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2005

**Equestrian
Edition**



Talking Horses

*The newsletter with news, views and practical advice
from the **editor***

Autumn is a season that is the prelude to winter, with often cooler and more predictable weather. Autumn is the traditional time to wean foals and start them off on their own independent lives. Our fact sheet of the month is on weaning management, with lots of handy hints on how to reduce stress at weaning, vaccinations and travelling weaners. Ring 1800 112 227 for your copy.

In this issue, we discuss the management of new splints – early treatment can reduce the potential bony reaction that forms into a splint.

One of the most common questions asked by horse owners is what to feed to keep their horses “cool”, calm and manageable – what is “cool” and which feeds are less likely to make horses too energetic or “feel their oats”.

We give you some handy guidelines when you decide you would like to build an arena instead of working your horse in a yard or marked off area in the paddock – it’s time to get sound advice on surface types to save your horse’s legs. We review the important aspects of arena maintenance.

And lastly – our newsletters are becoming very popular. Some horse owners are filing their newsletters for a future reference of handy hints.

‘Talking Horses’ is not a product driven newsletter – we give you lots of short articles and useful hints, as well as brief information on some of our products. In our next issue, in our mailed out copies, we will include a flyer on our products for your information.

Please ring 1800 112 227 for more information on our products.

Regards **John Kohnke**

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THIS ISSUE Feature Article

- Splints – To be or not to be!
Also a brief on
- Arena Surfaces – Saving the Legs
- Cool Feeds – What is “Cool”
- Plus Regular Features

1 HANDY HINT

When starting a new feed or supplement, always introduce it in a step-wise manner over a 5-7 day period, especially to a horse that is a “suspicious” eater. Slowly introduce a higher energy or grain feed over 7-10 days in proportion to exercise and the amount increased each day. When adding an oil supplement to boost energy, build it up by 50mL every 5-7 days until the desired amount of 125-150mL is reached to ensure optimum digestion and utilization of the oil.

FACT SHEET OF THE MONTH

Subject: Managing the Weaner

Summary: A guideline on methods of weaning, feeding, vaccination and managing weaners to reduce stress and disease.

Obtain Your Copy: Ring 1800 112 227 or email info@kohnkesown.com

Splints

To Be or not to Be!

You wander down to the stables to feed up and do a quick check-over for overnight injury. You take a second look – one of your horses has developed a painful swelling midway down the inside of one front cannon. A soft tissue swelling? How could it appear so quickly? The start of a periosteal or bony reaction – a BLEMISH. Whatever the underlying cause – it's a SPLINT in common terms! Splints are generally classified relative to the cause, position, timescale and type of swelling.

Splints commonly develop from injury “between the bones” where the splint bone (4th metacarpal on the inside) is attached to the cannon bone (3rd metacarpal) by bone to bone interosseous ligaments.

Splints are an unsoundness if a horse is lame or has poor conformation that predisposes it to splint formation. They are considered a “blemish” if they are bony, non-reactive and the horse is not lame.

Splints can be High or Low

High splints can develop just under the knee joint, usually on the inside of the limb. If the swelling develops over a few hours, it is most likely due to weight overload, a knock or trauma high up on the limb. Heavy shouldered young horses worked for as little as 10 minutes on a hard surface, horses gallivanting around a paddock or clumsy footed horses that ‘crossfire’, can overload or knock the area, resulting in soft tissue swelling, pain and a mild degree of lameness. Even a long float trip where a young, overweight horse scrambles on a poorly cushioned floor, or leans to one side during transport, can tear the ‘bone to bone’ ligaments as the limb is twisted while weight bearing.

The swelling can take as long as 1-2 weeks to develop in a young horse being worked on a hard, concussive surface or landing heavily after a jump, it is usually a combined soft tissue and bony surface reaction of the periosteal membrane over the bone. These reactive splints exhibit more acute degrees of weight bearing lameness, discomfort when pressed, with a firmer ‘bony’ type reaction.

