

Diet Recommendations for Laminitic Horses



Condition

Laminitis, an inflammation of the laminae of the foot, is a common condition resulting from a number of internal and external causes. Conditions associated with laminitis include colic, diarrhea, pneumonia, metritis from retained placenta, endocrine conditions like Cushings and Insulin Resistance and Equine Metabolic Syndrome and musculoskeletal problems resulting in altered loading of the supporting limb. (1)

Nutritional Management of the Condition

No matter what the initial cause of the condition, managing the laminitic horse is the same. Special attention to carbohydrate intake is essential. This can be managed by limiting the starch and sugars content of the diet, replacing “carbohydrate calories” with digestible fiber and fat (vegetable oil) based sources. Since over 90% of the hoof consists of protein, proper amino acids in the diet are critical to help with damaged hoof structures. A balanced source of key amino acids, vitamins and minerals are also essential for proper metabolism. Optimal feeding recommendations are listed below.

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

Recent research has identified nutrients that support intestinal health and improve the integrity of intestinal lining. These nutritional components are extremely important in the management of horses with laminitis. For information regarding the supplementation of these nutrients, contact Progressive Nutrition. The nutritional content of hay fed to laminitic horses is also extremely important. We recommend analyzing the nutrient content of hay in order for proper diets to be developed. To learn more or get details on forage analysis and diet formulation, call (888) 239-3185 or email customerservice@prognutrition.com.

References:

1. AM Stokes, SC Eades, RM Moore, Pathophysiology and Treatment of Acute Laminitis, *Equine Internal Medicine*, 3rd edition, p.529-536, 2010.