

Issue **7** (Oct. - December)
2005

**Equestrian
Edition**



Talking Horses

The newsletter with news, views and practical advice

from the editor

This is our 7th issue of Talking Horses Equestrian – we have it packed with interesting topics.

The major review topic in this issue is headshaking in horses – a problem faced by an increasing number of horse owners as spring and the warmer weather brings allergic pollens and more intense UV light that can trigger the problem in sensitive horses.

With the show season in full swing, the odd swollen leg, minor lameness and muscle soreness problem may need a safe, non-swabbable overnight remedy – we review common alternatives to drugs. We also provide some points to consider when choosing a supplement to correct low or inadequate levels of nutrients in common feeds and top-up prepared feeds to offset losses during storage.

We are pleased that so many horse owners and riders find 'Talking Horses' a source of practical and useful information. As one reader emailed – "Every time I read an issue, I find more useful information – the info on "Splints" and 'Mares Behaving Badly' were very useful as my mare has both problems!"

Thanks for your appreciation.

Regards John Kohnke

WE'RE AT EQUITANA

For readers visiting Equitana - Kohnke's Own has a shared stand with Animal Magnetism (Stand 311). Come and say hello to Dr. John! You can pick up our latest Factsheets, new product release info and have your rations checked by John on the spot!

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THIS ISSUE

Feature Article

- **Head Shaking – New Findings**
Also a brief on
- **Founder Facts**
- **Choosing a Supplement**
- **Alternatives to Drugs**
- **Research Round-Up**
- **Plus Regular Features**

1 HANDY HINT

If you have horses and cattle sharing a lick block in a paddock (do not use cattle blocks containing Monensin for horses), how do you know if your horses are consuming the blocks? Lick blocks are a 'hit and miss' way of supplementing horses – as some choose to chew them, while others, although deficient, will not!

Cattle lick blocks – cattle have a long tongue and no top teeth – forming **smooth holes** on the block and licking the edges. **Horses chew and gnaw** at blocks with their teeth – **tooth marks and chunks missing** indicate that a horse is using the block!

HANDY HINT 2

Many hays contain natural mould which can proliferate under damp storage conditions. Cover hay during wet conditions as the outer layers can absorb up to 10% extra moisture, increasing to 20% total moisture and bale weight by 1-1½kg in soft lucerne or clover hay. Always check clover hay for 'musty', 'fume' areas which can indicate mould – do not feed mouldy hay.