Horses with ‘offset’ cannon bone conformation – usually an inherited form of limb conformation, have a high risk of developing high splints. Why?

As the limb is loaded, particularly in a young horse up to 5 years of age when the animal is still growing, the inside (medial) splint bone is attached to the upper area of the canon bone by interosseous (bone to bone) ligaments. The ‘offset’ conformation, where the lower limb below the knee is aligned with the outside border of the knee joint, leaving a “bench” knee appearance, places a greater degree of loading on the inside splint bone which is part of the knee joint. Heavy loading and concussion results in the interosseous ligament attachments being torn away or strained, tearing the periosteal coverings over the bone, resulting in a bony reaction.

If the bony reaction is severe, it can in time, involve the upper end of the splint bone where it joins into the knee joint, leading to arthritis within the lower knee joint and chronic lameness. X-rays of the splint may be necessary to determine if the upper portion of the bone is fractured. In mature horses, the ligaments turn to bone over a 1-2 year period, fusing the splint bone to the cannon bone, reducing the risk of this type of splint.

Heavy horses with thick bones, especially hunters and jumping horses, have a higher risk of splints. Once the reaction settles down and the interosseous ligaments become calcified, the splint actually strengthens the upper cannon area.

Low Splints are usually associated with a knock, crossfire interference or kick to the lower one third of the splint bone where it thins down towards its end. The splint bone may be fractured at any point along its length, with fractures most commonly causing a much larger, widespread swollen area. The lameness is often aggravated by exercise, especially at the trot, with the splint increasing in size if exercise is continued. “Chain splints” are uncommon, but can develop as small bony lumps on the inside of the cannon bones, becoming “active” at varying times.

If a bony splint develops towards the rear border of the cannon bone, the growth can touch the suspensory ligament and with movement as it flexes during exercise, it can cause an inflammatory reaction and weakness in the suspensory ligament at the area of contact.

Did You Know???

The horse walks on one toe (third metacarpal) or cannon bone below the knee (human wrist) and hock (human ankle) corresponding to the human middle finger. The other two “fingers” on each side are the second and fourth metacarpals. These are shorter and taper to a short and fine end about ¼ the way down the cannon bone. The splint bones join into the knee (and hock) joint at their upper end, just as the human index and ring fingers join into the wrist. They carry some of the weight loaded downwards through the knee, especially the inside splint bone in a horse with bench knees or ‘offset’ cannon bones.

2 HANDY HINT

If a splint remains sore and reactive for more than 7-10 days, it should be X-rayed to determine the presence of a bone fracture, although some horses with high fractures will not always be lame. In older fractures of a splint, the lower end of the splint bone, or a section within the fracture lines may have become devitalized due to poor blood supply and “died”. Often a soft, painful swelling, which bursts to the skin, will develop due to infection (osteomyelitis) within the dead, dissolving bone. Surgical removal of the bone fragments is the only form of treatment. Consult your own vet for advice.

HANDY HINT 3

There are many remedies for splints, including special “splint removal” preparations, often acting as light “blisters”. Blisters are not humane and should not be used. Try these two time honoured remedies:

1. Bandage on a thick slice (20mm) of an orange or lemon (flat side to the splint) over the splint swelling overnight. Cover the skin with kitchen film to minimize irritation. The fluid filled cellular texture of these citrus fruits helps maintain an even pressure over the splint that prevents movement and may even help to dissolve underlying bone in an old splint – try it.
2. Apply a liberal coating of a clay poultice or Castor Oil to the splint area and cover with a light bandage overnight for 3-4 weeks – often splints reduce in size.

