

# Horse Owner's PPID Management Guide

As a horse owner, you can play a key role in keeping your horse healthy and active. First, speak with your veterinarian about a specific treatment plan for your horse. Along with the proper treatment plan, you can take the steps listed in this guide to help your horse's overall health.

## Regular care from hoof to teeth

- Maintain proper hoof care, and communicate any abnormal observations to your veterinarian and farrier.
- Contact your veterinarian if you observe any abnormal hoof wall growth or lameness issues.
- Schedule regular dental exams (teeth floating as needed).

## Body clipping, if needed

- Many horses with PPID fail to shed out completely in the spring or, at the very least, shed later than the rest of the herd or stable mates.
- The winter coat that "fails to shed" may include the entire hair coat (all over the horse's body), or may be limited to a specific area of the horse's body; for example, the side of the neck.<sup>1</sup>

## Deworm regularly

- Following recommendations from your veterinarian.
- Horses with PPID have been shown to have higher fecal strongyle egg counts, suggesting that they are more susceptible to harboring internal parasites.<sup>2</sup>

## Properly vaccinate your horse

- Please consult your veterinarian for specific recommendations for your particular horse.
- Horses with PPID have been shown to have an insufficient immune response following vaccination for West Nile Virus.
- Based on this information, it has been recommended that horses with advanced PPID should be considered for twice-yearly vaccination for WNV, particularly in endemic areas.<sup>3</sup>

## Diet and exercise

- Your veterinarian can advise you on a customized diet and exercise plan that will help your horse maintain the ideal body weight.
- Your horse's overall body condition (lean or overweight) may determine the type of nutrition plan your veterinarian will recommend.
- Horses with PPID often do well on low-sugar, low-starch diets, if considered prone to laminitis.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Frank N, Andrews F, Durham A, et al. 2015 Equine Endocrinology Group (EEG), Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysfunction Recommendations. Available at sites.tufts.edu/equineendogroup/files/2015/12/2015-10-16\_EEG-2015-recommendations.pdf

<sup>2</sup>McFarlane D, Hale GM, Johnson EM, Maxwell LK. Fecal egg counts after anthelmintic administration to aged horses and horses with pituitary pars intermedia dysfunction. *J Am Vet Med Assoc* 2010;236(3):330–334.

<sup>3</sup>Adams A, Siard M, Reedy S, et al. Does equine pituitary pars intermedia dysfunction affect immune responses to vaccination? in *Proceedings. AAEP*. 2014;330–331.

<sup>4</sup>McFarlane D. Equine pituitary pars intermedia dysfunction. *Vet Clin North Am Equine Pract*. 2011;27(I):93–113.

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