Pain Management Options for Laminitis, Foals, and More

By Bidwell and Sellon

Innovative approach to chronic pain management.

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available, NSAIDs, including the tried

To conclude, Bidwell and Sellon reminded veterinarians that despite all the newer, fancier analgesics mentioned drugs were suggested again, in addition to:

They also briefly discussed other painful conditions, such as septic (infected) joints in foals, back pain, horses with exposed laminae," Bidwell suggested.

"Topical ketamine is used in human burn patients and could therefore potentially benefit laminitic ketamine for laminitic horses that underwent hoof wall resection.

Wrapping up the laminitis horses.

must be absorbed systemically from a patch, lidocaine acts locally and appears beneficial for laminitic Lidocaine patches taped or glued to horses' fetlocks also earned accolades. Unlike fentanyl, which extended periods of time. This is a great option for keeping laminitic pregnant mares comfortable."

are more economic," said Bidwell. "Methadone 40 mg tablets are approximately 96% bioavailable, and economical analgesic option. "Although the injectable form is expensive, the quick

The conversation quickly moved forward to address methadone, a

combination.

deemed it ineffective in laminitis patients, but debated the role of corticosteroids. Even the facilitators

Attendees universally voted dimethyl sulfoxide (typically referred to as DMSO) "off the island" and

approach.

The group then discussed the practice of "stacking NSAIDs," in which veterinarians administer more

shows that subcutaneous butorphanol administered at a rate of 0.1 mg/kg body weight lasts longer

Subcutaneous administration of butorphanol (a

risk for recumbency but in my opinion we haven't fully explored the benefits of this drug," said Bidwell. "I've used ketamine to break the pain cycle and regain control over the patient's discomfort."

veterinarians more than a little nervous to try this drug. "Yes, ketamine is short

Attendees also discussed ketamine bolus administration, but the risk of horses falling down had many

help owners treat their horses for longer when money is a concern."