

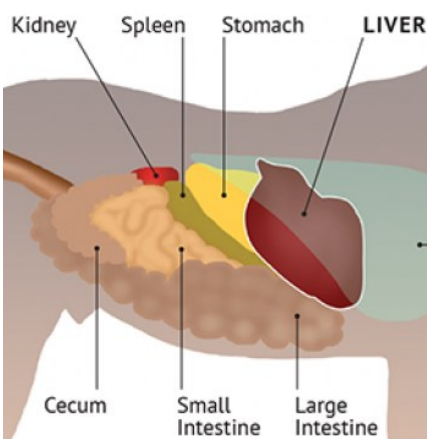


September 2025



Welcome to the September Newsletter, with summer show season coming to a close this month, we have started September with some very autumnal weather! We have continued to see some cases of laminitis the past couple of weeks or so but have also seen a couple of cases of liver disease the last month so we will be discussing this in more detail in this month's newsletter.

Liver Disease

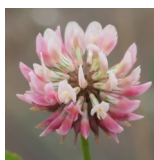
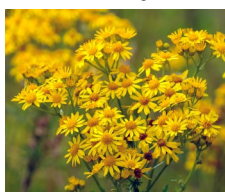


The Liver plays a vital role in your horse's health processing nutrients, filtering drugs and toxins out of the blood stream, producing crucial proteins, producing bile and supporting immune function. Whilst liver

disease fortunately is not common, it can be very serious if not identified early.

What can cause liver disease?

- * Toxic plants such as ragwort, alsike clover or blue-green algae
- * Infections caused by bacteria, viruses or parasites such as liver fluke
- * Ingestion of mycotoxins found in mouldy foods



Clinical signs

- * Lethargy or depression
- * Poor appetite or weight loss
- * Jaundice (yellowing of the gums or eyes)
- * Photosensitivity (sunburn on white areas)
- * Behavioural changes or head pressing
- * Colic episodes



Diagnosis

After we have examined your horse, if we have a suspicion of liver disease we will take a blood sample and send it to the lab for a liver profile. This will look at liver enzyme levels which in liver disease are usually very elevated due to liver cells being damaged and leaking these enzymes into the bloodstream. There is also a new blood test that can be done to assess the level of fibrosis in the liver—this is a marker for chronic damage and scarring and gives us a much better idea of prognosis and possible recovery of your horse.

Treatment and management

Unfortunately in severe cases with lots of fibrosis, there is usually severe damage and these cases are likely to progress rapidly, and usually deteriorate quickly. In these cases sadly the liver is often damaged beyond repair and often ends in euthanasia on welfare grounds.

In mild cases where liver enzymes are raised but there is no fibrosis in the liver your horse has a good prognosis for recovery as the liver is able to repair itself with time and with some help from supplements. It is also important to:

- * Eliminate the cause, if you know your horse has had access to something toxic it should hopefully be easy to remove this from its environment.
- * Supplement with antioxidants, milk thistle and B vitamins to try to support liver function as much as possible. A good liver tonic is Hepalyte which is also highly palatable so good if your horse's appetite is reduced.

