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**Equestrian
Edition**



Talking Horses

The newsletter with news, views and practical advice

from the **editor**

The rains have given some relief for many areas in Southern Australia, at least settling the dust and providing some green pick for horses after such a long, dry period. But it's also caused some problems with a higher risk of sand colic in hungry horses grazing on short, new growth, as well as outbreaks of Stringhalt – a dreaded form of lameness of horses grazing succulent pastures thick with Flatweed and Dandelion.

We've included a short overview of both these problems in this issue, with a more detailed fact sheet available by ringing 1800 112 227 or emailing adminjkp@bigpond.com for your copy.

In this issue, we review some of the bad habits at feed time, often related to impatience, competition for feed or a place in the feed bin line-up. We also include a short review of separation anxiety – a common problem in many horses.

We also overview the application and benefits of muscle massage and provide some handy hints on massaging technique for muscle and other problems.

If you are considering fencing or re-fencing your horse property or designing new stables, then the new information about relative dimensions is worth a read and may save you money and make your horse more comfortable.

Until next time – happy horse keeping!

Regards John Kohnke

You can obtain "Talking Horses" from your local store or by mail. If your produce store or saddlery runs out of copies of each issue soon after publication, then to assure regular issues, ring 1800 112 227 to add your name to our mailing list.

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THIS ISSUE

Feature Article

➤ **Bad Habits at Feed Time**
– Some Practical Hints

Also a brief on

➤ **Massage – Is it beneficial?**

➤ **Stable and Paddock Design – Square or rectangular?**

➤ **Sand Ingestion after the rains - Hints on Prevention**

➤ **Australian Stringhalt – some helpful hints**

HANDY HINT 1

Weight Reduction. If your horse is overweight, soaking each biscuit of hay in a tub of lukewarm water for 60 minutes will remove sugars by up to 33%, reducing the energy intake without starving the horse. After soaking, air dry the hay for a few hours in a net, overnight for the morning feed and vice-versa. If hay is soaked as a weight loss measure, add a trace-mineral and vitamin supplement, such as Kohnke's Own Cell-Vital or Cell-Provide to replace nutrients leached out by soaking.

HANDY HINT 2

Improving Acceptance of Powdered Supplements
Do you have a horse that is wary of the smell or taste of new powders in its feed, even when masked with molasses, garlic oil, honey or sugar syrup? If it's a vitamin and mineral supplement – then try the Kohnke's Own Supplet® range – pelleted blends that horses can't sift out and taste. If it's a powder (except electrolytes) then wet your finger (index), touch the surface of the powder and smear a small amount of the wet 'paste' on the inside of the lips and nostrils. In most cases, the horse will get used to the taste or smell and accept the powder in its feed! If this fails, try mixing it in a small amount of Energy Gold oil – smear it on the lips and in the nostrils – the natural garlic flavour is widely accepted and then flavour the feed with a little Energy Gold – it helps coat condition too!

