

Senior Horse Nutrition

Horses have the capacity to live long lives. As horses have become companion animals as well as work animals we have seen horses kept until much older ages and it is not unusual to find horses in their late 20's and even early 30's in years of age.

In general terms the strict nutrient needs of older horses do not differ that greatly from their younger relatives. However as horses age they become less able to metabolically handle large changes in their nutrients and may develop special needs.

Dental Needs

One of the first things to consider in feeding the older horse is the condition of the teeth. All horses should have their teeth checked to see that “spurs” and edges do not develop that not only limit the ability of the horse to chew grains and forages, but also may inflict real pain. Any horse that appears to “dribble” their meal and shows body weight loss should have its’ teeth examined. Older horses may actually have lost teeth or worn them down to the point that it limits their ability to masticate properly.

Protein Requirements

Older horses may have more limited absorptive capabilities. It is important that they receive the proper balance of amino acids, not only to maintain skeletal muscle, but also to maintain a strong immune system. We do not want a high crude protein diet as it puts more pressure on the kidneys to excrete urea.

Prince Regency Senior contains Zeo-Carb® a product that can hold excess ammonia ions. When ammonia ions (containing nitrogen) are produced by bacteria in the lower gut. Ammonia ions can be absorbed with the result of increased urea production. By holding those ions in the gut, and potentially absorbing ions from the body into the gut, we can reduce the effect of excess protein by increased fecal nitrogen content rather than urinary nitrogen.

Calcium and Phosphorous.

It is recommended that older horses be restricted in their excess to legumes (alfalfa and clover hays) in order to reduce the Calcium excretion by the kidneys.

Key Features of Prince Regency Senior (#210003)

- Chelated Mineral-superior biological availability
- Proteins balanced for amino acids.
- Contains Natural Vitamin E- Greater biological availability with increased plasma concentrations compared to synthetic forms.
- Contains Zeo-Carb® to reduce the effects of excess Nitrogen
- Contains mannan oligosaccharides to help support immune protection
- Contains d-glucosamine.