EQUINE

clinical and research efforts should be divided between prevention and treatment.” He concluded. “So, our

“It is unlikely that this disease can ever be fully eliminated, nor is it likely that there will ever be a single

farriers to know when to stop treatment and opt for euthanasia. 

“With severe cases, we are often unable to rehabilitate the horse to where it has an acceptable quality

aspects so they can use them to the horse's advantage during laminitic episodes.

Despite its prevalence, laminitis treatments and prognoses remain highly variable.

Wooden shoes, he said, are useful for chronic cases, but can even be used in some acute cases.

As the horse moves from the acute to the chronic stage, the farrier can choose from several footwear

regarding their usefulness, he noted, but they're convenient for vets and owners alike.

bags of sand to the horse's feet.

square and bevel the toe to improve breakover.

from the outer surface to remove excessive length. Don't take anything off the sole, he said. Rather,

to remove each nail individually rather than pulling the shoe off normally.

and lamellae (as occurs with shoes, since the sole and frog do not touch the ground) to being borne

course. This, he said, will transfer the horse's weight from being borne mainly through the hoof wall

the foot, addressing breakover, and applying heel elevation, if necessary, he said.

However, practitioners can often garner important diagnostic and prognostic information regarding the

O'Grady also described two imaging options that can prove useful for gaining information about what's

Of course, a detailed physical and hoof exam is “mandatory” in acute laminitis cases, O'Grady said.

Further, a thorough history can help the practitioner determine whether the laminitis likely developed

damage?” he said. “Have we missed the window for resolution?”

laminitic horse, O'Grady said. “We know there's pathology present, but what's the extent of this

mentioned, there's no proven treatment method. Therapy can be time

laminitis, he said. Horses with this type of disease generally don't have a good prognosis and, as

Treatment plans and the horse's status can change rapidly, so ensure open lines of communication

The equine practitioner is responsible for addressing the overall health and welfare of the horse,

manager, a veterinarian, and a farrier.

Tip for Managing Acute Laminitis

All treatments should, however, focus on controlling the horse's pain and minimizing damage to the

Tips for Managing Acute Laminitis

Vasodilators

Dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO)

Steroidal anti-inflammatory properties. He advised using NSAIDs at their label doses and avoiding administering

inflammatory properties. He advised using NSAIDs at their label doses and avoiding administering

More than one at a time. O'Grady stressed that NSAIDs should be used judiciously to help the

A few hours before the acute stage

diminished. This can also help prevent the horse from shifting weight weight.

The acute stage

The chronic stage

The subacute stage

The

The end of the acute stage

The time

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Time

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