

# Talking Horses

The newsletter with news, views and practical advice

## From the editor...

Welcome to our first issue for 2102. We also welcome the many new subscribers to Talking Horses and I aim to return to our regular 6-8 week publishing frequency for the remainder of 2012.

It has been a busy start to the year for many and time seems to be passing more quickly! Over recent months, the East Coast has been inundated by a very wet summer, with flooding in many areas. The West and Tasmania remains relatively dry in comparison.

With the wet conditions, hoof problems due to long term softening of the hooves and loss of resilience due to wet paddock conditions have increased the incidence of abscesses, thrush, sole collapse, seedy toe and greasy heel. With the rain and lush pasture growth, there has also been an increase in summer founder. Rain scald or mud fever, has also been a common occurrence under the wet conditions.

In this issue, we discuss the common hoof and skin related problems and provide some practical hints on management and prevention.

There is also a problem with flooding in many East Coast areas, which if the rain continues into April as forecast, the risk of injury to horses under flooded conditions is likely. Also, an increase of mould counts in hay and stored feeds may cause a greater incidence of colic. Erosion of paddocks and damage to fences is likely under wet and flooding conditions. Wet underfoot conditions extending into the winter as the cooler temperatures slow the drying out of soil will prolong the risk of hoof problems.

Apart for all this gloom and doom, all the best,

Kind regards,

*Dr John Kohnke* BVSc. RDA

### Did you know that...

The aging process in horses usually occurs over a period of years. There is no chronological threshold for determining old age in horses, but old age can be defined by changes in coat colour, lower muscle to fat ratio, dental disease, reduced mobility and body physiological function.

Around 33% of aged horses fail in health due to dental disease. Another 16% are likely to suffer from Cushing's Disease which reduces their lifespan. Some horses appear old at 12 years of age, whilst others are still active up to 25 years of age or into their 30s.

The average lifespan is considered to be around 24 years. The oldest recorded horse, Old Billy (presumably not his name in his earlier years!) died at the age of 62 in 1822 in Lancashire in the UK. Arabians, except the 50% of grey Arabians with melanoma, stock horses and ponies and their cross breeds on average live to a greater age than Thoroughbreds and miniatures, although exceptions are not uncommon.

Horses over 20 years of age are regarded as aged or seniors in relation to feeding and nutritional needs, even though they may be in otherwise good general health. Over 30 years of age horses with organ or other diseases, such as arthritis which results in discomfort and reduced mobility, are regarded as geriatric. Many horses now live longer in retirement than the number of years during which they were in work.

### Flood Crisis Management

A New Fact Sheet on Managing Horses and keeping them safe during flood conditions is now available. It can be obtained by emailing Gary at [newsletters@kohnkesown.com](mailto:newsletters@kohnkesown.com)

### In this issue...

- \* Hoof Abscesses
- \* Hardening Soft Hooves
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- \* Sealing Sand Cracks

Plus handy hints and lots more!

#### Beware of Hyperlipaemia in Ponies under Wet or Flooded Conditions

Wet and flooded conditions can reduce the ability for ponies and miniatures to graze and maintain a regular intake of energy for metabolic processes. Hay as a supplementary feed given to ponies stranded by flooding of pasture may not be sufficient to prevent a metabolic switch to break down fat reserves, particularly in pregnant ponies and miniatures which have a higher daily energy requirement as compared to resting ponies. These result in a cascade of liver and blood lipo-protein complexes which cannot be metabolised for energy and result in liver damage. Even a severe and painful foot abscess, laminitis or other lameness condition undetected for a couple of days which restricts grazing, can reduce energy intake and switch on fat metabolism, resulting in hyperlipaemia. The problem is exacerbated under cold wintery conditions when energy drain to maintain body warmth triggers fat metabolism. Signs include an uncharacteristic loss of appetite in a normally 'good doer', even when food is offered, with depression, diarrhoea, debilitation and drowsiness, weakness, lack of energy for exercise, some loss of weight and reduced vitality. The overall prognosis is poor after 4-5 days of onset, with 45-85% dying within 10-12 days if not recognised early following a sudden change to a starvation type low food intake diet as a result of flooding or inclement weather conditions. Ensure that you mobilise quickly in cases of flooded pasture to move horses and donkeys to higher ground and provide a good quality hard feed and hay to ensure continued energy intake. Obviously, if a pony or a miniature is 'cresty' or over conditioned, avoid giving large amounts of high energy grain based hard feeds as this could trigger a laminitic episode within 3-4 days. For more information on Hyperlipaemia, please refer to Fact Sheet No C12 available from Gary at [newsletters@kohnkesown.com](mailto:newsletters@kohnkesown.com) or as a download from the website [www.kohnkesown.com](http://www.kohnkesown.com)

