits (quickly eaten), branded cap and sunglasses (look out for her wearing these again next summer) and a squishy, stress-relieving pony (we cannot confirm or deny if she has used this yet).

Charly also gave an interview on the BEVA podcast about her experience of working as an equine vet in the South West. When asked what her favourite part of her job was, Charly said "I love working with horses but I also really love working with people. I think being an equine vet and especially working at my current practice (Penbode) I get to meet so many different people and I have really lovely clients."

We are very proud for Charly for winning this award, it is well deserved recognition for all the hard work she puts in looking after your horses as well as her clients and colleagues.

Congratulations Charly!

Keep up to date by following us on social media





Understanding PPID in Horses

Emily Roissetter
Veterinary Surgeon
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Equine Cushing's or PPID (pituitary par intermedia dysfunction) is one of the most common diseases that affects horse and ponies over the age of 15. It is a hormonal disease that develops from changes in the pituitary gland in the brain – it sounds much scarier than it is, but it does need to be treated!

Any horse or pony has the potential to develop Cushing's, however it is most common over the age of 15. Native breeds also tend to have a higher prevalence than other breeds such as thoroughbreds.

Clinical signs:

Clinical signs can be variable and sometimes hard to spot. Some of the most common and classical signs are:

- Coat changes – long coat, changes to moulting
- Lethargy
- Abnormal sweating – excessive and abnormal patterns
- Abnormal fat deposits – above the eyes and over the rump, cresty neck
- Muscle wastage
- Laminitis
- Reoccurring infections

Testing and treatment:

Testing involves taking a small blood sample which we then send off to a laboratory to test for adrenocorticotropic hormone (ACTH).



For horses/ponies which have Cushing's we start them on a medication called pergolide, more commonly known as Prascend. This is a medication that needs to be given daily and usually comes in a tablet form, however there are some cases where we can offer a paste version.

As Cushing's is a hormonal disease, the levels of ACTH naturally vary in horse and ponies during the year. Cushing's can be tested for all year round, but because of seasonal changes the best time to test in March-April and September-October.

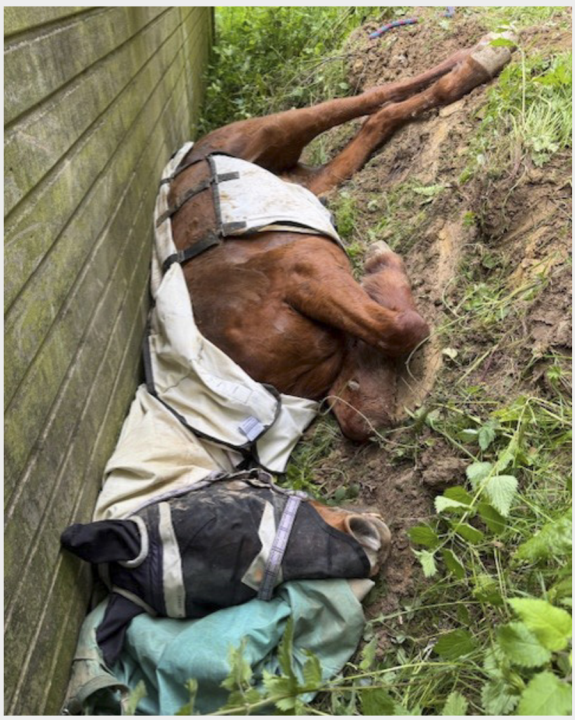
We work with an organization called "Care About Cushing's" who offer free laboratory tests for horses and ponies over the age of 10 with suspected Cushing's in the months of March, April, September and October**. If a results comes back positive, we are then able to apply for another free laboratory test 4-6 weeks after starting treatment to make sure the medication is working how we would like. Horse and ponies are then also eligible to receive an annual monitoring laboratory test fee for free whilst they are receiving medication.

If you would like more information please contact our office of have a look at the Care About Cushing's website – www.careaboutcushings.co.uk

**Visit, consultation and blood sample fees still apply

From Ditch to Safety: A Team Effort





Minky's owners, Jane and Mark Eggleton, were shocked when they came home to find Minky, their 33yo thoroughbred gelding, trapped upside down behind their stable block. Despite his predicament, Minky, who is generally healthy, was initially quite calm. Upon seeing his owners, he tried to free himself before resigning himself to needing assistance. Mark placed an urgent call to Penbode Vets, who dispatched vet, Hermione to attend. The fire brigade was also contacted and mobilised, given Minky's predicament.

As his rescue team gathered, Minky became a little unsettled, having had another go at freeing himself and realising he was well and truly trapped. Hermione arrived to find the fire brigade had made incredible time and were already formulating a plan for Minky's extraction. They incorporated Hermione's input, with careful regard to the horse's welfare and the specific concerns from an equine veterinary perspective. Hermione was straight in to the ditch to assess Minky and, although a little sweaty and unsettled, he was otherwise found to be ok and had no obvious injuries thankfully. The rescue plan involved Hermione administering a general anaesthetic to Minky, allowing the fire brigade to safely cut away the back wall of his stable. Minky could then be carefully maneuvered into the stable whilst still anaesthetised.





Everyone got as organised as possible, so that the time Minky was under anaesthesia could be kept as short as possible. Minky was given sedation, pain relief, and an anti-inflammatory before the general anaesthetic was administered. Hermione remained in the ditch with Minky throughout, secured with a safety line by the fire brigade so that she could be pulled to safety if he were to panic and begin to thrash around at any point. The fire crew successfully removed the back wall of the stable, laid down a tarpaulin, and carefully slid Minky into the stable. Once inside, he could be fully assessed and was rolled onto his side to await recovery from the anaesthesia.

Hermione also had the huge benefit of having Penbode Equine VetTech, Abby present. Although she is not always available for out-of-hours emergencies, on this occasion she was, and her assistance was hugely appreciated by Hermione. Her assistance made a tricky situation much easier, as she was able to draw up medications from a safe distance and they could be passed into the ditch as required, which avoided the need for Hermione to have all the equipment down in the ditch.



Afterwards, Minky's owners were relieved that he had been pulled to safety without any major injuries. He recovered really well from his general anaesthetic and was very sensible, taking his time to wake up and stand gradually. At 33yo he did fantastically well to come through the ordeal virtually unscathed and the following day was just chilling in his field like nothing had happened!

Our Holsworthy clinic offers







- Examination room with stocks, fitted with non-slip rubber floors
- A purpose-built knockdown box with non-slip rubber floor for safer anaesthetic inductions and recoveries
- A fully kitted operating theatre with a specialised Haico Telgte Table and equine-specific anaesthetic machine and ventilator
- State of the art laser for removing sarcoids, melanomas and uterine cysts
- Access to all of our diagnostic tools and equipment, including x-ray, ultrasound, shockwave and scopes
- Hard and soft trot up
- Fenced soft lunge pen and hard lunge circle
- Four stables including an isolation box if required
- Paddocks
- CCTV 24/7 for monitoring purposes
- A comfortable waiting area with refreshments

We are also able to provide the following:

- Gastroscopy and endoscopy
- Shockwave using our NeoVet shockwave machine which can be used to treat osteoarthritis, tendon injuries, backs and suspensory ligament injuries. Neovet is the most up to date technology which has been proven to be twice as effective as older machines.
- Wireless x-ray machine with a screen to view images immediately

These facilities alongside our excellent team of equine-only vets allows us to provide a complete, comprehensive service to our clients and their horses.

