

Diet Recommendations for Horses with Cushing's



Condition

Equine Cushing's Syndrome is a complex condition involving hyperplasia or adenoma of the anterior pituitary gland, resulting in many biochemical alterations within the body. These symptoms are far reaching and include hirsutism with no hair loss during the summer, laminitis, weight problems (either overweight or underweight), lowered immunity to parasites or infections, decreased intestinal wall integrity and infertility.

Nutritional Management of the Condition

Due to the complexity of the condition, nutritional management depends on the specific symptoms. In general terms, diet management starts with limiting the sugar and starch content of the diet and replacing them with digestible fiber and fat. As in laminitic horses, intestinal health is essential. Horses with Cushing's Syndrome should be provided nutritional components necessary to stabilize the intestinal wall and restore beneficial flora. Since Cushing's Syndrome can have a devastating affect on the immune system, an overall nutritional balance is absolutely essential. Providing key nutrients, such as amino acids, vitamins and minerals, while keeping the starch and sugars to a minimum is critical.

Dietary Recommendations – Mature Idle Horses

Horse's Weight	Hay Starch + Sugar < 15%	Special Needs™ Supplement	Benefat™ * (If body weight is needed)
400-700 lbs	8-14 lbs	1 scoop daily	1-2 scoops daily
700-1000 lbs	14-20 lbs	2 scoops daily	2-3 scoops daily
1000-1300 lbs	20-26 lbs	3 scoops daily	3-4 scoops daily
1300-1600 lbs	26-32 lbs	4 scoops daily	4-5 scoops daily

Dietary Recommendations – Horses in Training

Horse's Weight	Hay Starch + Sugar < 15%	Special Needs™ Supplement	Benefat™ * (If body weight is needed)
400-700 lbs	10-17 lbs	1 ½ scoops daily	1-2 scoops daily
700-1000 lbs	17-25 lbs	3 scoops daily	2-3 scoops daily
1000-1300 lbs	25-33 lbs	4 scoops daily	3-4 scoops daily
1300-1600 lbs	33-40 lbs	5 scoops daily	4-5 scoops daily

* An alternative source of fat/oil would be vegetable oil
1.5 ounce of fat/oil replaces 2 scoops of Benefat™

For More Information

Since the nutrient content of hay can vary significantly, it is recommended that hay fed to horses with Cushing's Syndrome be analyzed for nutrient content and custom diets developed. To learn more or get details on forage analysis and diet formulation, call (888) 239-3185 or email customerservice@prognutrition.com.