#### Handy Hint 1

#### Hoof Softening under Wet Conditions

Wet underfoot conditions can soften the soles and allow the internal hoof structure to collapse downwards due to the reduced resilience and weight bearing of the soles. It is a concern in heavily pregnant mares as an additional 50-60 kg of body weight of the developing foal and membranes is positioned over the hind limbs. Heavy-weight and large breeds of horses often go lame in the hind limbs due to distortion of the soft hoof walls and soles under continuous wet paddock conditions. Shifting these animals to higher, well drained land helps minimise the risk of lameness. Avoiding paddocks with stones is also helpful to reduce sole bruising under wet conditions and the risk of hoof abscesses in all horses.

#### Handy Hint 2

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# Hoof Abscesses Prevention is better than cure

A hoof abscess, referred to as sub-solar abscesses, can develop following the entry of microorganisms into the sensitive internal hoof structures under the sole or heels. They are the most common cause of lameness in paddocked and working horses. Microorganisms can also gain entry as a result of sole bruising by a stone or penetration of the sole by a sharp object such as a nail prick or a closely driven nail when fitting shoes. Horses with 'seedy toe' following laminitis also have a high risk of developing infection within the 'seedy' cavity which allows entry to the deeper layers of the sensitive lamellae. Horses and ponies with a history of chronic laminitis have a high incidence of repeated hoof abscesses. The wet, low oxygen environment under the soles in mud or wet conditions often encourages the colonisation of anaerobic microbes, such as *Clostridia spp* in the soil or from the stable bedding which can gain entry via hairline cracks in the sole or around the frog. Horses standing in their own droppings have a risk of tetanus organisms gaining entry to their internal hoof structure. These ideal conditions most occur commonly after rain and wet conditions following a dry period.

## Typical Signs

Hoof infections trapped between the hoof wall, sole or lamellae can be very painful with reluctance to bear weight on the hoof, standing on the toe of the hoof, swelling and 'heat' around the pastern and fetlock. In severe cases the swelling and warmth will ascend up the limb and may be confused with a tendon swelling. However, 'warmth' in the infected hoof when held up and cupped in the hand as compared to the adjacent hoof is indicative of a hoof infection. Occasionally, the infection of the abscess will build up internal pressure within the hoof and burst through the bulbs of the heels, or around the coronary band. If a horse is extremely lame and transfers weight to the adjacent 'good' limb, then there is a risk of overloading the supporting hoof, especially in a large or heavily conditioned horse or pony. Unrelenting weight

bearing for more than 9 minutes can increase the risk of reduced blood flow to the overloaded and compressed lamellae and result in laminitis. If a horse is very lame in one hoof, then supporting the adjacent weight bearing leg with a polo wrap support bandage wrapped to include the pastern and fetlock is essential. Medicating with a small dose of 'bute' to relieve the discomfort and allow some sharing of the weight with the infected hoof and encourage the horse to hobble around, is essential to minimise the risk of catastrophic hoof overload and laminitis. Consult your vet for immediate advice.

