



A clinical trial to evaluate the effects of oral supplementation of Kelp Care seaweed to sport horses

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Aim of the trial

To assess the benefits of feeding a seaweed-based product, Kelp Care™ to a variety of sport horses.

Background

Most common causes of poor performance in horses (categorized by the body system they affect) (*Tufts University, 2006*):

- ✓ The musculoskeletal system (degenerative joint disease)
- ✓ The respiratory system (Inflammatory Airway Disease/ Exercise Induced Pulmonary Hemorrhage)
- ✓ The gastrointestinal system (Gastric Ulceration)

Kelp Care was clinically trialed to focus on the results of treatment on the main causes of poor health in horses and also to monitor its function as a general all round multi-supplement.

Materials & Methods

The trial included horses from training yards; racing and in training thoroughbreds and national and international show jumping Sport Horses were selected at random. The trial extended over a period of 6 weeks. During this period the horses were fed Kelp Care through their daily feeding regime.

All horses were clinical examined according BVEA 2 stage vetting protocol before start of supplementation and after 6 weeks. 5 horses were examined using a bronchoscope to evaluate the lung condition pre- and post supplementation. Of all horses a full blood cell count was carried out before and after supplementation.



Equine Nutritionist Consultation

Ms Clare MacLeod MSc RNutr Independent Equine Nutritionist & consultant to SeaHorse Atlantic,

Feeding Kelp Care™ which “does not contain harmful levels of iodine or heavy metals, and contains relatively good levels of essential nutrients will fulfil the requirements of owners who wish to feed a natural source of minerals and other nutrients to their horse”

Results

Overall conclusion of clinical examinations showed:

- ✓ Improved coat condition
- ✓ The thoroughbred grooms were pleased with the palatability of the product
- ✓ All grooms had the impression that digestion of the horses had improved judged by appetite and dung appearance
- ✓ Bronchoscopic examination showed a reduction of mucus built up post exercise in 2 thoroughbreds
- ✓ There seemed to be an increase in average amount of young red blood cells which could indicate an increase in red blood cell production
- ✓ There was a stabilisation noticeable in platelet counts of 2 horses

Conclusion

“It is my personal opinion that oral supplementation of this seaweed product (SeaHorse Atlantic Kelp Care) has a positive effect on coat condition, lung function and digestion. One of the most promising effects of seaweed could be the anti oxidant and immune supportive abilities”

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