

Talk to us about Arthritis!

Changes in behaviour, stumbling and tripping, not wanting to jump, stiff joints, increased time to warm up?

These could be the early signs of Arthritis.

We can help by providing advice on all factors that may be affecting your horses joint health, including:



Once diagnosed, we will work with you to provide advice and to create a treatment plan that is appropriate for you and your horse.



Contact us:



xlvets-equine.co.uk

Equine Arthritis

A Joint Approach





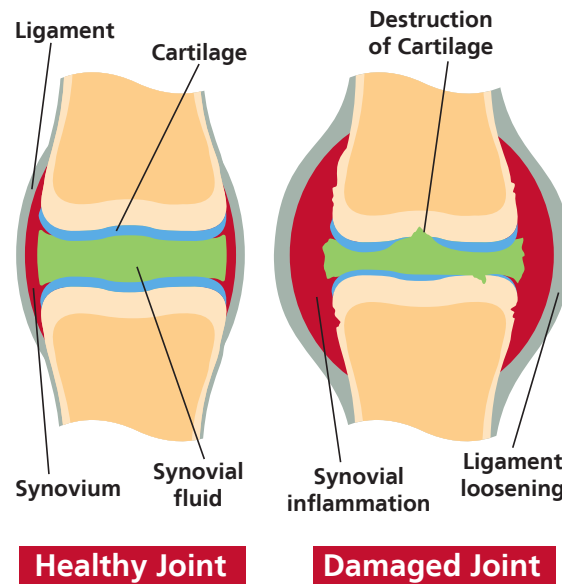
Arthritis means the inflammation of joints between bones. It is a degenerative joint disease that can occur in horses of any age. This can eventually result in pain, lameness and reduced performance of your horse if left untreated. Sadly there is no cure, but early diagnosis is key to improving the long term prognosis.

This is why we are committed to starting the conversation about Arthritis at the first signs of the disease. We can help by discussing all aspects of prevention through to treatment options, to ensure the most effective outcome for your horse.

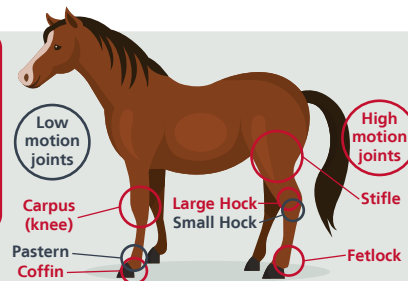
What are the symptoms I should look out for?

- Behavioural change e.g not wanting to jump.
- Stumbling and tripping.
- Abnormal shoe wear.
- Increased time to warm up.
- Decreased performance.
- Warm, stiff, swollen or painful joints.
- Lameness.

How does Arthritis affect my horse's joints?



Which joints are most commonly affected by Arthritis?



Diagnosis

Begins with a conversation with your vet, we will talk through the history of the problem followed by a physical examination and/or gait assessment, which can include a trot up, lunging on firm and soft ground or potentially a ridden assessment. To confirm the exact location of the pain, local nerve and joint blockers may be required.

Further to this, it may be necessary to assess any structural damage to the joint. This is traditionally done via x-ray (radiography), but it may be necessary to investigate using methods such as: ultrasound, scintigraphy (bone scan), MRI / CT and/or arthroscopy (key-hole surgery).

Treatment

Is dependent on the condition of the affected joint, treatment will generally involve a period of rest followed by an increasing exercise regime. Alongside this, there may be a requirement for anti inflammatory pain relief and anti inflammatory injections, medication or potentially other biological treatments..

Further treatment options may also be prescribed, dependent on your horses needs and how they have responded. Your vet may also recommend a variety of methods to help manage the disease including changes to diet, exercise and shoeing, or joint supplements.

Prognosis

Will be dependent on the severity of the damage to the joint and the response to medication. Quite often, with the support of your vet and a suitable treatment plan, which may include a balanced exercise regime, medication and rest, it will be possible to get the horse back to the same or a lower level of exercise. Although not curable, through early diagnosis, prognosis is improved.