



HORSE NUTRITION

Part (1)

BY

EQUI SANUM HORSE FEEDS, MADE IN HOLLAND.

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The type of feed a horse is fed is crucial to his, well-being, health, breeding qualities, performance and presence (coat, hooves, teeth), Originally horses are inhabitants of the steppe. Although man has started breeding them for competing and show purposes, we must always keep in mind their natural origin. Since horses have not changed biologically we have to see to it that their daily intake fulfills their basic needs in terms of nutrients. We want our horses to perform well, to a competing, working and/or breeding level. That is why we need to ensure that their feed is complete and contains the required and natural ingredients needed for their performance.



Next to the supply of an optimum, complete feed, it is obvious that we have to take proper care of the coat, teeth and hooves of our horse. Moreover the horse needs to be protected from insects and parasites (like f.i. worms). In the thrifty Netherlands there is a saying: "One can have too much of a good thing". This is especially true as far as horses are concerned. Because of their very simple stomach and intestinal system, horses are very sensitive to rations fed in too large quantities all at once, as well as to too high dosages of protein, sugars and salts. For a correctly balanced diet a good knowledge of the horse's condition is essential. Only if breeding, rearing, instruction, training, feeding and grooming ,are well attuned, an optimum performance may be expected.

The digestive system of the horse

Horses are herbivores, just like cows, sheep and goats. However, horses don't have a multiple combined stomach and therefore they don't ruminate. Horses don't have a bacteriological pre-digestion like ruminants (in the paunch). Grasses, papilionaceous flowers and herbs are indispensable. Their digestive tract, however, looks completely different to all herbivores including horses.

With horses Digestion begins by chewing well and through the action of the enzymes in the saliva in both the oral cavity and the pharynx. It is continued in the stomach and the small intestine. Only in the large intestine, where the hard parts of the feed like grass, hay, straw , and cereals are degraded and digested the bacterial flora becomes active. Subsequently the valuable feed compounds are absorbed into the blood stream by way of the intestinal blocks. The digestive tract of the horse consists of 7 parts: pharynx, oesophagus, stomach, small intestine, caecum, large intestine and anus. If one of these 7 parts is out of balance, the entire organism will be affected. Since the feed is chewed in the oral cavity, the horse's teeth must be well taken care of, healthy and complete. The grass is cut by the incisors (6 in the upper and 6 in the lower jaw). In total a mare has a set of 36 teeth and molars, whereas a mature stallion has 40 teeth and molars.

The saliva permeates the masticated feed and makes it into an easy to swallow, smooth and pliable substance. This intensive mastication and soaking by way of saliva is the opposite of the digestive process found among cattle.

NOW IN EGYPT
HORSE FEEDS

EQUI SANUM
PAARDENVOEDERS OP NATUURLIJKE BASIS

Complete feeds on a natural basis

Equi Sanum horse feeds are complete feeds of high quality raw materials like ..

*Purified and treated oats	*Concentrated sugars
*Rolled and heat-treated barley	*Linseed
*Toasted and broken soybean	*Sunflower oils
*Rolled oats pellets	*Natural Antioxidant
*Herb mixture	*Bioregulator
*Lucerne pellets	*Extract of apple
*Vitamin/mineral pellets	*Yeast culture
*Heat-treated cornflakes	

Also supplemented with vitamins, minerals and trace elements

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(To be continued)