

## Why a Mineral Balanced Diet ?



All horses on hay instead of fresh grass need Vitamin E and an Omega-3 source. All horses need salt. Beyond that though, you won't know what your horse needs until you see what's in the diet. Horses eat the same thing 24/7/365. It's not like a varied human diet where you can take a multi-vitamin for "insurance". There are often sizeable excesses, deficiencies and imbalances in equine diets that keep repeating themselves every day.

When this happens, a commercial supplement may help, have no effect, or make things worse. Some supplements are better than others in correcting common problems, but there's no substitute for matching supplementation to diet.

If you know exactly what the diet is providing you can correct those deficiencies & excesses with a custom mineral mix that not only meets minimum requirements but also assures that minerals are in the proper ratios. Minerals compete with each other, so ratios are just

important as meeting requirements.

Mineral deficiencies and imbalances influence a lot more than you may think - coat, skin, hoof health and quality, coat color, resistance to allergies, resistance to infectious diseases (and response to vaccines), wound healing, fertility, age related diseases, susceptibility to cancer, muscular function, lung function, pretty much any function you can think of.

Let's take something very common - sun-bleaching of coats in horses on pasture. They all do it, right? Wrong! Sun-bleaching is a sensitive indicator of copper and/or zinc deficiency. Not exactly fatal, but more is going on under the skin. Key antioxidant systems require zinc and copper to function, assembly of collagen - including in growing bones, joint cartilage, tendons and ligaments requires these minerals, utilization of iron to incorporate it into hemoglobin requires copper. Wound healing, integrity of the skin and hoof, even sense of taste and smell depend on zinc.

The point is that solid nutrition is not just for horses with metabolic problems. It's for every horse, and every horse can benefit. They won't drop dead on the spot without it, and at least in the case of healthy adults you may not have any serious problems - at least not right away. But why wait until things go drastically wrong. Provide your horse with the building blocks he needs to stay as healthy as possible.

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