

CHECKERS' QUIZ

Checkers are important members of our farm teams that help towards the daily care of our residents, including our Golden Oldies!

Can you work out what jobs the checkers are doing in these pictures?

Use the clipboard on the right to help you decide.



- To Do
- Count Residents
 - Check Fencing
 - Check Individuals
 - Give Medicine
 - Write down any changes in health or behaviour
 - Give cuddles and scratches!



Pony A is having trouble eating her food. After she has eaten, she spits out chewed up bits of food a little while later! I'm worried as she's starting to lose weight. Please help!

It's the spring and **Pony B** still has a big, fluffy winter coat! How could this be? He should have moulted by now. He's getting hot and starting to sweat with this warmer weather. Is this normal?

Pony C is moving a bit stiffly, particularly in the mornings. She's a healthy weight and there are no signs of any injuries on her legs, so what could this be?

Pony D has been acting strange lately. He can't seem to find his food bowl, is walking into things, and spooking more, so sounds and objects that are close are scaring him when they would not usually! Am I suddenly scaring him or making his food hard to find? I haven't changed his normal daily routine. Is it me or something else?

Here are some of the problems we might come across. Can you help us work out what is wrong with our poorly ponies? Grab a pen to connect the scenario to the problem.



1. PPID / Equine Cushing's disease

This is a common condition that affects older horses. It is related to problems of the pituitary gland, which is found just underneath the brain. The gland plays a vital part in the production and regulation of hormones, which for example controls hair growth. This is why you may find horses and ponies growing more hair than usual and/or even out of season.

2. Sight Problems

Horses can undergo age-related sight changes but it's rare they go blind. Check for changes in their behaviour and if you're concerned call a vet to check their vision. Small changes can help with their daily care such as putting food in the same place every day so they can find it, checking for trip hazards and making yourself heard before you approach them so they don't get scared when you're near.

3. Teeth problems

It sounds like this pony needs to visit the vet or equine dentist. Struggling to eat may be because this pony is in pain whilst eating so may not want to chew much as it hurts too much. Checking their teeth and mouth would be a good place to start.

4. Arthritis

This is a big cause of lameness in older horses. You won't find any sign of injury as this is inside the body - the cartilage in the joint starts to break down, which you can imagine would be quite painful! It's the result of general wear and tear as a result of being on their legs all day every day over the years. Sadly there is no cure but you can manage it so this pony stays comfortable and happy.

In all cases - call your vet!