First Aid for New Splints

The key words are **ICE**, **PRESSURE BANDAGING** and **REST**. Icing the area **3-4 times** a day for **15-20 minutes** at a time, followed by the application of an **elastic** pressure bandage and resting from exercise for **2-3 days** will help to settle down the bony reaction, even where a fracture is present. Confinement to a stable or small yard over a 4-6 week period will help to minimize trauma and further overloading will reduce the reaction and swelling. **Remember to cut back the energy content in the ration to avoid "frisky" behaviour in a resting horse.**

The use of topical anti-inflammatories, such as DMSO liniments, applied twice daily as directed for 7-10 days will also help to reduce bone surface reaction. Consult your own vet for advice.

HANDY HINT 4

Where a young horse under 4 years of age has developed one or more splints, its diet should be evaluated to correct 'bone mineral' imbalances and deficiencies of calcium, phosphorus and magnesium, as well as trace-minerals supplied in a product such as *Kohnke's Own Cell-Grow*®. A weight reduction diet in a heavy young horse and reassessment of the work program and working surface should be considered.

Managing Splints

Early recognition, rest and management to settle down a splint reaction is essential. A rapidly developing splint usually indicates an underlying fracture or severe tear of the interosseous ligament. It will be warm and very painful when pressed, and often the horse will be reluctant to bear full weight.

Rest – Although opinions vary between horse owners, rest in a yard initially, and then in a small paddock has proven to be the best base for recovery. Most splints settle down in 4-6 weeks.

Restriction – Bandaging the area with an elastic bandage to prevent movement is important to settle down reactive bone. Constant overnight pressure will limit bony reaction and reduce the size of many "young" splints.

Rehabilitation – "Cut Concussion" and "Watch the Weight" are primary aims of rehabilitation. A step-wise return to work after a 4-6 week rest is best, avoiding heavy loading exercise (jumping, galloping) and hard, concussive surfaces (or deep, loose surfaces too), combined with weight reduction and dietary evaluation (See Handy Hint 4).

Surgical Removal of Old Splints

Splints in a young horse can 'grow out' as the bones are able to remodel up to 4-5 years of age and the splint becomes less obvious. In an older horse, where a bony splint has been present for more than 6-9 months, especially if it is touching the suspensory ligament, then surgical removal is often recommended.

Note: Splint removal will decrease the size of the "blemish" – but success is determined by the skill of the surgeon and the method of rehabilitation. In some cases, further bony reaction can result, with growth of white hair over the surgical site if the skin circulation is compromised or a large scar is formed. Rehabilitation involves confinement and support bandaging for up to 6 weeks.

Seasonal Reminders

Autumn Laminitis

Although spring grass contains fructan sugars that can trigger the onset of laminitis, **autumn rain with new pasture regrowth under warm conditions** can also result in high intakes of **soluble carbohydrates in grazing ponies**. When these overload into the hindgut and ferment to D-lactic acid and release secondary bacterial toxins, a bout of laminitis can result. Limit grazing of lush regrowth, and do not leave ponies out at night, restricting daytime grazing to 1-1½ hours at a time.

Worming

The tapeworm lifecycle is vulnerable in mid to late April and ideally grazing horses should be wormed out with a wormer that removes tapeworms (i.e. a wormer containing praziquantal or morantel).

Skin Itches

The moist, but still mild to warm weather of autumn, can encourage fungal invasion of the skin, as the lower limbs and flat spots on the 'topline' do not dry out effectively, encouraging fungal growth with 'rain scald', hair loss on the cannon bones and greasy heel. Under warm conditions, wash these areas with iodine wash (eg Vetadine wash) once a week to reduce skin contamination. Leave the iodine wash on the skin for 10 minutes before rinsing off and patting dry.

Aged Horses

Worm out and have the teeth checked in late autumn in aged horses (over 20 years of age) and feed to maintain good condition as a reserve for winter.

HANDY HINT 5

Young horses, or horses returning to training after a spell may lack muscle tone in their hind limbs. This can make them travel close behind and knock their fetlocks together when working or turning on the lunge or under saddle.