**Note:** In cases where the infection is deep within the hoof structure and results in extreme lameness, a drawing poultice should be applied over the area where the sole has been carefully pared away to thin the sole down. A warm, wet Animalintex® type dressing may be applied to the sole and wrapped with elastic cohesive bandaging to help encourage the abscess to 'mature' and burst out through the sole to relieve the internal pressure, drain the discharge and make the horse more comfortable. It may need to be repeated twice over 24-36 hours to drain an under-sole abscess. Consult your vet or farrier for advice.

## 'Apply a Hoof Dressing'

After the abscess has been drained and the 'hole' seals over, apply a daily film of **Kohnke's Own Hoof-Seal®** for 3 days, then twice weekly to help provide a water repellent barrier and seal any cracks in the sole, especially under continued wet conditions. Hoof-Seal dries on the hoof surface within 10 minutes and unlike greasy preparations, does not wash off under wet conditions or collect more contamination.

### Handy Hint 4

#### Locating the Abscess

If the horse is lame, the hoof is warm to touch and the horse exhibits pain when the hoof is pressed over the area with hoof testers, careful scraping and cleaning of the sole with a hoof knife may reveal the discoloration of a stone bruise under the sole, or a 'weeping' infected crack in the sole or around the frog.

### Avoid Treating Hoof Abscesses with Antibiotics without Vet Advice

It is unwise to give antibiotics to relieve internal infection, unless the abscess has burst through the sole or coronary band. If given too early during an infection deep within the hoof structure, antibiotics, such as penicillin which is usually the most effective, may only kill a relatively small number of bacteria and result in a 'cold abscess' which can simmer for days or weeks, only to break out again. It is best to have your farrier or vet locate the sore area with hoof testers and then open to drain the 'pus' and discharge and then treat with antibiotics to clear up the infection. If an abscess breaks out and takes longer than 12 hours to drain and for the inflammation and acute lameness to subside, then seek advice from your vet as an antibiotic course into the muscle for 5-7 days and infusion of an antibiotic solution in through the abscess 'hole' may be indicated. Repeat the antibiotic irrigation or infusion daily, enclosing the hoof in a thick plastic bag and then wrapping the hoof to waterproof it (eg using an elastic rubberised bandage) to keep it dry for 2-3 days until the drainage clears and the hole seals over. Consult your vet for advice. It is also good practice to give a tetanus toxoid booster if one has not been administered for 2 years or longer, as tetanus organisms can gain entry to the hooves and flourish in the low oxygen conditions especially in a deep penetrating wound or a nail prick. All nail pricks should be opened immediately to allow drainage and antibiotics given under the supervision of your vet.

### Handy Hint 3

### Handy Hint 5

#### Cleaning the Underside of the Hooves to Reduce the Risk of Abscesses

It is helpful to thoroughly clean the underside of the hooves and frog area after rain or the start of wet conditions especially if the hooves are dried out and have minute cracks on the soles around the frog area. Clean the hooves with a stiff brush and pick out any mud or droppings adhering to the sulci (heel grooves) and around the frog. Then scrub after flooding the sole with 10% PVP iodine solution (eg Vetadine® or Betadine®) to help remove bacteria and organic contamination. Leave the iodine solution on the soles for at least 10 minutes to allow the release of the antibacterial iodine action from the polymer complex. Then wipe off excess iodine and repeat the iodine scrub if the soles are very contaminated. Then wipe off with a paper towel. The hoof and sole can be then coated with a film of Kohnke's Own Hoof Seal® which has a role in repelling excess moisture and minimising mud sticking to the sole and frog under wet conditions. Clean, wash with PVP iodine and repeat the Hoof Seal coating twice a week for 10 days or so, and then once weekly if wet conditions persist.

## How to Harden Soft Hooves

Under wet conditions the soles and frogs can absorb up to 15% more water and will lose their resilience to maintain weight-bearing, with heavy horses and heavily pregnant mares often becoming 'shuffly' or lame in the hind limbs. They are at risk of developing soft tissue fluid (oedema) swelling in the lower limbs, usually the hind limbs to mid cannon level when standing in a yard or stable overnight due to compression within the hooves and restriction of normal blood perfusion.

