

FEEDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HORSES WITH CHRONIC LAMINITIS - At Acute Stages and Preventing Recurrence.

Overview

There are many causes of laminitis. Any horses or ponies with laminitis require immediate veterinary attention. At onset Recovery can be prolonged and requires continuous medical and dietary management to bring the condition under control, reduce pain and possible damage to hoof structure, and to prevent future recurrence.

Nutritional Management in Acute Stages

- Access to pastures and feeds high in NSC should be prevented. Avoid grain, molasses and high NSC forage such as oaten hay.
- Now is not the time to starve the horse or feed only poor quality hay as the horse needs a diet which meets requirements for energy, protein, amino acids, minerals and vitamins.
- Provide good quality, low carbohydrate feed and water with appropriate vitamin and mineral supplementation.
- Suitable forages include grass or lucerne hay, rhodes hay/chaff and super fibres such as beet pulp or soy hulls.
- Meet nutritional requirements through using low starch feeds (**Pegasus Liberty**), or balancer pellets (**Pegasus Equibalance** or **KER Gold Pellet**) for horses requiring calorie restriction. Vitamin and mineral supplements in powder form such as **KER Nutrequin** are also suitable and can be mixed with low NSC chaff to aid intake.
- Horses that are not drinking properly should be supplemented with water and electrolytes via nasogastric tube or intravenously.
- Oral antacids or omeprazole pastes may be required to prevent and treat gastric ulceration that develops in conjunction with confinement and NSAID administration.
- If the laminitis is related to hindgut acidosis eg grain overload, digestive upset or pasture related, stabilise hindgut pH and bacterial populations by limiting carbohydrate intake from pasture or concentrates and supplementing with a hindgut buffer such as **KER EquiShure**.
- Combat oxidative stress by anti-oxidant supplementation with natural vitamin E, such as **KER Nano-E**.
- Give the horse access to rock salt or a salt block.
- All **Pegasus feeds**, and **KER Triacton**, contain **KER BMC™** which is a powerful gastric and hind gut acid buffer and can raise pH above risk thresholds for extended periods.

Prevent recurrence of Laminitis

Horse predisposed to laminitis require effective, ongoing management to prevent recurrence of the condition. Risk factors include periods such as spring-time when pasture is high in fructan content, high sugar hay varieties, grains and sweet feeds.

- Determine the cause and give appropriate veterinary treatment and or dietary management.
- Manage and maintain hoof health with the help of a Vet and Farrier.
- Feed **KER Bio-Bloom HF** to increase hoof growth and allow more rapid hoof reshaping after a laminitis episode.

Contact Milne Feeds' equine nutrition advisor, Michelle Meylan, on 0429 107 790 or pegasus@milne.com.au for dietary advice.

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Contact our WA based Equine Nutrition Advisor,
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