



2017 Overweight Horse 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, and improved freedom of movement. **Also reported was weight loss in chronically obese horses.**

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 February 2017, we invited horse owners via Facebook to participate in a case study group for horses suffering from chronic obesity.

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

Horses included in the trial received 250ml EquiBrew daily for 30 days with the product mixed into feed and split if feeding more than once daily.

Participants were asked to record the body condition score of their horse, and score its overall skin/coat condition, freedom of movement, and its mood/demeanor. Participants used the Henneke* horse body condition scoring system, a system of visual assessment with scores ranging from 1 to 9. The same scale (1-9, 1 being terrible and 9 being near perfect) was used to score the three other categories, i.e., skin/coat condition, freedom of movement, and mood. Participants were also asked to measure their horse's girth at the start and finish of the study.

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

Fifteen participants completed the course of product administration and recorded their observations in our online survey. 11 of the 15 participants reported girth measurements.

The average age of participating horses was **9.7 years** with a range of **2-16**. The case study group consisted of geldings and mares and no stallions.

Results

At the end of day 30 scores had **improved** on average:

- Body Condition: -12% from 7.3 to 6.5
- Girth -5cm from 170cm to 165cm
- Movement: +22% from 5.5 to 6.7
- Overall Skin Condition: +17% from 6.0 to 7.0
- Mood: +64% from 4.6 to 7.5

Age	BCS		Girth (cm)		Coat/skin		Movement		Mood		
	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	
9	7	5	--	--	8	8	4	5	5	8	
8	9	8	127	122	5	7	4	6	5	9	
9	9	7	133	131	3	5	4	7	4	9	
5	8	6	148	125	6	7	3	6	3	8	
13	7	6	146	144	7	7	6	7	3	7	
12	7	6	200	200	7	6	7	7	7	6	
9	7	7	--	--	7	7	7	7	6	8	
9	6	7	187	186	7	5	7	7	7	7	
15	7	6	--	--	4	5	5	6	4	6	
8	7	6	202	197	7	8	7	7	6	8	
8	7	6	--	--	8	9	8	9	5	8	
16	7	7	197	191	4	8	4	7	2	9	
2	7	6	112	110	7	6	6	7	4	7	
7	7	6	189	180	5	8	5	6	5	8	
16	8	8	228	227	5	9	5	6	3	5	
Average	9.7	7.3	6.5	170	165	6.0	7.0	5.5	6.7	4.6	7.5
	p<0.001		p<0.02		p<0.03		p<0.0005		p<0.00005		

Overall there appears to be a statistically significant change (improvement) in each scored category
p values were obtained via a paired two sample t-test

Conclusion

Administration of EquiBrew reduced the girth measurement and improved the body condition, freedom of movement, general skin/coat condition, and mood of horses suffering from chronic obesity.

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

Comments from participants at the conclusion of the study period:

“I have had a huge improvement in freedom of movement. Fat deposits have reduced on rump and no cresty neck. Her mood was improved after only a few days & massive effect on appetite.”

“Wow!!! She has lost around 20cm! Amazing. And her coat’s looking way better.”

“She seems a lot more comfortable in her body and is a lot less moody. She is still obese but the photos definitely show a change in body shape. Many of the big fat lumps have reduced in size.”

“His coat has improved and the crest on his neck is shrinking, His fat rolls along his side have decreased in size as well.”

“Toby’s coat has improved hugely. He is losing the rough dry hair daily and his mane and tail are now soft and not rough and coarse. His irritable bowel has settled as well since being on EquiBrew.”

“Now eating more grass, and seems to be able to eat grass while not getting fatter.”

“Her coat is looking the best it ever has since being on EquiBrew.”

“She has had an injury during this trial and therefore didn't get as much exercise as normal, and still lost weight.”

“Her skin conditions have improved heaps!”

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