



"WE CARE" for your Land and Animals

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Horse Nibbles

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Questions and Answers about Conditioning for Summer

Q: When should I start increasing the amount I feed when I start to condition my horse for the summer show season?

A: As you start to increase work intensity or duration, start increasing feed intake to keep up with the energy expenditure; however, it's also important to maintain the horse's body condition. If the horse is too fat, then continue at the same level before increasing feed. If the horse is thin, increase the feed intake to increase its weight. Many horses carry more weight than they need from the inactivity of the previous months and may not need much of an increase in feed. If the horse is out of shape, make sure you gradually start bringing him back into work.

More Questions and answers about conditioning for Summer at:

<http://www.extension.org/pages/33826/cconditioning-your-horse-for-the-summer>

Q: What about protein levels for a growing horse that is starting training?

A: Yearling horses should have about 14 percent protein in the total diet, which includes hay and grain. Two-year old horses can be fed between 12 percent and 14 percent protein. Weanling horses, however, should be fed between 14 percent to 16 percent protein. When feeding young, growing horses it is best have them on a feed formulated for growth. Many companies have a feed specifically targeted toward growth. Also look for something higher in fat, which will help maintain a consistent growth rate vs. a soluble carbohydrate alternative such as starch.

Q: What would be a good weight for a horse for summer showing?

A: Body condition scoring is the most effective way to determine if your horse is where it needs to be weight-wise. Check out extension's Horses Body Condition Scoring learning module for additional information. Aim for a body condition score of 5 or 6, then work up to that point.

Canine Ivermectin Toxicosis

Summarized from "A Danger to Dogs", Kareenna Langmesser, Equus, 413 February, 2012

Canine ivermectin toxicosis is a neurological dysfunction caused by the ingestion of a large overdose of ivermectin.

It is most commonly traced to the ingestion of equine paste dewormers that contain ivermectin. Doses of ivermectin in horse pastes are given in grams and designed to treat in 1,000 lb increments versus micrograms for canine doses of the drug, like in heartworm medications, that are designed dose increments of 10 to 15 lbs. The ivermectin is absorbed into the blood and when the excessive dose crosses the blood-brain barrier neurological responses dysfunction occur. While any animal can develop ivermectin toxicosis with a high enough dose, some dogs carry a genetic defect that makes them more likely to experience a toxic response to smaller amount of ivermectin. Dogs with this mutation lack the protein that helps eliminate the chemical from the brain, causing toxic amounts to build up more quickly and linger longer in the neural tissue. Regardless of breed, young puppies (whose blood-brain barrier is not fully developed) and dogs that have experienced blows to the head or similar traumas are also more susceptible.

Depending on the amount consumed patients can exhibit a range of neurological dysfunctions that may include, lack of coordination, dilated pupils, blindness, respiratory distress, tremors, uncharacteristic aggression, lethargy, hypersalivation, recumbency and coma. A severe overdose can be fatal. Signs of an overdose usually appear within four to 12 hours of ingesting the ivermectin. The sooner signs appear the more severe the case will be. There are no specific treatments or antidotes for canine ivermectin toxicosis. The animal will need supportive care while the drug clears its system. If the ingestion occurred within the past few hours or if you caught the animal ingesting the paste, induced vomiting and administration of activated charcoal may prevent further absorption. The animal may need to stay hospitalized for a few days to a few weeks, but full recovery is likely for most cases.

When any animal shows neurological abnormalities, rabies must initially be suspected and ruled out. If the animal had access to equine paste dewormers the possibility of canine ivermectin toxicosis will be investigated.

Taking a few simple steps can help you avoid experiencing this ailment with your dog or cats – when deworming your horse clean up any dropped paste immediately (a dog will pick up flavored paste before you know it), dispose of syringes properly (place in a sealed plastic bag and put in a garbage container that animals cannot get into), and wash your hands after administering pastes (especially before playing with or feeding your dogs and cats).

Deworming is an important practice for keeping your horses healthy and with a few simple steps you can keep all your animals safe and healthy.

Sunday Cookies

1 cup uncooked oatmeal
1 cup flour
1 cup shredded carrots
1 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon sugar
2 tablespoons corn oil
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup water (one quarter cup)
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup molasses (one quarter cup)

Mix ingredients in a bowl in the order listed. Make small balls and place on cookie sheet sprayed. Bake 350 degrees for 15 minutes or until golden brown. Horses love 'em!

Birthday Cake

Ingredients

4 cups of sweet feed or oats
1 cup of molasses or honey
2 Carrots cut into carrot sticks
1 Apple cut into slices

Method

Mix the honey and sweet feed or oats together in a big bowl. When fully mixed, place the mixture on a plate and shape into the form of a birthday cake. Use the carrots as candles and the apple slices as decorations. Horses really enjoy this sticky but delicious treat.

