

EQ. GERIATRIC BLOOD EXAM – Part Two

CUSHING'S SYNDROME

- Geriatric = > or = 20 yrs. Old

- When to test:
 1. If approaching 20 yrs. old or older.
 2. If already diagnosed with Insulin Resistance and/or Cushing's, or exhibits symptoms listed below – regardless of age, but more likely from early teens or older.
 3. If history of:
 - Founder/Laminitis
 - Chronic non-healing wounds
 - Re-occurring infections: respiratory, foot abscesses,
 - Long Shaggy Hair
 - Cresty neck
 - PU/PD = drinking a lot – urinating a lot (even though this is many times due to boredom, still needs to be ruled out).
 - Overall muscle loss
 - Redistribution of fat = to neck, eyes and tail head
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- Blood Test Procedure:
 1. Draw blood anytime except April or October.
 2. Test results can take up to two weeks, depending on when drawn.

- Treatment and Maintenance (if positive):
 1. Pergolide supplementation
 - If already diagnosed with IR and on Fenugreek, then supplementation of pergolide may be decreased or eliminated.
 - Start with recommended dose once per day.
 - Life long supplement and must be adjusted as test results dictate.
 2. Recheck every 30 days until stabilized, then once per year unless clinical signs change.
 3. *Evaluate ingredients in supplements other than the Pergolide and Fenugreek for “hyperglycemic warnings”, and if present, do not feed to this type of horse.