



Encouraging Your Horse to Consume a New Feed or Supplement

WHITE PAPER



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Often it is necessary to introduce your horse to changes of diet. These dietary changes can include changes of types or sources of feed, including grass, hay or grains. Other changes may include new ration ingredients or supplements, either mixed into or top-dressed on the regular feed. Reasons for a change may include the need for a new source of base ration or hay, a change in pasture or type of grass, or the need to supplement the normal diet with additional vitamins, minerals, electrolytes, and other nutritional supplements.

Whenever making a change to your horse's normal diet, remember the following:

- Make sure that any change in basic ingredients (grain, grass or hay forage) is of good quality and from a reputable source
- Avoid making abrupt changes
- Introduce your horse to the new feed (including pasture grass and hay) or supplement slowly over a period of several days to a few weeks
- Gradually increase the amount of the new feed or supplement. For example – mix the new feed or hay with the old feed or hay and gradually increase the amount of the new source during subsequent feedings
- Always make sure your horse has an adequate supply of good, clean water, which is familiar to them
- When adding new supplements or ingredients to grain concentrate rations, it may be necessary to mix the supplement into the feed, or add a small quantity of molasses to the supplement and feed. If the molasses does not work, brown sugar, baby food (such as peas or carrots), carrot juice or concentrated frozen fruit juices may help
- Supplements, such as vitamins, minerals and electrolytes can be introduced to your horse by gradually increasing over a period of several days, until the suggested daily dose or feeding rate is achieved

An example for a nutritional supplement follows:

If the suggested supplement feeding rate is one scoop at each feeding for a maximum of 2 scoops per day, and if your horse is initially reluctant to eat the supplement, you could gradually increase the amount fed as follows:

- Day 1 & 2 – a.m. and p.m. feeding – provide $\frac{1}{4}$ scoop mixed into the feed at each feeding.
- Day 3 & 4 – a.m. and p.m. feeding – increase the amount to $\frac{1}{2}$ scoop mixed into the feed at each feeding.
- Day 5 & 6 – a.m. and p.m. feeding – increase the amount to $\frac{3}{4}$ scoop mixed into the feed at each feeding.
- Day 7 & 8 – a.m. and p.m. feeding – increase the amount to one full scoop mixed into the feed at each feeding.

Additionally, the normal feeding regime can be modified to divide the normal amount of daily feed and supplement over an increased number of feedings per day.

Every horse is different and has its own unique personality and preferences, so you may need to experiment with various combinations of amounts fed, until you reach the desired feeding rate.



About the Author

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About Alpharma Equine Products

At Alpharma Equine Products, we understand the cherished bond between you and your horse, and we are deeply committed to offering innovative equine health care products to support your horse's health and well-being.

As part of Alpharma's globally recognized Animal Health Division, we draw on over 100 years of expertise, leadership and innovation to create a technologically advanced line of horse health products, including equine care supplements, a nutritive wound healing cream and a leg cooling therapy.

We blend science and sensitivity to develop, manufacture and deliver these advanced nutritional equine healthcare supplements, wound care and therapeutic horse health products.

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