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The Place Where Animal Lovers Come Together | Summer 2008

Special Needs Horses are Unique

Starting Today, So Is Their Diet



WellSolve
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Fit or Fat? — WellSolve W/C™ Horse Feed

If eliminating obesity were merely a matter of cutting calories, you could simply cut a horse's rations in half and expect great results.

On the contrary, as any horse owner can tell you, watching a horse go hungry is heartbreaking. In addition, starving a horse can set off a chain of events that harm more than help, i.e., loss of muscle mass, nutrient deficiencies, etc.

Instead, WellSolve W/C™ horse feed allows veterinarians and horse owners to eliminate unnecessary calories from the diet while supporting robust health and contentment. But before you can appreciate the science behind WellSolve W/C™ horse feed, it's important to understand the needs of the overweight/obese horse.

The Needs of Overweight/Obese Horses

A low calorie diet

First and foremost, weight-prone horses need a diet that is lower in calories. Grains are calorie-dense. Sugars and starches may exacerbate any ongoing hormonal disruptions. Instead, the overweight horse needs a diet that is more reliant on alternate energy sources, such as fermentable fiber.

Contentment that can only come with a full stomach

There's nothing more frustrating for the horse-or the horse owner-than a meal that disappears from the bucket in 20 seconds, leaving the poor horse to watch his neighbors continue to eat. Even a horse that's overweight needs a meal that is satisfying and filling so that he doesn't feel deprived.

Palatability

The ideal feed for these horses would be palatable, but without the added calories of grains or molasses.

Consistency

From the nutritional quality of the feed ingredients, to the timing of meals, to exercise, to overall horse management, consistency is key.

Fasting is usually bad for these horses. The fasting/feeding cycle of two meals a day-even if it's hay only-results in elevated blood glucose levels following each meal.

Protein and Amino Acids, Antioxidants, Minerals and Vitamins

These nutrients all play critical roles in the health of the special needs horse. However there is one thing worth pointing out in regard to protein and the overweight or obese horse.

The protein in hay and grain may be deficient in essential amino acids. If high quality protein is lacking, the horse will not have adequate amino acids to perform tissue repair. This is another reason why simply reducing a horse's regular ration is not a healthy weight loss strategy. It would reduce calories, but also reduce needed protein. As a result, the horse could end up shedding muscle mass instead of fat reserves, which would be altogether counterproductive. Muscle mass helps rev up the metabolism, which, in turn, encourages fat burning (even while a horse is at rest).

A diet lower in fat

Overweight horses would do well to avoid the extra calories that come from added fat in most horse feeds.

A feed that works with grass hay

A low calorie feed that complements grass hay would be an excellent foundation for optimal weight loss. It would keep the horse content and satisfied without adding unnecessary calories.

Feeding your horse as directed

Follow your feeding directions carefully and weigh your hay and feed with a fish scale to ensure accuracy.

Exercise does the body good

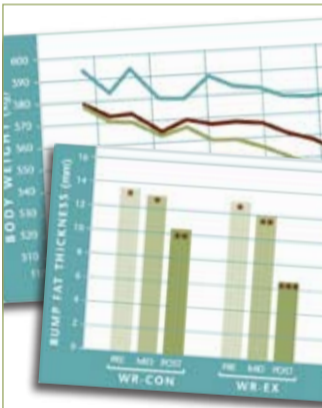
Exercise and a good feed management program is key. Just like humans, diet often doesn't work alone. Click here for more information about exercise recommendations.

Pasture and Grazing

Everyone loves to let their horse out to pasture, but grazing time should be limited and you should use a grazing muzzle if your horse will be out for an extended period.

[Click here](#) to learn the Science Behind WellSolve™ horse feed

[Click here](#) for the feeding directions and guaranteed analysis for WellSolve™ horse feed



CLICK HERE

Learn more about the weight control study performed at Longview Animal Nutrition Center in Missouri