



**DODSON & HORRELL**

ANIMAL HEALTH, NUTRITION AND WELL-BEING

**FEEDING SUCCESS**

# FEEDING THE OLDER HORSE

## All you need to know

### Keeping your horse at the ideal weight:

- As your horse gets older they may struggle to maintain their body weight
- Some horses may begin to lose weight due to dental problems or reduced ability to absorb nutrients from the intestine
- Some horses may gain weight due to reductions in workload
- We recommend using our scientifically validated weigh tape and fat scoring your horse once a fortnight to monitor their weight
- You should aim for a fat score of 2.5-3 on a scale of 1-5

### Maximise fibre intake:

- Dental disease is incredibly common in older horses
- Problems such as missing teeth, abnormal wear on the teeth or jaw arthritis can mean that your horse could struggle to chew their feed
- Forage that is not chewed properly can lead to choke, and will not be digested properly in the small intestine, which could lead to impaction colic
- Regular dental check-ups by your vet or qualified dental technician are essential
- Horses with dental problems will benefit from easily digestible fibre such as unmolassed sugar beet
- If your horse struggles to eat hay and you have limited access to pasture then feeding a forage replacer made from soaked KwikBeet, High Fibre Nuts and Alfalfa is an excellent way to meet your horse's fibre requirements



Call us now for expert nutritional advice: **01270 782223**

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## Maintaining muscle mass:

- Older horses may struggle to maintain muscle mass due to:
  - ✓ A reduction in workload
  - ✓ Poor absorption of protein from the small intestine
  - ✓ Reduced ability to build new muscle
- Feeding high quality protein is essential
- Sixteen Plus Mix and Cubes and KwikBeet contain high levels of digestible protein to help maintain your horse's muscles

## Support vital organs:

As your horse gets older their heart, lungs, liver, digestive health and kidneys may begin to need extra support

- Providing a feed with the correct amount of calcium, such as Sixteen Plus, avoids placing additional stress on the kidneys
- Providing extra antioxidants can help support the heart and nervous system
- Herbal supplements such as Breathe Free support a healthy respiratory system
- Our Digestive Support supplement contains yeast, prebiotics and psyllium to help support digestive function

## Promoting mobility:

- Age and previous injuries can put strain on your horse's joints and tendons, leading to stiffness and reduced mobility
- Light, regular exercise is ideal for supporting joint health
- Feeding supplements to encourage joint health can help to keep your horse moving
- Sixteen Plus contains glucosamine which can support healthy cartilage
- Our herbal supplement Mobility contains a blend of herbs to support muscles and joints, including devils claw root

### Top Tip!

Feed older horses from the ground; neck arthritis and missing incisors can make eating from a net tricky. You can even provide a 'plastic tablecloth' beneath their food bowl so they can easily lick up any spillages.

## Recommended products:

### Senior Support Balancer

For horses who maintain weight easily

- A high specification balancer formulated for the older horse
- Joint care - contains MSM and glucosamine supporting mobility and function
- QLC Antioxidants - natural plant based antioxidants supporting immune function
- Herbal health care - turmeric with cracked black pepper
- Hoof support - biotin, zinc and methionine for hoof development

### Sixteen Plus Mix or Cubes

For older horses who start to lose condition

- High energy mix or cubes formulated for the older horse
- High in fibre, oil and good quality protein
- Packed with our patented QLC antioxidants for immune support and overall health
- MSM and glucosamine to support joint health
- Highly palatable and can be fed wet for horses that struggle to chew

### Joint Support

If your horse is struggling with mobility

- Nutritional supplement designed to support your horse's musculoskeletal system
- Contains glucosamine and MSM to support your horse's mobility

### Forage Replacer

If your horse struggles to eat hay and has limited access to pasture

- Haynet in a bucket - provides essential fibre in an easy to chew consistency
- Provide 600g per 100kg of body weight:
  - ✓ Kwikbeet (soak for 10 minutes prior to feeding)
  - ✓ Alfalfa
  - ✓ High Fibe Nuts (can be soaked)

Please visit our website, get in touch via social media or call: **01270 782223**

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