There are many remedies which are purported to harden the hooves under wet conditions. The simplest is to move the affected horse to well drained ground or a stable overnight for 3-4 days on dry bedding. Clean sawdust is able to absorb 30% of its own weight of water, whilst shredded paper can absorb 3 times as much moisture to have a drying effect on the soles and frogs. Other remedies include smearing the hooves with petroleum jelly to repel excess moisture, but this often results in sand and bedding adhering to the hooves and a slow drying out effect, even in stabled horses. Rubbing liberal amounts of methylated spirits into the soles and frog is helpful to dry the surface and repel excess moisture.

There is a distinction between soft and crumbly soles and walls, which is a common outcome following laminitis, particularly in horses and ponies who have foundered severely. These horses often develop dropped soles or flat feet and in many cases, seedy toe is also present during the recovery from the laminitis. In horses with very soft hooves, initial daily applications of a hoof preparation,

such as **Kohnke's Own Hoof-Seal®**, which physically provides a breathable film barrier to help limit excess moisture entering the soles by capillary action, has a role in maintaining the hooves in a resilient condition. After 4-6 days, the applications over the soles and frogs can be reduced to twice weekly. Nutritional supplements containing biotin, calcium, zinc, copper and Vitamin A given daily over a 3-6 month period may be of benefit to improve the quality of the hoof horn material.

## 'Seedy Toe'

The condition referred to as 'seedy toe' is most commonly a result of hoof wall and sole separation following laminitis, especially when the pedal bone rotates downwards in the hoof, as occurs in founder. The area of the white line at the hoof wall-sole junction becomes wider and white crumbly hoof horn begins to fill the space. This material is colonised by bacterial and fungal growth from the soil which decay the hoof protein to form a soft 'seedy' consistency. Progressively invading deep into the separated laminae in the toe region. Wet conditions facilitate the growth of the microorganisms and eventually the front area of the toe develops a cavity filled with decayed lamellae horn. **If the horse is lame as a result of severe 'seedy toe' or laminitis, seek advice from a vet or specialist farrier.**

- Step 1** Thoroughly clean the sole and white line area by scraping with a hoof knife to remove surface contamination. If the area is caked in mud, scrub the sole and white line area with a brush and 10% Betadine iodine solution or wash, to clean it as much as possible, then pat dry with a towel.
- Step 2** Using the sharp edge of a hoof knife, carefully dig out the decayed white line to form a trough as deep as the 'seedy' area penetrates into the white line area. In severe cases, your farrier or vet may cut away the front of the hoof to remove the dead laminar tissue and encourage the regrowth of good quality hoof.
- Step 3** Irrigate the cleaned white line and cavity with 10% Betadine iodine solution, or an equivalent iodine based solution, and allow it to soak into the underlying seedy tissue for 10 minutes. Repeat the iodine flood into the trough around the white line area to ensure that it penetrates to the full depth of the separated area.
- Step 4** Pat dry with toweling. Then carefully wipe the area with a tissue soaked in methylated spirits ('metho') to remove any iodine residue and dry the moisture from the cavity, as well as clean away oils and other contamination. Allow the alcohol to evaporate before applying the silastic sealant.

**Step 5** Apply a bead of clear (translucent) silastic window/bathroom sealant to fill the cavity. Smooth it off with a match or flat knife, adding another bead as necessary to finish it level with the wall and sole junction around the toe area. The silastic sealant will prevent moisture entering the 'seedy' area and protect it against continued microbial contamination. If the front of the hoof wall is cut away to remove dead tissue, the silastic can be used to fill in the gap. Stand the horse on a dry hard area, such as a concrete wash bay or stable aisle for 30 minutes while the silastic cures. Alternatively, wrap the hoof in a couple of layers of kitchen film during the time the silastic takes to cure. The kitchen film will wear away or fall off in a couple of hours once the horse is turned out into a yard or small paddock.

**Step 6** If the hoof wall is broken away or the white line area is weak, a shoe may need to be applied to stabilise the hoof wall and sole to prevent further separation and break away. The silastic can be removed at weekly intervals, the cavity cleaned and soaked with iodine solution and the silastic replaced as described in Steps 4-5 until the hoof-sole white line area repairs.

