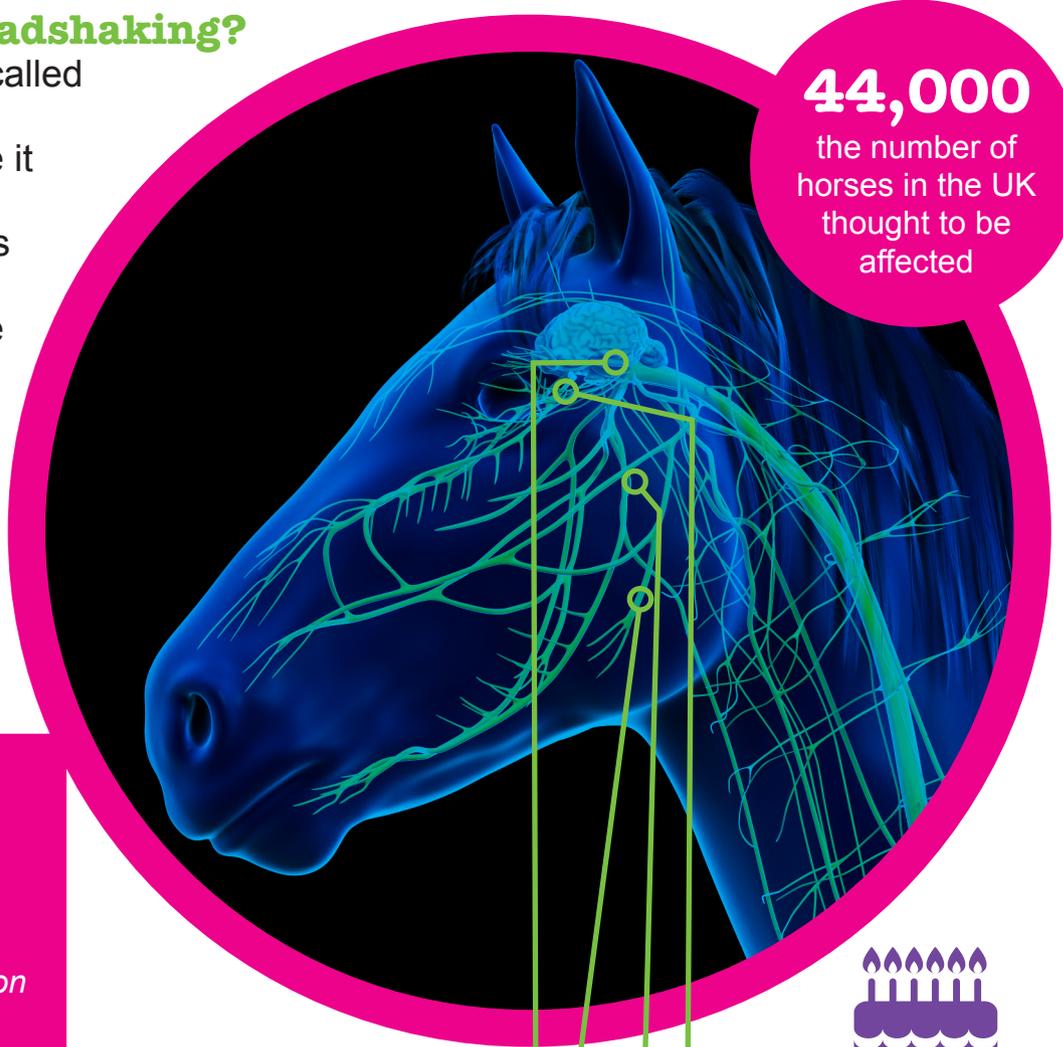


Practical guide to headshaking

What is horse headshaking?

Headshaking is also called trigeminal-mediated headshaking because it affects the trigeminal nerve that runs across a horse's face. It's thought that the nerve becomes overly sensitised, causing neuropathic pain. Horses can shake their heads in an attempt to relieve the pain.

44,000
the number of horses in the UK thought to be affected



Symptoms

- Vertical headshaking
- Sharp vertical flicks
- Signs of nasal irritation
- Rubbing of the nose
- Twitching lips

Trigeminal Nerve
Ophthalmic Nerve
Maxillary Nerve
Mandibular Nerve



6

the age at which affected horses usually start to show symptoms

How is headshaking diagnosed?

Headshaking is usually diagnosed by an equine vet. Diagnosis of headshaking is a complex process and the vet will want to exclude all other potential conditions.



Treatment for headshaking

Treatment options include:

- Nose nets
- Electrical nerve stimulation
- Pharmaceuticals

