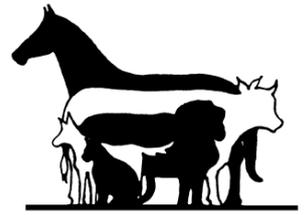


# Main Ridge Veterinary Clinic



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## PPID (Equine “Cushings” syndrome)

### What is PPID/Equine Cushings?

Equine cushings, more correctly known as PPID (Pars Pituitary Intermediate Disorder), is a common condition seen in horses and ponies.

At a basic physiological level, it is a dysfunction within the pituitary gland at the base of the brain and involves the associated dopaminergic feedback system. As a result of this, abnormal amounts of particular hormones are produced or released. These can manifest in a multitude of ways, affect a variety of organs and systems within the body, and result in a variety of clinical signs.

From a standalone viewpoint, it is not an acutely dangerous condition. However, your animal will likely have a poorer quality of life, or potentially a shortened lifespan, if the condition is not managed correctly.

### Clinical signs

The clinical signs of PPID can include some or all of the following, but are not limited to:

- Excessive weight gain or unusual fat distribution
- Retained curly or excessive coat
- Predisposition to laminitis (founder)
- Increased drinking or urinating
- Sweating
- Weight loss/inability to put on weight (especially in older horses)

### Diagnosis

Equine PPID can be well diagnosed via a single blood test.

### Treatments

PPID can be treated and managed very successfully. The condition is never “cured”, however it can be well controlled. Typically, this is achieved via a daily treatment of an oral tablet or liquid. This treatment can be adjusted as required, and is relatively inexpensive.

If at any time you are worried about your horse/pony’s condition, or if you have any further questions, please contact the Main Ridge Veterinary Clinic on (03) 5989 6232.