### Handy Hint 6

#### Reducing Moisture and Contamination

The management of 'seedy toe' involves the removal of the decayed horn material from the cavity and control of the microbial infection and sealing the surface. This prevents moisture and continued microbial contamination during the 3-4 week period while the laminae regenerate and re-attach to form a healthy white line.

### Handy Hint 7

#### Risk of Repeated Seedy Toe

In an aged horse, or a horse being fed a diet high in grain in training or a horse with Equine Metabolic Syndrome (EMS) or Cushing's Disease, low grade laminitis can develop from time to time. This can result in partial separation of the 'white' line in the toe region, with increased risk of recurring 'seedy toe'.

## Greasy Heel - some practical home remedies

Greasy Heel, 'grease heel' or 'pastern dermatitis' as it is commonly referred to in the Northern Hemisphere, is classified as a moist, greasy (seborrhea) type of dermatitis which colonises the back of the pasterns and occasionally the rear of the fetlocks of horses. The skin surface exudes fat or grease from the skin glands and the discharge produced by bacterial and fungal infection. It often has a characteristic 'rancid' odour and in severe cases causes discomfort and lameness, with bleeding of the thickened, cracked and greasy skin. The surface may develop scabs from the greasy exudate, loss of hair and inflamed skin. The microbial colonies are protected by the layer of exudate against direct treatment with antimicrobial preparations, allowing the dermatitis to persist and flare up from time to time under wet or favourable conditions.

It is caused by invasion of the skin at the rear of the pasterns under wet conditions by common soil borne bacteria including *Staph spp*, *Dermatophilus spp* and mixed fungal organisms. It is common on the rear of the pasterns of horses with white socks or non-pigmented skin. It appears to be triggered by UV sunlight, especially during wet winter conditions when the sun is lower in the sky and UV rays create a solar dermatitis type reaction as horses graze away from the sun. Rough blades of grass can abrade the skin and allow microbes to infect the reduced skin defence. Repeated flexion of the fetlock, combined with softening of the skin from sweat running down the rear of the legs, is a common problem in endurance horses, especially those with white or clipped pasterns. Low heel height also exposes the pastern to abrasion and moisture from wet pasture, mud around gates and water troughs and wet bedding. Horses which are swum as part of their training, or washed down after exercise with dam water, have a higher incidence, as do heavy horses harbouring heel mites in their feathered pasterns.

### Treatment Options

There are many and varied 'tried and true' treatments to control greasy heel. Many of you may have your own successful treatment for greasy heel. Treatments range from washing the pasterns daily for 5-7 days in weak laundry bleach (hypochlorite) to kill the colonised microbes; applying proprietary ointments and lotions containing zinc and antimicrobial compounds; and coating the inflamed skin with 'green' ointment containing antibiotics and cortisone-like compounds (prednisolone) to reduce inflammation. However, repeated use of prednisolone ointments can suppress skin immune defence and result in flare up of the condition if the antibiotic part is not effective against the microbes. Ensuring that the skin is kept dry by confining the animal indoors on clean bedding for a few days out of sunlight also hastens recovery.