Always fit fetlock boots before exercising to prevent trauma to the fetlocks. It is a good idea to commence a 10-14 day course of **Kohnke's Own Muscle XL** to help strengthen the upper hind muscles and improve co-ordination.



A Frequently Asked Question

Does *Kohnke's Own Muscle XL* provide too much protein that could lead to laminitis or protein allergies? **No!** **Muscle XL** help to build-up the topline and rump muscles when given daily as directed within 15 minutes after exercise. It contains 76% crude protein, with branched chain and other muscle building amino acids, as well as Vitamin E, organic sulfur and organic zinc as essential raw materials to assist muscle development and recovery. The 60g daily supplement provides 45g highly-digestible protein that doesn't overload into the hind bowel. Excess sugar and protein intake from grazing clover pastures and rich clover hay may trigger laminitis in susceptible horses.

ARENA SURFACES

Saving the Legs

Many riders would like to build their own all-weather, safe and low maintenance arena surface on which to school and work their horses. **The objective of any arena is to enable both horse and rider to work to their best with least risk of injury.** Unfortunately, many arenas fall short in one or more categories.

This review has been prepared to focus on surfaces and maintenance, rather than actual design and construction. However, when building any arena, the **choice of site, proper base compaction and adequate drainage** is the basis for long term success.

Most riders have a strict budget to install and maintain an arena, but even the most expensive surfaces can create problems if they are not maintained regularly to keep the surface safe and serviceable.

The choice of a suitable and durable working surface is relative to:

The horse "traffic" planned on a daily basis – a more expensive and long lasting material is required where an arena is being used daily by more than 2-3 horses.

The climate – sufficient water to bind and stabilise a surface is a primary consideration in dry times of the year, although wood chips and new synthetic blend surfaces require significantly less water than sand based surfaces. Reducing cross winds is important to prevent surface loss and drying out.

The cost and local availability – although sand is usually the least expensive, it is also the surface that can 'make or break' a horse due to compaction and concussion, or loose, deep heavy surfaces that increase strain injuries, particularly in heavier horses. A synthetic surface is often the most expensive, with no watering required and low maintenance – cost of transport and installation must be considered – it may double the price of the actual material cost.

The maintenance – to keep it functional – the word "maintenance" is one of the most important aspects of a successful arena. Time and money has to be allocated to **repairing, replenishing, renovating and rejuvenating** all arena surfaces. Maintenance must be planned and budgeted.

Proper maintenance is dependant on:

The right equipment – Gone are the days when dragging a piece of weldmesh behind a ride-on tractor is adequate to keep an arena serviceable and safe – it may 'iron out' bumps, troughs and hoof-marks, but it **does not** rejuvenate the surface material. Surface renovating machinery with 'teasers', 'spreaders', 'ticklers' and rollers, as well as water injection are available and a virtual must for high traffic indoor and outdoor arenas.

The time and persistence to carry out maintenance – Experience and practice makes perfect in arena maintenance – it is estimated that for every 'horse hour' worked on an arena, a 5-10 minute maintenance period should be allocated to keep the surface functional and safe. A sure footing creates confidence in both horse and rider and enables each to perform to their best.

HANDY HINT

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Make sure the design of an all-weather, outdoor arena includes an efficient drainage system, both from around the perimeter and from under the surface material. Sloping arenas to the side can increase surface migration to the lower side under heavy traffic use or following heavy rainfall. Ensure efficient drainage to take water away from the perimeter, particularly in 'cut and fill' areas where seepage can accumulate under the foundation or footing material, causing it to deteriorate and mix with the working surface.

HANDY HINT

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Once you have chosen a suitable surface, you will need to calculate the volume of materials required that hopefully will fit into your budget. Many people do not realize the volume of material required to resurface or "top-up" an arena.

