

FEEDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HORSES WITH PITUITARY PARS INTERMEDIA DYSFUNCTION (EQUINE CUSHINGS)

Overview

Dietary recommendations for horses with PPID will be dependent on the horse's body condition and the presence of insulin dysregulation (ID). In general, all PPID horses should be fed a primarily forage diet that will maintain (or regain) ideal body condition and avoid obesity, which will worsen ID.

Feeding Tips

- Restrict horses from pasture at times of the year when it is high in NSC (spring/early summer).
- Feed concentrates with a low glycemic index (GI), such as **Pegasus Liberty**, as needed to maintain body condition at a body condition score around 2.5-3/5.
- Feed small, frequent meals to avoid major deviations in glucose and insulin concentrations.
- Super fibres such as beet pulp are excellent low GI feed additives for horses with PPID.
- Feeds containing greater than 3% molasses and 20% NSC should be avoided if there is evidence of ID. Pelleted feeds that are higher in fibre (>10%) and fat (>5%) can be fed instead of sweet feed to provide additional dietary energy. Beware of Senior feeds that could contain high amounts of NSC or molasses.
- Meet nutritional requirements in overweight horses with balancer pellets (**KER Gold Pellet** or **Pegasus Equibalance**) or vitamin and mineral supplements (**KER Nutrequin**) to provide nutrients with limited calories.
- Use low glycemic index full feeds such as **Pegasus Liberty** to assist with weight gain in underweight horses.
- Fat sources such as **KER Equi-Jewel**, sunflower seeds, or oil can also be included in diets to increase body condition if required.
- Feed long chain omega 3 fatty acids from **KER EO-3** for a glucose regulating and anti-inflammatory effect without increased calorie intake. Use 30-60ml/500kg.
- Pysillium can increase insulin sensitivity and is a useful supplement.
- Stabilise hindgut pH and bacterial populations by limiting fructan intake from pasture and supplementing with a hindgut buffer **KER EquiShure**.
- Combat oxidative stress by anti-oxidant supplementation with natural vitamin E, such as **KER Nano-E**.
- Feed **KER Bio-Bloom HF** to increase hoof growth and allow more rapid hoof reshaping after a laminitis episode.
- Give the horse access to rock salt or a salt block.
- Small amounts of chaff or soaked beet pulp may be mixed with supplements to increase palatability and encourage consumption.

Further Information

Medical treatment of PPID such as the use of Pergolide should be discussed with your veterinarian. Detailed diet advice based on the individual horses is an effective management tool for horses with PPID. Contact Milne Feeds' equine nutrition advisor, Michelle Meylan, on 0429 107 790 or pegasus@milne.com.au for dietary advice.

MILNE Feeds

Contact our WA based Equine Nutrition Advisor,
Michelle Meylan, 0429 107 790