

Feeding Horses and Ponies

HAPPA basic instructions for feeding horses and ponies 2006

- 1 Feed little and often i.e. 2 or 3 times per day.
- 2 Always use best quality feed (never dusty or mouldy)
- 3 Fresh water must always be available at all times
- 4 Feed your equine according to its body weight and work being done
- 5 Feed something succulent to your animal every day e.g. carrots
- 6 Any changes in diet must be introduced gradually
- 7 Allow at least 1 hour after feeding concentrates to your equine before working him
- 8 Always remember good dental health is essential to aid proper digestion
- 9 Do not allow your horse to bolt his food
- 10 Keep a constant check on his weight



Stabled horse/pony

- 1 If your animal is kept in a stable he relies on you for all his nourishment and also his cleanliness requirements.
- 2 Clean fresh water must be available 24/7
- 3 He must be fed little and often
- 4 A good guide to feeding is 2% of his body weight (example an animal weighing 300kgs would be fed 6kgs of hay or haylage per day plus carrots)
- 5 A net can be used to make him eat more slowly and his food will last longer
- 6 Equines at rest will not usually need to be fed concentrate unless they are on a special diet.
- 7 Equines doing light work/hard work will need some concentrate. ask your local feed merchant/vet for advice.
- 8 If you feed your animal sugar beat make sure it has been soaked for at least 12 hours (if raw sugar beat is eaten by your animal you must call the vet immediately. may result in choke/colic/death)
- 9 If your equine has suffered laminitis seek advice from your vet with regard to feeding.
- 10 If your equine's droppings are tiny it can be a sign of under feeding/ if your equine is putting on weight it can be a sign of over feeding. if this happens seek advice.



grass kept horses/ponies

- 1 Horses and ponies kept on grass should not need any concentrates during the summer months.
- 2 Fresh clean water must be available 24/7
- 3 You will need at least 1 acre of land per animal
- 4 You will need to check that there no poisonous plants growing in the field e.g.ragwort,hemlock.privit, buckthorn,st. johns wort, deadly nightshade etc
- 5 You will need to check on your animal at least once per day to make sure he is safe and secure (check for injuries)

- 6 Pick up your animals droppings regularly to prevent the field becoming horse sick
- 7 If your horse/pony is prone to skin ailments/insect attack etc prevention is better than cure
- 8 You must provide a shelter winter/summer
- 9 Monitor and control weight
- 10 Worm your animal regularly approx every 8 weeks. your vet will advise
- 11 If you winter your equine out in the field you must suppliment his feed with hay/haylage and concentrate
- 12 Finally your horse/pony is a social animal and will need other animals in his field for company.