- **Arena 20 x 40 metres** - 20 cubic metres/25mm(1") depth of surface or 80 cubic metres to give a 4"(100mm) thick surface (non compacted)
- **Arena 20 x 60 metres** - 30 cubic metres/25mm(1") depth of surface or 120 cubic metres to give a 4"(100mm) thick surface (non compacted)

Wood chips must be virgin hardwood, with no bark or leaves to ensure longer durability. A layer of up to 200mm (8" or 240 cubic metres for a 20x60 metre arena) may be required initially, as it is packed down by exercise and rain.

Arena Surfaces:

These generally fall into 3 categories:

Natural – sand, sand mixes, wood fibre, grass.

These are usually higher maintenance surfaces but sand and wood fibre blends can withstand heavy use, such as 'jumping' and barrel racing, if properly maintained. Sand may be blended with clay to improve its water holding capacity.

Natural/Synthetic – usually a mix of sand and natural fibres, but adequate water is required for optimum function and durability.

Synthetic – sand and synthetic polymer fibre mixed with coated wax, oil, urethanes or thermoplastics. No watering is required, but replenishment and rejuvenation of a wax coated surface is costly. These are new 'high tech' arena surfaces that require less maintenance, but the initial cost is higher than sand alone.

Special Note: A new low maintenance affordable synthetic surface has been developed by Proinn Constructions in Queensland – contact Mr Kim Elliott – (07) 5496 3237 or log onto www.proinngroup.com – this company designs, arranges and supervises construction of arenas, fencing and horse handling and exercise equipment. For free advice on arena design, construction and surfaces, contact Proinn Constructions. This review as prepared in part from advice provided by this world-wide company.

Cool Feeds - What is 'Cool?'

The majority of horse owners and riders want their horses to be adequately fed and conditioned, with a cool, calm tractable temperament. Some horses remain easy to handle on a feed that makes others 'fizzy', 'above themselves', 'over-energetic' or downright dangerous to work and ride. Of course, poor temperament can be related to breeding, mishandling and bad manners or simply too much feed relative to exercise. However, some horses are as 'quiet as lambs' until they get a few mouthfuls of grain – starch and 'carbos' – they either put on weight or become hard to handle. Others are naturally 'nervy' and any higher energy feed will 'add fuel to the fire'. Over recent years, the horse feed industry has been promoting the concept of 'cool' feeds – feeds that are less likely to 'heat' horses by making them more energetic. There are basically four types of 'cool' feeds.

HANDY HINT 8

Soaking oats in warm water for 3-4 hours prior to feeding is helpful in reducing the "heating" effect of oats in working horses that become over-energetic on dry oats. Soaking oats removes soluble carbohydrates (sugars) and slows the rate of enzyme digestion in the small intestine.

Soaking grass hay also reduces the sugar content for ponies and horses that are likely to founder.

Drain the water containing the sugars off and discard prior to feeding.

Roughage/Fibre Based Feeds

Generally pasture, chaff and hay (dried dead pasture) have a lower digestible energy than grains or high protein meals. Fibre is digested by microbial fermentation in the hindgut, producing volatile fatty acids (VFA's) that are used as the primary energy sources directly by aerobic metabolism, with limited amounts to muscle glycogen (a high energy muscle sugar) that can be used both aerobically and anaerobically to produce muscle energy.

Most horses that are in light work can perform adequately on a fibre based diet of chaff and hay which is the natural diet for grazing horses. Bran and pollard are fibrous foods with higher digestible energy but still provide 'cool' energy when fed in amounts up to 500g/100kg body weight daily to working horses.

These milling by products are the base for horse pellets and other economical 'cool' feeds. Whilst these feeds are generally 'cool' in terms of influencing temperament, they provide a 'sluggish', less-responsive form of mainly VFA based energy that may cause less 'impulsion' and 'responsive energy' in a hack or dressage horse competing at an advanced level.

