



2015 EquiBrew Geriatric Horse Project

*A group of case studies involving “off the track”
Thoroughbred geldings over 23 years of age.*

Introduction

Since the launch of EquiBrew in August of 2014, horse owners have reported a range of effects including calmer, quieter horses, improvements to overall condition, reduction or elimination of chronic skin conditions, and improved freedom of movement. **These reports often involved older 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 10^9 CFU/dose lactobacilli) and a complex of beneficial microbial metabolites.

We think these unique characteristics are responsible for the numerous positive effects described below.

Method

In July 2015, New Zealand horse owners were invited via Facebook to participate in a project using a group of case studies to explore the potential EquiBrew has to improve overall body condition and other factors in geriatric horses.

In an attempt to reduce the variability of the participating horses, the study was limited to Thoroughbred geldings that were 23 years of age or older at the commencement of the study and that had a history of running in at least one officially sanctioned race in their lifetime.

Participants were self-selected. They agreed to follow the protocol, take before and after photographs, and diligently fill in and return an initial application form, trial log sheets and photographs.

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 the 250ml into two or more doses if the horse was fed multiple times per day.

We asked participants to record the overall condition of their horse, his skin condition, freedom of movement and his 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) was used to score the other three categories assessed, i.e., skin condition, movement and mood.

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

Twelve participants completed the course of product administration and returned the weekly log sheets reporting their observations along with before & after photos.

The average age of participating horses was **26.1 years**.

Results

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

- **Condition:** + **22.4%**
- **Movement:** + **15.7%**
- **Skin:** + **12.1%**
- **Mood:** + **14.6%**

Table 1

Age	Cond. (day 1)	Cond. (end)	Mov. (day 1)	Mov. (end)	Skin (day 1)	Skin (end)	Mood (day 1)	Mood (end)	
25	2	2.5	4	6	4	5	4	8.5	
27	5	5	5	5	7	7	8	9	
28	3	4	4	5	5	5	7	7	
24	4.5	4	7	7	7	7	6	7	
26	5	6	6	7	5	7	5	7	
30	5	5	5	5	4	8	8	8	
23	5.5	6.5	6	4	4	4.5	3	5	
30	3	6	2	3.5	8	8	8	9	
25	3	5	4	7	7	7	6	6	
27	2	4	5	7	6	8	8	9	
23	5	5	6	7	9	8	8	8	
25	3	6	4	5	4	5	5	6	
Average	26.1	3.8	4.9	4.8	5.7	5.8	6.6	6.3	7.5
Improvement		22.4%		15.7%		12.1%		14.6%	
Significance		<i>p-level:</i> 0.0045	<i>p-level:</i>	0.0187	<i>p-level:</i>	0.0326	<i>p-level:</i>	0.0056	

Overall there appears to be a significant change (improvement) in the scores in each category with p values for overall Condition improvement being 0.0045, Movement improvement being 0.0187, Skin improvement being 0.0326 and Mood improvement being 0.0056 (p values obtained via a paired two sample t-test)

Participants reported a range of other non-scored effects which varied considerably and which were considered to be positive effects by the horse owners.

Conclusion

Administration of EquiBrew improves the body condition, freedom of movement, skin condition and mood of geriatric horses.

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

These reported effects included improvements in the consistency of manure, reduced susceptibility to weather-related stresses (mud fever, rain scald, etc.), a return to work, reduced susceptibility to a flush of grass, reduced head “flicking,” reduced sensitivity to girth/touch/grooming, and improved coat lustre/depth of color.

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

2015 Geriatric Horse Project is Copyright ©2015 by BioBrew Ltd. Fair use for journalism, discussion, or study is permitted.