### Handy Hint 8

#### Use a Honey and Iodine Poultice for Cleaning Greasy Heel

Over recent years, I have been recommending that the pasterns be washed with 10% PVP iodine wash (eg Betadine® or Vetadine®) lathered with velvet soap, leaving it on for 10 mins to release the iodine and soften the scabs before rinsing it off and patting dry with paper towelling. In really 'scabby' cases, I recommend to carefully clip away the hair around the islands of scabs and then lightly scrub the greasy area to help remove the scabs which protect the microbes. If the horse is very sore, applying an antibiotic and prednisolone ointment daily for 3-4 days, available from your vet, helps to soothe the discomfort and reduces the risk of being kicked during the scab removal process. If the skin starts to bleed when cleaning, it is a sign that healthy skin is present under the scabs. I then suggest a coating of zinc cream be applied liberally to the affected area or an oil based Factor 30+ sunscreen lotion, each day before the horse is turned out into sunlight or prior to outside exercise. More recently, I have had great success in persistent or recurring cases using a mixture of 70% Manuka or Tasmanian Leatherwood honey mixed with 30% by volume of 10% PVP iodine solution smeared liberally onto a gauze pad and wrapped onto the pasterns overnight. The honey reduces moisture on the skin and combined with the 10% PVP iodine, helps to suppress microbial growth and soften the scabs, as well as soothe the inflammation and discomfort. After 2-3 applications, the pasterns can be coated with the zinc cream or oily sun screen lotion daily as outlined above. Consult your own vet for advice if the infection persists as a course of antibiotics may be necessary in recurring cases. Horses with heel mites should be treated with ivermectin worming paste under veterinary supervision.

## THRUSH - SMELLY FROGS

Thrush is caused by a mixed anaerobic bacterial and fungal surface infection of the sulci (frog grooves), the crevices around the frog and bulbs of the heels by a soil or bedding borne microbe, especially under wet, low oxygen conditions. Often a flare up of an earlier low grade infection under wet contaminated conditions, especially in large breeds of horses, can lead to weight-bearing lameness caused by chronic frog and heel infection. It is most common in horses confined to yards or stables where they stand on mud or bedding saturated with urine and droppings. The horse will be lame in severe cases and a black, smelly tar-like discharge will ooze out from around the frog. One or all hooves can be affected - often the rear hooves more severely. Where the infection has eroded and devitalised the horn material of the sulci and frog, it is important to remove the rotting, dead tissue with a sharp hoof knife. Consult your vet or farrier for advice. In severe cases, a course of antibiotics for 5-7 days may be needed to eliminate any deep anaerobic infection around the frog.

### CLEANING THE SULCI AND FROGS

Remove any surface contamination by cleaning out the sulci with a hoof pick. If the frogs are very smelly, then spray them with a deodoriser to make it more pleasant for you to spend time thoroughly cleaning the frog area. Wear plastic disposable gloves because the smell is hard to remove from your hands! Lightly scrub the frog and heels with a 10% PVP Iodine solution (eg Betadine® or Vetadine®), lathered with Sunlight® soap (no detergent). Allow the PVP iodine solution to remain on the cleaned area for 10-15 minutes to release the iodine from the polymer carrier and then rinse off with clean water. Pat & dry with paper towelling. Soak a cotton wool pad with a solution of 50:50 water and 3% Hydrogen Peroxide solution to help 'oxygenate' the area - apply for 20-30 minutes, wrapping the hoof in kitchen film to keep it in place. In severe cases, I recommend to apply a pad covered with a thick layer of 70% Manuka or Tasmanian Leatherwood honey (they have antibacterial properties) and 30% of 10% PVP iodine by volume to the hooves and bandage it in place over the frogs and heels overnight. Honey helps to dehydrate the surface and limit bacterial and fungal growth. Remove the pad and then apply a pad soaked in 10% Betadine for 12 hours, secured in place with kitchen wrap or a bandage. Repeat the above process daily for 3-4 days. Consult your vet for advice if the condition does not improve or the horse remains lame.

### KEEP THE BEDDING DRY

Because thrush is often caused by a fungal microbe, the moist, anaerobic (low oxygen) conditions of wet or highly contaminated bedding and outside yards, will help perpetuate the infection. Regularly 'muck out' the stable and replace bedding with dry bedding. Wood shavings and sawdust have lower fungal counts as compared to straw or rice hulls used for bedding. Keep sawdust bedding slightly damp to minimise dust and clean out the impacted bedding from the sole and around the frog each day. In outside yards, improve drainage and if necessary, replace heavily contaminated sand or soil with new, clean sand to help keep the surface drier and cleaner.

