

Cinder Hill Equine Clinic



Wet Weather Management

Very wet and muddy conditions can cause a variety of problems. Over the last few years, we have had milder winters, which often results in wet and muddy conditions. We have compiled some topical tips on managing your horse in wet weather.

- Many yards keep horses stabled due to waterlogged fields, but this can be a big change in routine for your horse. Ensure plenty of fresh water is always available, and if you are concerned your horse is not drinking enough, soak hay and make feeds sloppy to increase their water intake. This can help reduce the risk of impaction colic.
- Try to walk your horse out once or twice a day to reduce the chance of stiffness or filled legs.
- If you have a field shelter, regularly check for any damage which may make the structure unsafe or unstable.
- Flooded, muddy fields are a hazard for horses. Standing in water and deep mud can cause infections and skin irritations on legs and hooves such as mud fever. It is ideal if horses can stand out of the mud or damp, especially if poor drainage is an issue.
- Make sure horses that are ruggled have their rugs removed regularly to check they are not leaking or rubbing and most importantly, to monitor weight. Also check for any signs of skin conditions which are often predisposed to damp and warm conditions.
- Horses living out may require extra forage, especially if parts of their grazing have become flooded. Again, always make sure they have access to fresh, clean water.
- If possible, moving horses to higher ground is always advisable.
- It is important to monitor your horse's body condition regularly. Over use of rugs, over feeding and prolonged restriction of movement can exacerbate obesity and its many medical consequences.

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.