

# **DONKEY SUPREME™**

## **Calcium, Trace-Mineral and Vitamin Supplement for Donkeys of All Ages**

### **Concept of Donkey Supreme**

Donkey Supreme is the world's first supplement formulated specifically to meet the nutritional needs of donkeys of all ages. It contains a specific blend of vitamins and minerals required by donkeys to make-up for any shortfalls in a donkey's ration based grazing, browsing on plants or being fed poor quality diets based on hay and straw. Often these types of diets are low or inadequate in bone minerals, trace-minerals and vitamins necessary to meet the needs for growth, pregnancy and to maintain general good health, coat condition and vitality.

### **Q. Why is it beneficial for donkeys to be provided with Donkey Supreme?**

A. Vitamins and minerals play vital roles in the development and maintenance of muscle, joint and skeletal function and they are essential for good health and vitality. They are fundamental in metabolic processes within the body, some are antioxidants, whilst others have a role in co-enzymes or hormones. Vitamins and minerals are very abundant in green pastures and forage. However many domestic donkeys often have restricted grazing and have a limited access to forage or variety. The vitamin and mineral content of forage also decreases during storage of hays and dry feed. Donkeys which are being fed primarily on a hay based diet are likely to have a deficiency, particularly at the end of winter when hay storage time is usually at its longest from the previous season. When donkeys cannot consume sufficient forage to meet their daily requirements, such as those grazing on a small acreage or those fed primarily a hay/straw diet, a supplement, such as Donkey Supreme should be provided. Working, growing, breeding and aged donkeys also have higher vitamin and mineral requirements than resting adult donkeys due to the greater demand relative these varying metabolic states. Therefore a vitamin and mineral supplement is be considered very beneficial to the health and well being of the animal to make-up the shortfalls of these essential nutrients.

### **Q. How has Donkey Supreme been formulated to suit all types of donkeys from miniature donkeys to mammoths?**

A. Donkey Supreme is a blend of 3 Supplet® pellets including bone minerals, trace-minerals and vitamins to make up for any shortfalls in a donkey's ration. It has been formulated to meet the needs of all types of donkeys as it is based on a body weight basis, from miniatures to mammoths and everything in between! The supplementation directions to make up dietary shortfalls are based on a 1-2 scoopsful per 100kg body weight basis, so it is easy to calculate the relative dose rates for all your donkeys.

### **Q. Why does Donkey Supreme contain added calcium?**

A. Many domestic donkeys depend primarily on grazing pasture to meet their daily requirements. However, those grazing on predominately grass based pastures may be take in low or inadequate amounts of calcium to meet their specific daily needs. Calcium is one of the major constituents of bone, has major metabolic roles and is important for proper development, strong growth and repair of the hooves. Legumes (clovers) and lucerne hay provide excellent sources of calcium, but where donkeys have limited or restricted access to these types of pastures, should be provided with supplementary calcium in their diet. Apart from grass based pastures providing insufficient calcium to meet requirements, owners also need to be particularly aware of a calcium supplementation for donkeys grazing kikuyu and other tropical pastures, often the dominant pasture on lawned or small house paddocks. These types of pastures often contain high levels of oxalates, especially if they are rapidly growing lush pastures after rain, irrigation, over sillage seepage areas in house paddocks or when pastures are fertilised with nitrogen and phosphates. Oxalates are chemicals which bind up calcium in the small intestine of horses and donkeys and hinder normal calcium absorption from the small intestine, resulting in a serious deficiency.



**Q. What effects will a calcium deficiency cause in my donkey?**

A. If an inadequate supply of calcium is available to the donkey and a deficiency develops, the body will begin to reabsorb calcium from its own bones to obtain sufficient levels required by the body to function properly. A mild deficiency can lead to a weakness to long bones and the pedal bone in the hoof, resulting in lameness, an increased risk of bone fracture, and in older donkeys, it can also lead to osteoporosis. In more severe cases, a condition called Nutritional Secondary Hyperparathyroidism (NSH), more commonly known as 'Big Head' can develop, where there is a chronic demineralisation of the facial bones and distortion of nasal bones. Once it develops in a donkey on oxalate pastures (C4 pastures), it cannot be reversed even with supplementation, resulting in bone weakness, loss of teeth and chronic osteoporosis.

**Q. How does Donkey Supreme differ from a horse supplement?**

A. Donkeys are highly adaptable feeders which can consume a wide variety of grasses, browse and even weeds. They can sift through pastures and select palatable plants more effectively than horses to find the more succulent parts and species of plants. The nutritional requirements for a donkey are significantly lower than those of a horse of relative body weight and age, as they have a lower metabolic rate. They are often fed on far less complex diets compared to many horses. Donkey Supreme has been formulated to specifically supplement those vitamins and minerals which are likely to be deficient in donkeys which have restricted grazing, feed on poor pastures or hay/straw based diets. It contains a specific blend of vitamins and minerals in quantities required by donkeys, which are vital to their good health and wellbeing.

**Q. Why do working, growing, breeding and aged donkeys require higher doses of Donkey Supreme per 100kg?**

A. A higher demand for all nutrients, including energy, protein, fat and vitamins and minerals is required by working, growing and breeding donkeys, because their bodies are functioning at a higher metabolic rate, or rate of growth and development. The metabolic demands required by the body during these phases are far greater than compared to those of a resting, adult donkey and so that a higher intake of all nutrients should be provided to meet the additional needs of these types of donkeys. As a donkey ages, its digestive efficiency decreases and they become unable to utilise some vitamins and minerals as effectively as growing and mature donkeys.

In the aged donkey, the ability to absorb calcium and phosphorus is particularly reduced because digestion of these nutrients becomes less efficient. For these reasons, a daily supplement of bone minerals, trace-minerals and essential vitamins, such as in Donkey Supreme, should be provided to assist in



correcting low or inadequate intake of these nutrients to meet the demands of these varying metabolic states during a donkey's life.

**Q. What pack sizes are available for Donkey Supreme?**

A. Donkey Supreme is available in standard pack sizes of 1.4kg, which provides 35 x 40g doses and a 4kg pack which provides 100 x 40g doses. A 10kg pack is available for larger groups of donkeys or a stud on special request through your local stockist.

**DONKEY SUPREME IS AVAILABLE FROM PRODUCE STORES AND SADDLIERIES.**

**IF YOU HAVE DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING SUPPLY, PLEASE PHONE 1800 112 227 OR EMAIL [ADMINJKP@BIGPOND.COM](mailto:ADMINJKP@BIGPOND.COM) FOR YOUR NEAREST STOCKIST.**