### REDUCING FROG IMPACTION AND ONGOING THRUSH

After cleaning the sole and frog each day, paint on 10% PVP iodine and then apply a coating of **Kohnke's Own Hoof-Seal®** once the thrush infection is under control. Within 5-7 days, the Hoof-Seal® applications can be extended to 1-2 times per week. The film of Hoof-Seal has a role to help minimise the collection and compaction of organic, contaminated bedding and soil on the sole and frog. Under wet conditions, daily applications are recommended to maintain a water repellent film.

#### Maintaining Internal Hoof Moisture

Apply a twice weekly coating of **Kohnke's Own Hoof-Seal®** to help avoid moisture variations within the sole and moisture up take from contaminated soil into the sole, especially under wet conditions. Ensure that the horse is provided with a source of good quality protein in its diet, such as 200g of full fat soyabean meal, or 300g of canola meal, per 200kg body weight each day to contribute protein for hoof regeneration. A supplement containing organic zinc, calcium and Vitamin A, such as **Kohnke's Own Cell-Provide**, is also recommended to make up dietary shortfalls.

#### Handy Hint 9

## Sealing Sand Cracks

Hoof wall splits and quarter cracks can be difficult to manage in a horse during the competitive season. Continued build-up of soil and sand within the crack can wedge open as the hoof quarters expand at each footfall, even in horses with barefoot trimming.

Where a 'sand' crack opens up from the ground edge of the hoof wall, trimming the hoof and even applying a shoe, also to the adjacent hoof front or back hoof may help to stabilise the crack. To prevent sand compacting into the cracks, I have had great success by filling them with silastic window /bathroom sealant. Simply brush out the sand and carefully pick it out from the depths of the crack with a hoof nail. Then apply 10% Betadine iodine solution to limit microbial contamination by allowing it to soak for 10 minutes before applying the silastic sealant. Swab the crack and the surrounding hoof wall area with methylated spirits to remove moisture and fat residues. Apply a small amount of dishwashing liquid to the tip of your index finger, or apply latex or thin vinyl gloves, to prevent the sealant sticking to your skin. Smear the silastic window/bathroom sealant into the split or crack and then smooth it over to ensure that it is level and smoothed over the hoof wall bordering the crack. Stand the horse on a concrete surface with hay to eat for 10-15 minutes until the sealant cures, or alternatively, wrap a layer of kitchen film (eg Glad-Wrap®) over the hoof to prevent the sealant being contaminated while it cures. The sealant will usually remain in place for weeks, but you may need to strip it out and replace it once a week as the crack grows out.

A hoof preparation, such as **Kohnke's Own Hoof-Seal**, can be applied once a week to help minimise hoof moisture variations if a horse is trained on dry tracks or a dry arena.

**'Sealing the Clinches'** - Often shoes will loosen and be 'cast' more easily during wet weather if the wall around the clinches softens allowing them to indent into the hoof wall. Using the technique as described above for sand cracks, simply dab a small amount of silastic sealant over each clinch to seal out water and moisture. This will help to prevent moisture gaining entry and softening the hoof wall, which will help keep the clinches tight and less likely to pull down into the hoof wall.

## Product of the Month

**Kohnke's Own®**

**CELL-PROVIDE**

Cell-Provide is the ideal ration balancer for lightly worked horses, horses resting at pasture with a daily hard feed snack, ponies in work and miniatures, as well as aged horses in retirement. It contains a blend of 3 cold-pressed Supplet® pellets, including separate bone mineral, trace-mineral and vitamin pellets to correct low or inadequate levels in the ration. It can be used to top-up a commercial feed-based ration with a range of essential nutrients if you are not feeding the full recommended amount. The small, palatable pellets mix well into the feed and are well accepted, eliminating sift-out, dust and sludging in the feed bin, as well as nutrient interaction common with powdered supplements.



Cell-Provide is used by many top competitors to ensure health, vitality and a well-conditioned and coloured coat and is a popular supplement for horses over-wintering at pasture, in fact, most horses and ponies will take them off your hand without the need to mix them into a handful of hard feed.

Available in 1.4, 3.5 and 10kg packs from all produce stores and saddlerys.

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