

SOUTH AFRICAN PONY CLUB



Feeding Achievement Badge

Workbook



Objectives:

To know the basic rules of watering and feeding and be able to recognize different feeds

Key points:

- Describe and understand the rules of feeding
- Recognise feeds such as: mixes, nuts and straights such as oats and barley. Distinguish between nuts and sugar beet pellets
- Describe qualities of good hay/foliage

Additional reading:

The manual of horsemanship

Keeping a pony at grass

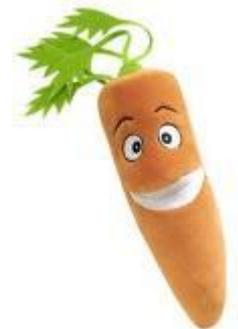
NAME

BRANCH



Describe and understand the rules of feeding

1. **Feed little and often** - The horse's stomach has a capacity of 8-14 liters. When in the stomach, the food doubles in size. If you feed too much the stomach can't handle it and the excess will go to waste. So your horse can stay thin even if he is eating a lot
2. **Don't work your horse after a feed** - Allow 20mins to finish the feed and 1hr 30 minutes to digest
 - A full stomach restricts full inhalation (breathing in) due to the stomach being behind the diaphragm
 - The stomach needs a good blood supply to digest the food, and when the horse is exercised, the muscles also need the blood supply
 - Digestion stops when work begins, fermentation carries on and the horse can get colic
3. **Don't feed your horse directly after work** - a good blood supply is still required to release heat and help the horse cool down. If there is not enough blood supply to digest the food then it can result in colic
4. **Always make sure your horse has had water before a feed** - when your horse takes a long drink it pushes undigested food into the intestine and can cause blockages and result in colic. It is normal for horses to have a quick drink during or just after feed
5. **Give your horse plenty of roughage (hay etc)**- The caecum and large intestine are designed to handle large quantities of roughage. Roughage helps peristalsis (This is the action of the muscles in the intestine which push food through the intestine)
6. **You should not suddenly change your horse's food.** This is because the large intestine and caecum use micro flora (bacteria+ protozoa) to ferment food, different foods require different amounts of micro flora, takes several days to adjust quantities. Sudden changes will not allow food to be digested fully and blockages can occur
7. **Quality** - bad quality food might not contain correct vitamins and minerals and other food groups in the correct quantities
8. **You must always use clean bowls** - old food goes off. You wash your plate after meals so do the same for your horse
9. **Succulents** - These are very good for your horse. Grass, carrots etc. They contain essential vitamins and minerals
10. **Routine** - horses like routine. They feel secure if they are fed at roughly the same time and in the same place everyday





Describe qualities of good hay

The quality of all hay depends on the quality of the plant and on the conditions under which it was harvested.

- **Colour**

A predominantly green colour denotes satisfactory curing. Bleaching of the hay is undesirable. Bleaching is recognised by a straw colour in the hay and is the result of over-exposure to the sun. A brownish appearance, as a result of weathering and rain damage, is also undesirable. A brown colour with a caramel smell indicates overheating and is to be avoided. Caramelised hay results from baling or stacking hay that is too wet



- **Leafiness**

Leafiness is desirable since the leaves contain more digestible nutrients than do the stems

- **Aroma**

There should be a pleasant hay aroma. The hay should smell sweet

- **Mouldiness and weeds**

Hay should not be mouldy. Excessive mouldiness makes the hay unpalatable and could cause digestive disturbances in animals. Weeds should not be incorporated in the hay

- **Hay Net**

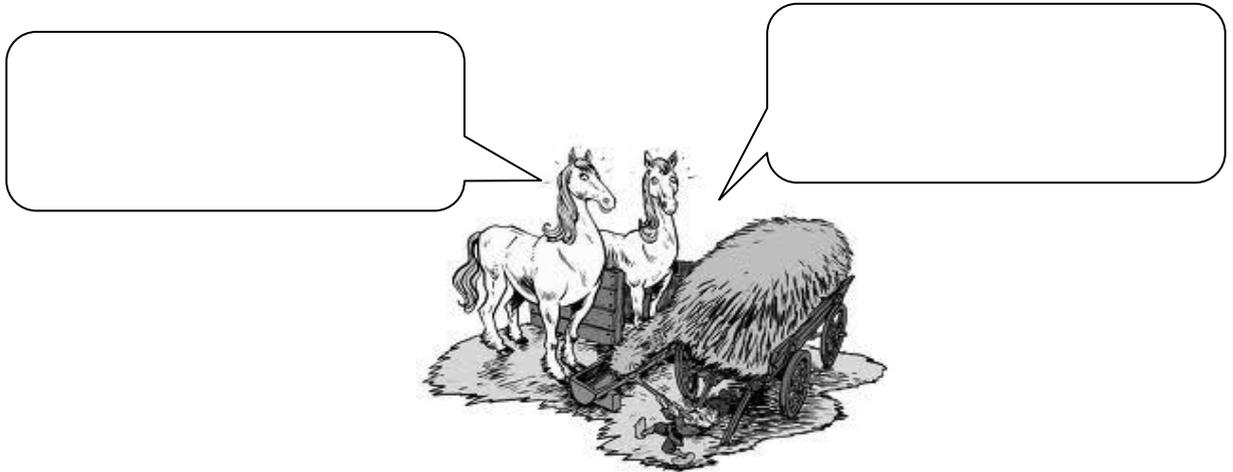
When hay is fed in a hay net under any circumstances, it should be fixed at such a height that even when empty, the horse would not be able to catch his foot in it. This usually means catching up the lower end

Recognise common feeds

					
Barley	Bran	Cubes	Mix	Rolled oats	Molasses (dry/liquid)



Revision



1. These horses are checking out their teff or eragrostis. What do you think they are looking at? Name some good and bad things that they might be concerned about.
2. Are the following TRUE or FALSE?

	T/F
You must ride your horse 10 minutes after they have been fed to keep them fit	
Change their food every week in case they get bored	
The amount of concentrates you give a horse depends on how much work they are doing and how old they are	
Give your horse lots of good quality teff or Eragrostis	
Horses generally love carrots and apples every day	
Feed your horse whenever you want to – they don't like routine	
Wash their food bowl out every day	

3. What do you feed your pony? How much do you feed? Create a table on a blank page and collect samples of the food you feed your horse/pony. Put them in a bag and glue them on. Next to the food, write what it is and why you feed your pony that food. An example below:

<p>Eragrostis:</p> <p><i>1 net at night</i></p> <p><i>Rolls in the field all day</i></p> <p><i>In winter they will need more as there is not as much grass.</i></p>	
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