



media *release*

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NEW FOUR-YEAR EQUINE LAMINITIS STUDY UNDERWAY AT THE ANIMAL HEALTH TRUST

A new research project aiming to help horse owners reduce the impact of laminitis is being undertaken by the Animal Health Trust (AHT) in partnership with the Royal Veterinary College (RVC).

The four-year study, generously funded by World Horse Welfare, will take a closer look at management factors which may contribute to the development or recurrence of laminitis within the British horse and pony population. Through modifying these contributing factors, it is hoped that horse owners can significantly reduce the impact of this important welfare problem.

The AHT and RVC aim to create a website where owners from all over the country can register their horses and ponies and assist in the regular gathering of information related to potential risk factors for laminitis, over a period of two years. This will help establish a timeline of events and get a better understanding of the factors leading to laminitic episodes.

The study, to be conducted by Danica (Dee) Pollard, will follow-up on previous research conducted by Dr Claire Wylie in which factors such as rapid weight gain, increasing time since last deworming, box rest in the previous week and new access to grass in the past month increased the risk of laminitis.

Dr Wylie's study also revealed that factors such as feeding of additional supplements and transport in the previous week were associated with a reduced risk of laminitis. These factors are all modifiable, meaning they could be changed by the owner, and this is why they are of particular interest to the new study.

Dee Pollard, based at the AHT, said: "This will be a very exciting opportunity for owners to be at the frontline of equine health research and contribute to a study which aims to provide evidence-based preventative strategies to combat laminitis."

Horse owners interested in taking part in the research project are asked to register their interest via email to danica.pollard@aht.org.uk

Ends

For further information, please contact:

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Additional notes:

Founded in 1791, The **Royal Veterinary College** is the first and largest veterinary school in the English speaking world and a constituent College of the University of London. It also provides support for veterinary and related professions through its three referral hospitals, diagnostic services and continuing professional development courses. <http://www.rvc.ac.uk>

The **Animal Health Trust** is an independent charity, employing over 200 scientists, vets and support workers. It aims to improve the health and welfare of horses, dogs and cats through research. It also provides specialist referral services and continuous education to vets. Visit our website at www.aht.org.uk