



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

BY TAHN TOWNS

WHAT IS A PROBIOTIC?

A probiotic supplement helps re-populate the beneficial micro flora normally found in the digestive tract. There are billions of microbes (gut bacteria) in healthy digestive tracts which are continually replenished as a horse grazes on grass 14 -16 hours/day . Penned horses or those engaged in competitive activities have a difficult time accessing sufficient levels of naturally occurring probiotics. High levels of beneficial gut microbes are important for nutrient uptake and are also key players in strong immune function, hormone regulation, maintenance of proper gut pH levels, protein and vitamin synthesis, water/electrolyte absorption and hind gut fermentation, which provides 80% of a horses energy.

EQUINE CHOICE PRODUCT FORMAT

80 cc. Tube of Oral Paste (approx. 4-5 doses per tube for a 450 kg. horse) Used for situations requiring extremely high levels of enzymes and bacteria to be delivered into the intestinal tract. Common situations would be colic, diarrhea, during antibiotic or anti-inflammatory therapy, chemical de-wormings, new foals, foal heat diarrhea, stressful situations such as weaning, trailering, shows or racing. Normally given at 15 cc/day for 10 days, then onto supplement. See the product insert card in brochure to review dosages for specific situations

Feed Supplement available in: 1.7 kg (30 days) 4.2 kg (90 days) 20 kg

Dry granular supplement for top dressing on feed. It contains higher levels of live, protected yeast than the paste which assists in maintaining healthier hind gut pH levels. Maintenance dose is 1 scoop two times /day- using less does not deliver sufficient probiotics to the hind gut. Use for maintenance on horses difficult to keep weight on due to age or health conditions, horses in training or competition and breeding stock. This supplement can be mixed into dry or wet feed JUST PRIOR TO FEEDING. Do not mix into wet rations ahead of time. If exposed

to moisture for a period of time the live yeast will germinate in the bucket instead of in the horses gut! Introduce slowly over a few days so the horse gets used to the taste. It is normally well liked by most horses. See the product insert card in brochure to review dosages for specific situations

DIRECTIONS FOR FEEDING

Recommendations for dosing are located in the Equine Choice brochure. A card with dose directions is also placed into each sealed tub of supplement along with a measuring scoop. Be aware that the product needs to be given not just to correct the apparent symptom. It needs to be administered long enough so that the digestive tract is given time to repair itself. If problematic symptoms are present, give the oral paste for ten days to give the body time to repopulate the digestive tract. Follow with the granular supplement for at least 30 days to give the digestive tract time to heal itself. After this period, you need to analyze the individual horses' situation to see if probiotics should be continued.

STORAGE AND HANDLING

Paste and supplement should be kept in cool dry locations. Keep lid tightly closed on supplement to prevent moisture from entering the container. Refrigeration is not necessary. Product ingredients are temperature stable and survive manufacture, transit and storage at a normal ranges of temperature. Freezing does not hurt the supplement, however, paste should not be allowed to freeze or be left in hot temperatures. Although this does not affect the paste's viability, it makes it difficult to dispense out of the tube.

EXPIRY DATE

When stored correctly, Equine Choice has a two year expiry date from the time it is manufactured. The manufactured date listed on the tubes: mo/day/year/ batch number. The manufactured date listed on the supplement: first five numbers is the batch number/ day/mo/year.

DOES THIS PRODUCT WORK IN OTHER ANIMALS?

Equine Choice is formulated specifically for the equine digestive system. Animal Pro Products Inc. is the manufacturer of Equine Choice, and also makes Stockmans Choice for cattle, pigs and goats; Dairyman's Choice for dairy cows and a specialized sheep product. They also make a probiotic product specifically formulated for dogs (Resolve & Prevent) which is available in paste and powder formulations.

WHEN SHOULD A PERSON CONSIDER GIVING PROBIOTICS TO THEIR HORSE?

Indications that a horse might benefit from having probiotics added to their diet include underweight, loss of appetite, frequent switching of feeds to combat loose stools, difficult to keep weight on, "hay belly", gassy or abnormally loose manure/diarrhea, frequent colic, picky eaters, eating dirt, manure or chewing wood (ingesting bacteria to replenish digestive tract imbalances), cribbing, unhealthy hoof or hair quality, or ongoing fungal related hoof or skin problems. Circumstances that have been shown to cause digestive upset and stress on horses are transporting, intense performance, heat stress and dehydration, changes in feed, increase in work intensity, frequent changes of location and stable mates, chlorinated water, de-worming, antibiotic therapy or ulcer treatment, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, extreme nervousness, and inadequate chewing ability as in aged horses. Foals have no intestinal micro flora at birth and the paste supports a new foals' digestive system. Equine Choice paste can help minimize foal scours and is especially important for orphans. A foal's digestive system cannot properly digest high fiber feeds until approx. 3 months of age. Paste given at weaning time will improve the digestive system's ability to cope with the feed changes and stressors that occur at this time.

IS IT AVAILABLE ALREADY MIXED INTO FEEDS?

No. Processing compromises the shelf life of the probiotic. The supplement is a feed additive (top dressing) to put into the daily feed. This ensures that the amount given is accurately monitored and delivered only to the horses requiring it. It also means that it can be removed from the horses' diet when no longer required.

WHAT HAPPENS IF TOO MUCH IS GIVEN TO A HORSE?

The vitamins are non-toxic and over feeding will not cause harm. The probiotic ingredients only enhance digestion and amounts above what the digestive system can use will be utilized as food.
10. The label reads...

Just so you know, some equine products are registered and some are not, and that creates labeling discrepancies in similar products due to labeling regulations. Apple to apple comparisons are virtually impossible - especially when you read labels from other countries. Equine Choice is a registered product in Canada, and labeled in accordance with the Canadian Feed Act. The Best in Show Pet Probiotic is not registered and is able to list all of its ingredients on the label, since there are not labeling regulations for non-slaughter animal products. For specific ingredient details, refer to the Equine Choice brochure.

DO PROBIOTICS HELP WITH ACID SPLASH?

Probiotics support the body to repair and maintain the digestive tract, but they do not directly address the issue of acid splash or alleviate the discomfort associated with it. Equine Choice AFX is specifically formulated to buffer the stomach acid in working or ulcer horses. Go to healthyhorses.ca to learn more about acid splash and how Equine Choice AFX can alleviate this painful digestive issue.

COMPANY INFORMATION

Animal Pro Products, the maker of Equine Choice Probiotics and Prebiotics is a privately owned Canadian company that has been producing animal probiotics in Ontario for over 20 years. They source their ingredients from trusted and reliable European sources and manufacture the product in Ontario, Canada under strictly controlled laboratory conditions. Their unique approach to animal probiotics put them at the front of probiotic formulation 20 years ago, and continues to keep them there today.

