

Equines

Equine Spas use the beneficial effects of sea water to promote healing of lower leg injuries. When an injury is swollen, it cannot heal properly until the swelling is reduced and controlled. The Equine Spa treatment assists injuries by reducing swelling and encouraging damaged tissues to begin repairing in a safe, controlled environment. They have also proven very effective in prevention of injuries.

What can it be used for?

The Equine Spa can be effective in treating and helping to prevent:

- Tendon injuries
- Laminitis and foot related problems
- Fractures
- Splints
- Arthritis
- Ligament injuries/damage
- Sore shins and Jarring up
- Strains
- Inflammation of knees, fetlocks and hocks
- Wounds
- Cracked heels & mud fever
- Abscesses
- Bruises
- Windgalls
- Concussion
- Improves horn growth
- Soft tissue damage
- Preventative treatment for reducing the risk of injuries.
- Improve circulation
- Encourage better granulation
- Improve gait and general demeanour
- Analgesic pain management effect



How does it work?

The equine spa provides vigorously aerated water which bubbles-up from the floor of the spa. The horse stands in a sealed tank which creates a depth of around 3ft of water. The bubbles have a massaging effect and the salinated water can have a 'poulticing' effect drawing out any fluid. Due to the low temperature used in an equine spa, it is essential that the major muscle groups are not submerged, otherwise the horse may suffer from hypothermia - therefore an equine spa is only suitable for treating leg conditions below the hock.

Do I need a vet referral?

No veterinary referral is required, although most Spa Centres like to work closely with your vet especially in cases of laminitis. Spa treatments are recognised by insurance companies as an alternative treatment.

Spa...



A typical spa session

Your horse will be fitted with a nappy to prevent it dirtying the spa water. Some horses do find this a little strange at first, but most of them do not mind at all. Once fitted with their nappy they are walked quietly into the spa.

On your horse's first session he will be introduced to the spa slowly. Some horses take to it very well and have a full treatment on their first go, but others may need more time to get used to the experience. If their first experience of the spa is a good one then the majority of horses thoroughly enjoy their spa sessions.

A typical spa session lasts for 10 - 20 minutes with an additional 3 minutes to fill and 3 minutes to empty. There are doors at both ends of the spa unit so horses can be easily loaded and unloaded without having to back out and the spa can accommodate the largest of horses and smallest of ponies.



Pictures courtesy of: ECB Equine Ltd



The therapeutic effects

Temperature

The spa solution is maintained between 2-4 °C, to minimise heat and inflammation. This also provides analgesic pain management.

Salt concentration

The salt solution acts as a hypertonic poultice as well as having a natural healing effect on wounds.

Aeration

Water aeration has a massaging effect on the leg and increases the dissolved oxygen content of the spa solution. Also, the horses tend to relax more than in still water, and this can be demonstrated by reduced heart rates.

Depth

The depth of water is proportional to the pressure exerted on the leg, which aids fluid and waste dispersal; this can be varied according to position and severity of injury.

Biological control

The water is sampled daily and water hygiene is maintained by a combination of fine filtration, chlorination, cold water and salt.