

FEEDING THE AGED HORSE

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE HORSE AGES ?

The diversity of the **intestinal microbiota** decreases

The **ability to digest** does not alter except if parasites and dental health are not controlled

Orthopaedic diseases such as osteoarthritis can affect the will to eat

The risk of **dental problems** increases with age

Energy requirements in winter are increased.
Heat is harder to tolerate

The immune response decreases
The response to vaccination decreases

Losing condition is abnormal and should be taken as a warning sign of a health problem

HOW TO FEED THE AGED HORSE ?



Regularly evaluate the body condition score and/or weigh the horse



Worm using a programme elaborated by your vet



Control dental health once a year

GENERAL REMARKS



FORAGE

Provide 1.5 to 2.5% (DM) of bodyweight in forage (roughage), so 8-14kg for a 500kg horse



CONCENTRATES

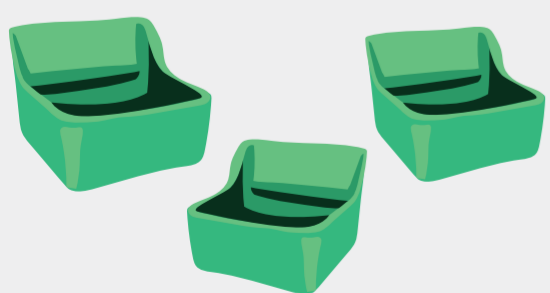
Concentrate feed containing quality protein sources (soya, luzerne), rich in essential amino-acids (lysine, threonine)

RESTRICT STARCH INTAKE TO A MAXIMUM OF 100G FOR 100KG LIVE-WEIGHT PER MEAL



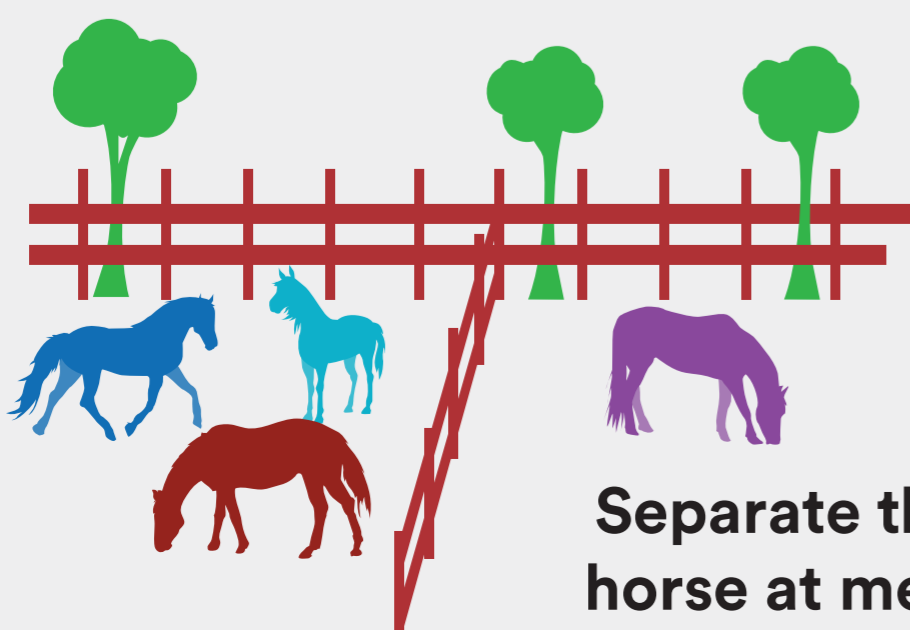
VITAMINS AND MINERALS

Supplement rich in antioxidants (vitamin C, vitamin E, selenium)



Offer sufficient mangers/ feed bowls and hay racks to avoid competition

OR



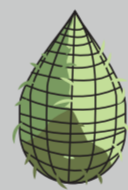
Separate the aged horse at mealtimes

SPECIFICITIES

THE OBESE HORSE



Good health: Maximum of 1.5% (DM) of live-weight in hay a day + vitamin and mineral supplement



Metabolic disease: Restrict grazing. Hay <10% of soluble sugars (soak for a minimum of 2h). Feed hay in a small-holed haynet.

THE HORSE LOSING WEIGHT



Good health : Gradually increase energy. 1) hay then 2) concentrate feed.



Add 50ml of oil for each 100kg of live-weight



Give a pre-pro-postbiotic supplement



Dental problems : Grass is easier to chew than hay
Choose leafy hay, haylage or chopped hay and a high fibre feed

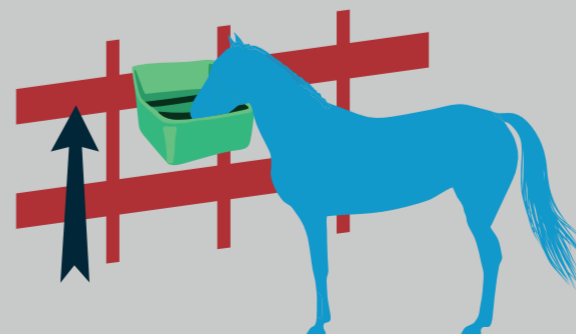


4 to 5



Distribute soaked fibrous foods over 4 to 5 meals a day

THE ARTHRITIC HORSE



Feed the arthritic horse at height
But
Hanging hanging haynets



Distribute a chondroprotective agent-based

