



info@tryonequine.com
www.tryonequine.com

P.O. Box 547 / 155B Shuford Road
Columbus, NC 28722

Office (828) 894-6065
Fax (828) 894-6302

My horse has a cresty neck, should I be concerned?

The crest of a horse is the area around the nuchal ligament which makes up the uppermost part of the neck. It is an area where horses deposit fat. Certain breeds of horses tend to have more prominent, and even at times dramatic, crests. Overweight horses and donkeys do tend to deposit fat in that area quite easily.

People become concerned about noticing a cresty neck on their horse for a few various reasons; the first reason is that they may not have noticed it before and it may not have been present before, therefore it constitutes a change from what they consider normal for their horse. The second reason is that cresty necks are often associated with metabolic disease such as Cushing's disease (or Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysfunction) and/or [laminitis](#). It is true that in certain cases the cresty neck is one of the first signs of metabolic disease that owners notice- it can be associated with more than one metabolic disease and can be accompanied by other signs. One of the symptoms of metabolic disease is the formation of inappropriate fat deposits. But not all horses with cresty necks suffer from an underlying disease- some horses are just simply overweight; others may have tendency to have more fat in that area depending on the breed, and some develop a cresty neck as they get older.

If you are concerned about your horse's cresty neck, an examination and possibly some [blood work](#) may help shed a light as to the cause of it.

Answered By: Karine Nunes, DVM