

FEEDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HORSES WITH PITUITARY PARS INTERMEDIA DYSFUNCTION (EQUINE CUSHINGS)

- Dietary recommendations will be dependent on the horse's body condition and the presence of insulin resistance (IR).
- All PPID horses should be fed a primarily forage diet that will maintain (or regain) ideal body condition and avoid obesity which will worsen IR.
- Restrict horses from pasture at times of the year when it is high in NSC (spring/early summer).
- Feed concentrates with a low glycemic index (GI), such as **Pegasus Liberty**, as needed to maintain body condition at around 2.5-3/5.
- Feed small frequent meals to avoid major deviations in glucose and insulin concentrations.
- Super fibres such as beet pulp are excellent low GI feed additives for horses with PPID.
- Feeds containing greater than 3% molasses and 20% NSC should be avoided if there is evidence of IR. Pelleted feeds that are higher in fibre (>10%) and fat (>5%) can be fed instead of sweet feed to provide additional dietary energy. Beware of Senior feeds that could contain high amounts of NSC or molasses
- Meet nutritional requirements in overweight horses with balancer pellets (**KERx Gold Pellet** or **KER All-Phase Pellet**) or vitamin and mineral supplements (**KER Nutrequin**) to provide nutrients with limited calories.
- Use low glycemic index full feeds such as Pegasus Liberty for underweight horses.
- Fat sources such as **KER Equi-Jewel**, sunflower seeds or oil can also be included in diets to increase body condition if required.
- Feed long chain omega 3 fatty acids from **KERx EO-3** for a glucose regulating and antiinflammatory effect without increased calorie intake. Use 60-120ml/500kg.
- Pysillium can increase insulin sensitivity and is a useful supplement.
- Stabilise hindgut ph and bacterial populations by limiting fructan intake from pasture and supplementing with a hindgut buffer **KERx Equi-Shure**.
- Combat oxidative stress by anti-oxidant supplementation with natural vitamin E (**KERx Nano-E**).
- Feed **KER Bio-Bloom** to increase hoof growth and allow more rapid hoof reshaping after a laminitis episode.
- Give the horse access to rock salt or a salt block.
- Small amounts of chaff or soaked beet pulp may be mixed with supplements to increase palatability and encourage consumption.

Medical treatment of PPID such as the use of Pergolide should be discussed with your veterinarian. For detailed diet advice for an individual horse contact KER on advice@ker.com or Milne Feeds WA based equine nutrition advisor Michelle Meylan on 0429 107 790 or pegasus@milne.com.au.

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