



2005

*Orbital fat*



2007



# Baron

A Worried Owner, Referred to the ECIR Group by a Friend,  
Finds the Process Pays Off

## *Meet Baron, Missouri Fox Trotter Gelding - foaled 1995*

Kris bought Baron as a 4-year-old in 1999. He was a healthy boy at 15 hands and about 1,000 lbs. He had shoes on and was somewhat green. Within a couple of years, Baron's hoof walls started to crumble and it became more and more difficult to keep his shoes on. After a series of farriers were tried, Kris decided to try the natural barefoot trim. During this time, Baron kept putting on weight and it didn't seem to matter how much he ate.

### *Kris continues...*

Baron's first bout with laminitis began in April of 2005. At least that's the first time I really caught it. He probably had more occurrences that I missed. This laminitic episode lasted 2 days. He was so lame, he could hardly move and was clearly in severe pain. He was cresty, had fat pockets, he was sweating excessively, urinated a lot, and was always incredibly hungry. I had noticed that he was gaining a lot of weight so he was down to eating less than 4 lbs a day. It was within a few weeks that word of Baron's trouble got out. A friend of mine recently lost her horse to a severe founder. She helped me greatly. Turned me on to the IR/Cushing's site and I got started with education and the emergency diet. I believe her direction and support saved Baron's life.

X-rays were taken and Baron had foundered in both the front hooves. I took blood tests as per the ECIR group instructions. His insulin was so high, it was off the chart! His glucose was normal.

2007



2009



*Kris and Baron, Patrol Horse for the California State Parks and Recreation*



*Kris and Baron 2016*

His hay was tested at an NSC above 19%. I soaked the hay and purchased Sterrett pellets. By July 2005, his insulin was down dramatically. It was still outside of normal, but by only 65 points compared to 1,000's before the diet change. We kept his hooves trimmed properly, his diet completely controlled, gave vitamin/mineral supplements per his tested hay and exercised on a regular basis. Progress was made.

It was a year and a half before I could ride him. If I rode him too soon, he would become laminitic. I was advised by the ECIR group to give him more time. I waited until the x-rays showed that the coffin bone was back to its correct position and his entire hoof wall had grown back. At the end of 2006 his x-rays showed he was back to normal. I gradually built his exercise schedule up again. He is now 100%. I ride him all the time as a qualified Folsom Lake Trail Patrol horse. He looks like an athlete and has the best attitude ever!

In the middle of 2007, Baron's insulin went up again. The hay I had purchased came with tests already done. I retested and found the results were completely different with NSC above 10%. LESSON learned: ALWAYS TEST YOUR OWN HAY. The hay analysis can get mixed up with the wrong hay at the feed lots.

Baron would probably not be here today if I hadn't found Dr. Kellon and the ECIR group. I was so overwhelmed and couldn't believe that this journey would ever have a happy ending. I'm very grateful for all this support. It seemed like there was way too much to learn. I worried all the time. I lost sleep over it. All that is a blur now.

Baron can go out in pasture with a muzzle now that has the holes taped up. He also has a 1/4 acre paddock area where the bark and the branches are out of reach. It wasn't done in a day, it was a process. A process that paid off greatly. THANKS ECIR GROUP, DR. KELLON, AND TO MY FRIEND THAT REFERRED ME TO YOU!!! YOU ALL ROCK!!!!

### *Update from Kris November 2016*

Baron is even MORE of a success story now. He is now an IR and a Cushing's horse. Right before he was diagnosed with Cushing's, he had a horrible founder, even with the controlled diet. It was due to the undiagnosed Cushing's.

What I learned from this experience is that many veterinarians do not know how to handle the blood before it is sent to Cornell and he was not diagnosed with Cushing's as quickly as he should have been. I learned that there are a lot of false negatives due to incorrect handling of the blood samples.

The happy news is that Baron is still ridden, totally happy now, and is truly considered a HUGE success story in the community.

Those that saw his struggle are truly in awe of his recovery.