

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.¹

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.²

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.³

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.⁴

¹ 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

² 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.

³ 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.

⁴ McFarlane D. Equine pituitary pars intermedia dysfunction. *Vet Clin North Am Equine Pract*. 2011;27(1):93–113.