

Basic Feeding Facts for Minis: *by Jackie Vanden Brink from Master Feeds*

Feed according to bodyweight and body condition

Feed according to what the horse is doing. Growing, Lactating and Performance horses require more nutrition than mature horses that get little exercise.

Total feed intake for a horse per day should equal approximately 2.5 percent of their body weight. Feed at least 2 % body weight per day to maintain a healthy digestive tract with at the very least 1 % of their bodyweight in roughage, preferably 1.5 or more. 3 % total intake or more for growing horses and lactating mares is not unusual to provide them with enough nutrition for adequate milk production and good development.

Provide free choice access to fresh water, a salt lick and provide hay in multiple feedings throughout the day.

In most cases a leafy grassy hay is best for a miniature horse. Feed at approximately 2% of bodyweight or 1-2 kgs per day.

Feed a nutritionally balanced diet appropriate for the horses stage of life according to the directions on the feed adjusted for body weight. In most case minis should be fed at the lowest end of the scale. A typical rate that is suitable for minis is 1/2 percent of bodyweight or 250-500 grams.

In some cases minis may require less grain than is recommended on the label to maintain condition and to prevent weight gain. In that case provide a vitamin mineral supplement in addition to the balanced feed. Masterfeeds Equine Vitamin Mineral premix is complete trace mineral and vitamin supplement that works well in those situations. 5-10 grams is recommended depending on the quantity of ration being fed.

A reduced carbohydrate lower calorie feed is usually best for minis. Products such as Masterfeeds Rx Roughage pellets, and Golden Gb pellets are a good fit. For show horses Patriot Surmount, a high fibre feed with fat is a good fit as it aids in developing in nice show coat, and provides extra calories for performance.

If a quick improvement in coat condition is required Finishing Touch supplement works well at 1/4 to 1/2 cup per day.

More detailed fact sheets on these products and others are available at www.masterfeeds.com These tips are guidelines only and for more specific information do feel free to contact me at: 519-495-9030