

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 body & coat condition, control of diagnosed or suspected ulcers, reduced stereotypic behaviors (windsucking, etc.), and improved freedom of movement.

Also reported was the elimination or significant improvement of chronic skin conditions, including “mud fever,” i.e., a fungal or bacterial infection of the lower extremities.

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 microbial 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 July 2017, we invited horse owners via Facebook to participate in a case study group for horses suffering from mud fever.

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

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

We asked participants to record a score for the body condition of their horse, its mud fever, overall skin 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. This same scale (1-9) was used to score the other four categories, i.e., mud fever, overall skin condition, freedom of movement, and mood, with 1 being worst possible and 9 being best possible.

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

Nine participants completed the course of product administration, completed the online start & finish surveys, and took before & after photographs.

Results

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

- **Mud Fever:** **+2.7 from 4.6 to 7.2**
- **Overall Skin Condition:** **+1.8 from 4.9 to 6.7**
- **Movement:** **+1.6 from 5.8 to 7.3**
- **Mood:** **+1.3 from 5.9 to 7.2**
- **Body Condition:** **Statistically insignificant change**

Table 1

Mud Fever		BCS		Skin Condition		Movement		Mood		
Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	
1	7	7	7	3	7	4	8	5	9	
3	6	5	7	5	8	5	9	6	9	
6	9	4	5	6	7	8	8	6	6	
4	6	5	6	4	6	8	8	6	7	
5	7	5	5	4	5	4	5	5	6	
3	6	5	5	5	6	3	4	6	6	
5	7	5	5	6	7	7	7	5	5	
6	8	6	6	7	8	6	9	5	8	
8	9	7	6	4	6	7	8	9	9	
Average	4.6	7.2	5.4	5.8	4.9	6.7	5.8	7.3	5.9	7.2
Change	+2.7		+0.3		+1.8		+1.6		+1.3	
Significance	p<0.0005*		NS#		p<0.001		p<0.02		p<0.02	

* p values were obtained via a paired two sample t-test

NS = not statistically significant @ p<0.05

Conclusion

Administration of EquiBrew improved the symptoms of mud fever, freedom of movement, general skin condition, and mood of horses suffering from mud fever.

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







“Hair re-growth after the mud fever has been very fast.”

“The mud fever has not disappeared but his skin condition under and around the scabs is much better. Pain has gone, his coat is amazing and he is so settled. Thanks so much.”

“I do think there has been improvement with the recent weather, especially on the hind left as much of the hard crusty scabs have disappeared. Also, they would usually have got a lot worse with no treatment.”



“I had been trying different methods to get rid of and prevent his mud fever from getting worse (as his mud fever was only in the early stages) but I found these other methods weren't helping efficiently enough and quickly enough. I was washing his legs with Iodine however this made it worse because it weakened the skin and the affected area was very red with a lot of heat around the area. So by using the EquiBrew meant that I didn't have to wash his legs and it was very easy to use as it was just added to his nightly feeds. The EquiBrew worked very efficiently and quickly to prevent his mud fever from getting worse.”

“Thanks for letting Rasy on this trial. Rasy was very sore and slightly lame with this mud fever. Lots of exudates under the scabs. Now he is a happy horse. Hair grown back and mud fever gone on the front legs, and backs are looking so much better, even with this horrible weather and ever increasing mud. Thanks again.”

“Yep, last day on the stuff and we have a very happy sound horse with his hair growing back. He will now even walk through the mud.”

“I am very satisfied with the EquiBrew. It was easy to add to his feed, palatable and kept well. His mud fever has been wiped out and hair re-growth is already happening. I will continue to use EquiBrew.”

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