



## FEEDING & MANAGEMENT OF VETERAN HORSES & PONIES

### Primary considerations for feeding golden oldies

- 1 Ease of chewing - Dental problems common in older horses** frequently result in loss of body condition. Signs that your veteran is having problems chewing hay will include 'quidding'. (lumps of partially chewed hay or food will be spat out and left on the floor.) If the length of the fibres in the horse's droppings are getting longer, this is another indication that he is not digesting his fibre properly and the horse should have his teeth checked.
- 2 Digestibility of nutrients & palatability** - As horses get older their digestive system can be compromised = inefficient at absorbing nutrients from the diet, therefore a balanced diet with enhanced levels of vitamins, minerals and nutrients required. Older horses can begin to lose condition easily, especially during the winter and their appetite can also decrease.

### 4 Diet Essentials for Veterans...



**Fibre - ESSENTIAL to maintaining a healthy digestive system. If unable to cope with chewing long-stem forage, offer a more easily chewed form of fibre eg beet pulp**

**Beet Pulp - provides soluble pectins which are easily digested in the hindgut. Help with condition.**

**Oil - calorie dense, aid condition. Feed linseed oil to ensure the correct balance of Omega 3 and Omega 6 oils.**

**FibreGenix balancer - Platinum Pro for poor doers, or Lami Low-Cal for good doers.**

#### Benefits of FibreGenix balancers to Veterans

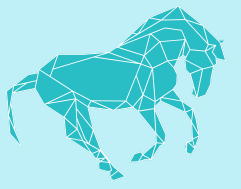
- Nutrient dense, supplies key nutrients, highly bioavailable
- Low feeding rate
- Small pellets easier to eat, can be soaked into a mash
- Provides protein, vits/mins, antioxidants, digestive aids, hoof & coat supplement
- Boost immune health and nutrient absorption



25 year old Hispano-Arabe good doer fed on forage and Lami Low-Cal in summer & Platinum Pro during winter.

### Diet tip:

Long-stem forage (grass, hay, and haylage) should be fed at 1.5% - 2% of body weight per day and should NEVER fall below 1% of body weight per day. Essential for horses to have their forage requirements met, use forage replacers if your horse struggles to consume enough long-stem forage.



### Top tips for managing your veterans

- If you don't have one already, invest in a weight tape and use it fortnightly to monitor your horse or pony's body condition. Using a weight tape allows you to be able to pick up any changes in your veteran's condition much quicker than by the eye alone
- Maintain a regular worming programme. Some older horses are more difficult to keep condition on, not because of their age, but perhaps as a result of parasite damage over the years
- Remember that horses can use up to 80% of their feed energy just keeping warm. Make sure that your horse is adequately rugged in winter and, if he is living out, ensure that he has shelter from the wind, rain and summer heat which can also affect condition
- Feed electrolytes daily when temperatures exceed 30 degrees



### 4 key digestive aids for veterans

**Live yeast probiotic** - increases fibre digestion and allows your horse or pony to utilise the fibre in the diet more efficiently.

**2. Purified Nucleotides** -increases nutrient absorption enabling the horse to get more out of their diet. Supports the immune system by facilitating the immune cells; helps to fight viral and bacterial infections.

**3. MOS Prebiotic** with beta glucans - boosts the immune system and removes pathogenic bacteria from the foregut.

**4. FOS Prebiotic** - Helps reduce the risk of digestive upset eg colic; improves insulin sensitivity in overweight veterans; strengthens the immune system; enhances digestive health.

