



2015 Condition Score Project

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Introduction

Since the launch of EquiBrew in August of 2014, horse owners have reported a range of effects including calmer, quieter horses and improvements to overall condition.

EquiBrew is unique in the marketplace. It is a fresh fermentation product with a limited shelf life that contains high numbers of live, active probiotic microbes (minimum 10^8 CFU/ml lactobacilli) and a complex of metabolites including organic acids (butyric acid, lactic acids, acetic acid, their esters, etc.).

We think these unique (for the marketplace) characteristics are responsible for the effects described below.

Method

In April 2015, horse owners were invited via Facebook to participate in a project to explore the potential EquiBrew has to improve a horse's condition.

Participants were self-selected. The criteria for participation was that they agree to follow the protocol, fill in an initial application form and trial log sheets, and have a horse that displayed difficulty in improving or maintaining condition.

Horses included in the trial received 250ml EquiBrew daily for 30 days with the product mixed into feed. Participants administered the product in a single dose or split into two or more doses if the horse was fed multiple times per day.

We asked participants to record the condition of their horse and any other information, i.e., other effects, changes to ration, etc., that were noted. Participants used the Henneke horse body condition scoring system, a system of visual assessment with scores ranging from 1 to 9.

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henneke_horse_body_condition_scoring_system)

Thirteen participants completed the course of product administration and returned the weekly log sheets reporting their observations. Participants also supplied photographs of the horses at the start and conclusion of the project.

Results

At the end of day 30 condition scores had **improved on average from 3.4 to 4.7**. This was **an average increase* of 1.3** with a range of 0-4 and one 0 improvement reported. No horse lost condition. (see Table 1)

* $p < 0.0005$ (p values obtained via a paired two sample t-test)

Table 1

Owner-scored condition at day 1 and at day 30, the end of the experiment.

Horse	Day 1	Day 30	Change
1	3.75	5	1.25
2	4	4.5	0.5
3	3	4	1
4	3.5	4.5	1
5	2	6	4
6	4	4.75	0.75
7	4	5	1
8	3.5	4.5	1
9	4	5	1
10	3	4	1
11	3	5	2
12	4	4	0
13	3	5	2
MEAN	3.4	4.7	1.3

Horse owners reported a range of positive effects during the trial. These effects include improvements in the horse's general and feeding behavior, shinier coats, and a reduced feed bill.

Overall there appears to be a significant change (improvement) in condition score of the participants. Further, the horses appeared to have a range of responses which varied considerably and which were considered to be positive effects by the horse owners.

Conclusion

Administration of EquiBrew appears to have benefits that improve condition score.

Administration of EquiBrew also appears to produce other effects considered beneficial by participants but this project did not investigate or formally score these effects.

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