



2016-7 Equine Behavioral Issues Case Study Group Report

Introduction

Since the launch of EquiBrew in August of 2014, horse owners have reported a range of positive effects including calmer, quieter horses, improvements to overall condition, control of diagnosed or suspected ulcers, reduced stereotypic behaviors (windsucking, fence-walking, head flicking, etc.), improved skin/coat condition, improved freedom of movement, etc.

Also reported was the elimination or significant improvement of behavioral issues that had previously resisted other forms of treatment. These included horses with separation anxiety, nervous or spooky horses, aggressive or unpredictable horses, etc.

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 10⁹ CFU/dose lactobacilli) and a complex of metabolites including beneficial organic acids (butyric acid, lactic acids, acetic acid, their esters, etc.).

We assert these unique characteristics are responsible for the effects described below.

Method

In November 2016, we invited horse owners via Facebook to participate in a case study group for horses with significant behavioral issues that had not been resolved by other means.

Participants were self-selected. They agreed to follow the case study protocol, take before and after photographs, and diligently fill in and return the online start and finish surveys.

Horses included in the trial received 250ml EquiBrew daily for 14 days with the product mixed into feed and the dose split if feeding twice or more daily.

We asked participants to record the severity of their behavioral issues, body condition, overall skin/coat condition, freedom of movement and mood/demeanor. Participants used the Henneke* horse body condition scoring system, a system of visual assessment with scores ranging from 1 to 9 and this same scale (1-9, one being almost perfect and 9 being terrible) was used to score the other four categories, i.e., behavioral issues, overall skin/coat condition, freedom of movement, and mood.

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

Seventeen participants completed the course of product administration and the online start/finish surveys recording their observations.

The average age of participating horses was **9.3 years** with a range of **3-15**.
The case study group consisted of geldings and mares and no stallions.

Results

At the end of day 14 scores had **improved** on average:

- **Behavior:** **+39% from 6.4 to 3.9**
- **Body Condition:** -2% from 6.1 to 5.9*
- **Coat:** +27% from 4.6 to 3.4
- **Movement:** +30% from 4.9 to 3.4
- **Mood:** **+36% from 5.4 to 3.4**

*The change (reduction) in body condition score was small (not statistically significant) but is considered positive as horses in the study were on average a bit overweight.

Table 1

Age	Behavior		BCS		Coat		Movement		Mood	
	Day 1	End	Day 1	End	Day 1	End	Day 1	End	Day 1	End
8	5	4	5	6	5	2	4	5	5	4
3	7	3	7	7	4	2	5	2	7	3
8	7	4	5	5	5	3	4	4	4	4
6	7	7	6	6	3	4	4	3	3	4
3	6	3	7	8	7	8	5	8	6	3
9	8	3	7	6	6	3	6	3	7	3
12	5	4	6	6	3	3	4	4	4	4
5	6	4	8	7	4	2	5	2	5	2
14	6	2	7	7	3	2	4	2	6	2
15	6	2	4	5	5	2	6	2	5	1
11	6	5	6	5	6	4	5	6	5	4
15	5	4	6	5	6	4	6	5	5	4
8	8	2	5	6	4	3	4	2	5	2
5	7	2	6	6	5	3	4	2	8	2
13	8	7	7	6	3	2	6	3	5	6
8	7	8	6	6	3	6	5	2	7	8
15	5	3	5	4	6	4	6	3	4	2
9.3	6.4	3.9	6.1	5.9	4.6	3.4	4.9	3.4	5.4	3.4
	2.5	39%	0.1	2%	1.2	27%	1.5	30%	1.9	36%
		<0.00005		NS		<0.005		<0.005		<0.001

Overall there appears to be a statistically significant improvement in every category scored except BCS.
p values were obtained via a paired two sample t-test



Conclusion

Administration of EquiBrew significantly improved the behavior, freedom of movement, general skin/coat condition, and mood of horses suffering from persistent behavioral issues.

Additional benefits were reported by some study participants but this case study group was not designed to examine these variables.

Samples of the post-study feedback from participants:

I noticed a big difference in Bertie's general demeanor and behavior. Much more laid back and less prone to working herself up when away from the ponies next door to us. I will be continuing to use EquiBrew permanently with Bertie after this as I believe it has had a big impact on her overall and I have a much nicer horse due to it.

Not a huge difference in the photos maybe his coat has a little more shine - but huge difference in his attitude!

Have struggled feeding a horse (who is a very good doer) on basically dairy cow grass.

The EquiBrew calmed him down hugely!

Before I would be lunging him before I rode him to get some energy out and would be a constant battle with him jig-jogging and always wanting to go. Before he got distressed when out on treks by himself in the last week I have been taking him out and can ride him around the farm on the buckle.

Before starting the EquiBrew she had a very coarse coat. It is currently falling out in handfuls and she has a much sleeker coat now. She also was also very scurfy and had bald spots at the top of the tail. The scurf has completely disappeared and the hair is growing back and I haven't even washed it!

She is a good doer and holds weight well however I think she has started to lose her pot gut and overall has a better shape to her.

Her behavior has improved loads, for the first time in months she is grazing with my 2 mares. She had become very aggressive towards other mares and very clingy to my gelding. All 4 are now paddocked together and getting along well (no cuts or bite marks on my other mares) She will still pin her ears back and swish her tail at them but a drastic improvement.

Also a massive improvement with leaving her gelding friend. I had to take her away for the vet a week ago and she was so quiet to lead that my non-horsey husband led her out of the paddock and loaded her.



No spookiness/shooting off when I ride/lunge her either.

I think overall there has been a huge change in her behavior.

Ben has always become very anxious and stressed whenever we have taken him out, to the point where he tenses up so much he struggles to move forward. He also often gets very cold-backed if not ridden every day. After 14 days on EquiBrew I have seen an amazing difference.

I was skeptical trying this product but all I have seen are improvements. Ben hasn't shown any signs of being cold-backed or anxious and his coat and skin have improved significantly. He has gained weight and generally seems a lot happier in himself.

As my horse is a very good doer, I was concerned he might gain weight with a hard feed every day. I'm pleased to say his weight has remained the same, but his coat, topline and demeanor are vastly improved!

During this trial period I have been progressing my ground work more consistently and successfully than ever before. My horse is more responsive than reactive and has developed a lovely topline and condition during this time.

After being on EquiBrew for 2 weeks I have definitely noticed a difference. Before he would start panicking as soon as the other horse was haltered and out the gate, but now I can get the horse 700m away from the paddock before he starts panicking. And my rides have got a lot less jog-joggy which is much nicer than before. Can't wait to see what he'll be like after being on it for longer.

Her coat is shiny and smooth not dull like it was. She seems a bit happier not so anxious. I would recommend this product it definitely works.

www.equibrew.com www.facebook.com/equibrew info@equibrew.com