



A Centre of Excellence for Laminitis Prevention and Recovery

One in every 10 horses/ponies in the UK develop laminitis each year (making it as common as colic!) and 7% of equine deaths are linked to the condition. Even for those who survive it's highly painful and crippling.



Ash before



Ash after

For those who do recover the battle isn't over. It's an ongoing war to stop re-occurrence and it can affect an owner's life as much as their horse's, often requiring significant changes in how they look after their horse.

And these changes aren't always easy to do. It's all very well reading articles or listening to the vet, but what's it really like in practice? What are the logistics of soaking kilos of hay for hours, for example; how do you restrict grazing and retain movement and interest for your horse?

At Hope Pastures we have a lot of experience of managing laminitic animals. We've built up knowledge about what works and have many unique systems in place to make it easier to care for a horse/pony at risk of laminitis. We already know the answers to the questions and implement them every day!

We plan to establish a **Centre of Excellence for Laminitis Prevention and Recovery** – a dedicated unit, where we can show-case best practice in a practical way and pass on our expertise to others, with useable examples of what actually works. This development will not only benefit our rescued

animals – by sharing best practice it will also help to improve the health and welfare of many more horses, in private ownership.

Laminitis prevention is much better than cure, and many of the systems used for recovering laminitics are the same for prevention, so the Centre will address this as well.

Why now and why Hope Pastures?

Hope Pastures is a small horse rescue and welfare charity, funded entirely by public donations. A lean charity with few overheads, we spend a massive 95p of every £1 donated to us directly on the animals. Our approach is always to provide practical solutions and the Centre of Excellence is one of these for what is a huge horse welfare problem. Equine obesity is a high-risk factor for laminitis and nowadays almost 50% of pleasure horses, ponies and donkeys are overweight – the figures are mind-blowing.

This is a massive horse welfare issue – let's start to really tackle the practicalities.



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