HANDY HINT 9

Food induced allergies, although uncommon, are difficult to pinpoint in a horse with skin itching and low grade diarrhoea. Pollen and dust on grass and proteins in lucerne, oats, barley, bran, clover, wheat and feed supplements can cause allergic reactions. An elimination diet can be tried, based on freshly soaked hay to leach out pollens and dust, and a pellet, such as Cool Command. Feed the diet for 8-10 weeks to eliminate allergies, then introduce one of the previous feeds once a week and monitor for return of symptoms. A skin allergy test may be worthwhile.

Fat Added Feeds

Vegetable oils, and even processed animal fats, are high energy feed sources that can be added to boost aerobic energy (fats do not convert to muscle glycogen) in working horses. Limited amounts of fat are digested by lipase enzyme in the small intestine of horses, and after a step-wise introduction, horses can adapt to use fat as a useful source of slow release, cool energy. There is a limit on how much fat can be added to the diet as horses find it less palatable in amounts over 5% of their ration of added fat (50mL/1kg of total feed). Fat boosted feeds and diets are particularly suited to long distance exercise, such as endurance riding, because the metabolism of fat aerobically to energy during slower speed exercise can reduce the depletion of muscle glycogen stores. Hard working eventers, polocrosse and dressage horses all benefit from this form of 'cool' energy.

To obtain the optimum benefit from added oils, the diet should contain added Vitamin E to protect polyunsaturated fats against oxidation that can damage muscle cell wall structures and reduce exercise tolerance.

As a side benefit, Omega-3 oils in vegetable fats promote coat condition.

Many prepared feeds are boosted with vegetable oils (some contain recycled cooking oil – fats can be damaged by repeated heating or high cooking temperatures) to increase the energy density (energy units in each amount of feed) in racing and performance horses. The long term stability of feeds containing more than 8% fat is of a concern, especially when inadequate levels of antioxidants are added to protect fats against oxidation during storage.

Rice bran contains rice bran oil, which is highly polyunsaturated and subject to oxidation and rancidity during storage. Products, such as Equi-Jewel, are stabilized with adequate antioxidants to minimise rancidity during storage.

ENERGY GOLD

The oil supplement Energy-Gold®, contains a balanced blend of Omega-3 and Omega 6 fatty acids for optimum coat conditioning, as well as 3000 IU/L of oil soluble Vitamin E to protect its own and other fatty acids against oxidation during high oxygen metabolism as a horse exercises. It is the only Omega oil supplement with additional Vitamin E for this specific reason. Energy-Gold can be given at the following supplementary rates to all horses:

- As an omega oil supplement: 12-15mL/10kg bodyweight daily
- As a coat conditioner: 15mL/100kg bodyweight daily
- As a 'cool' energy source: 125-250mL total daily

Energy-Gold contains pure garlic oil as a flavouring and most horses relish the taste when given over the tongue or mixed into the feed.

Low Starch Feeds

Protein supplements, such as extruded full fat soyabean meal (38% crude protein, 18% fat); cracked lupins (33% crude protein, 9.5% fat); canola meal (36% crude protein, 3-5% fat); sunflower seeds (23% crude protein, 26% fat) and copra meal (22% crude protein, 8% fat) contain protein, fat and fibre as the major energy source, but very small amounts of non-structural carbohydrates, i.e. sugars and starches when fed at rates of 100g/100kg bodyweight per day.

These are popular 'cool' additives to boost protein and fat, with cracked lupins and sunflower seeds providing both energy and protein, and copra (coconut) meal is a widely used "cool conditioner", promoted as "cool fuel" at feeding rates of 0.5 - 0.75kg/100kg bodyweight daily for working and equestrian horses.

"Cooked" Feeds

Boiled barley, extruded and micronised 'cool' feeds utilise the cooking process to make starch more readily digested in the small intestine, reducing its overload and fermentation in the hindgut to D-lactic acid. There are many 'cooked' commercial feeds available matched to various levels of exercise and specific need.

PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

Kohnke's Own

Cell-Grow®

The Ultimate Bone and body Supplement for Boutique Breeders



If you are planning to wean foals over the next 2-3 months, **Kohnke's Own Cell-Grow®** is the ideal bone mineral, trace-mineral and vitamin supplement to help balance grain, hay and pasture based diets. **Cell-Grow®** is a blend of 3 small Supplet® pellets, formulated in a ratio to supplement and balance the intake of essential bone forming minerals (calcium, phosphorus and magnesium), trace-minerals (including copper, zinc, manganese and organic selenium) for sound cartilage and tendon development, complemented by vitamins A, D and E for cartilage, tendon, bone and muscle development in growing foals.

Cell-Grow® is palatable and easy to mix into a hard feed - it doesn't sift out or blow out as dust that is a problem with powders added to outside feeders. Detailed dosage guidelines ensure accurate dosing, even when commercial feeds are given with a grain and chaff top-up. Daily supplementation with **Cell-Grow®** helps to avoid bone and joint problems such as DOD and OCD in rapidly growing foals, especially important in warmblood breeds.

Cell-Grow® is suitable for pregnant and lactating mares and stallions as well.

Available in 3.5kg and 20kg buckets.

Editors Note: A number of factsheets on feeding to prevent limb abnormalities, how to increase wither height and manage orphan foals are available. **Phone Kohnke's Own on 1800 112 227 for copies.**

10 HANDY HINT

1-1½ kg boiled barley (wet weight) provides digestible 'cool energy' and extra fluid to aid rehydration - an ideal feed after a hard day at a show, polo/crosse carnival or dressage comp, or travelling. Simply place 1kg barley grain into a slow (ceramic) cooker (eg Crock-Pot®), add water to 50mm above the barley level, turn onto 'low' and simmer for 4-6 hours. Serve with dampened chaff and dampened hay. It can be stored in a refrigerator for 24-36 hours for follow-up feeds.

Note: The 'heating' effect or energy content and rate of uptake of a feed is usually regarded as cause for energetic behaviour, particularly when horses are fed in excess of their daily exercise needs. Fibrous feeds, as well as excess protein overloaded into the hindgut produce "heat of fermentation", that can be a useful way of keeping horses warm during cold weather. Conversely, under hot conditions, minimising fibrous feeds (hay and chaff) to 0.5-0.75 % of body weight (2¼-3¼kg in a 500kg horse) in a working horse can limit the 'waste' heat and reduce the total 'heat load' that a working horse produces during exercise and offloads by sweating.

What's In the Next Issue?

- Navicular disease - relief is in sight
- Unpredictable behaviour in mares - new hope
- Preparing for Winter - some useful tips
- Update on Cushing's Disease
- Plus handy hints and practical advice

HANDY HINT

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Are you concerned that your horse may be eating sand? Check the water trough or tub to see if sand is being washed out as a horse drinks. Horses that graze continuously, nibbling on short grass may take in excess sand. Fine, beach-like sand mixes with mucus in the large bowel and can accumulate to eventually partially block the bowel. The weight of the sand can also reduce blood perfusion in the gut lining, leading to severe colic. Collect about 5 balls of fresh manure - place in a bucket, add 1 litre of water, mix with a stick to wash out the sand.

Any more than 1 teaspoon of settled sand indicates excess sand intake, especially if it is fine, beach-like sand.

Consult your vet for advice.

Disclaimer

The information and recommendations in this newsletter have been presented as a guideline based on the veterinary experience and knowledge by the author, Dr. John Kohnke BVSc RDA. Whilst all care, diligence and years of practical experience have been combined to produce this information, the author/editor, Dr. John Kohnke, accepts no responsibility or liability for unforeseen consequences resulting from the hints and advice given in this newsletter. The information contained in this newsletter is copyright. We encourage its use in club information sheets or other newsletter, on request, as long as acknowledgement is given to the author and its source from this newsletter. Other Editions - if you would like copies of the Racing and Breeding editions, or back issues 1 & 4, contact your local feed or produce supplier.