

No hoof, no horse, no kidding

The old saying “No hoof, no horse” still rings true today. No matter how talented a horse is, if he is lame he can’t do his job. Proper nutrition, clean, dry living conditions, and a dose of good genes are the foundation of healthy, resilient hooves. As veterinarians, you work daily with clients that struggle with bruised soles, white line disease, quarter cracks, laminitis and hoof injuries. While the cause of the problem varies, the need for proper nutrition to support healthy hoof growth remains the same.

Nutrients are beneficial to hoof growth and quality

One of the first signs of inadequate nutrition is poor coat and hoof quality. Even horses consuming enough energy to maintain appropriate weight can be missing the vitamins, minerals, fats, and proteins needed to support healthy hoof growth. Nutrients such as fatty acids, amino acids, biotin, and assorted trace minerals must be present in the correct amounts in a horse’s diet or their hooves will suffer.

Wiser Concepts[®] FootWise[™]

Its complete formula makes FootWise unique

FootWise contains the full complement of nutrients necessary to grow and maintain the high-quality hoof wall necessary for horses with hoof issues.

Biotin is a water-soluble B vitamin that is essential for



the maintenance of healthy connective tissue found in skin, hooves, and hair. Research studies have proven that at least 20 mg per day of biotin is needed to strengthen and promote the growth of healthy hoof walls.

On a dry matter basis, the hoof is thought to be approximately 93% protein, containing at least 11 individual amino acids. In supplementing for healthy hooves, it is imperative to provide horses with a high-quality protein source. FootWise contains full-fat soybean meal, lecithin, and added lysine. Full-fat soybeans are abundant in high-quality amino acids, the building blocks of protein.

Lysine is considered to be an essential amino acid that cannot be synthesized by the body in adequate enough amounts to meet the demand; it has to be provided in the diet. In order for a protein like keratin to be synthesized, all the necessary amino acids must be present at once. The amino acid whose supply runs out first and “limits” protein synthesis from proceeding is considered the “limiting amino acid.” For horses, lysine is the first limiting amino

acid. It is the one most lacking in the equine diet; therefore, it is important to supply adequate levels of lysine.

Methionine is another key amino acid necessary for proper hoof growth. The hoof-building processes depend largely on methionine to bind the keratin fibers in the hoof. Methionine and cysteine combine to form the bi-sulphurous bonds between keratin molecules. The bonds that occur during growth give the hoof wall strength and resiliency. The amino acids methionine and lysine have been shown to increase biotin's effectiveness; all three nutrients are found in optimal quantities in FootWise.

Several trace minerals are required to grow and maintain resilient hooves. The trace minerals copper and zinc play an important role in the formation of the keratin bonds that are central to hoof strength. Iodine controls thyroid hormones, which impact hoof quality. FootWise contains chelated trace minerals that are more bioavailable.

Both the soybeans and lecithin contained in FootWise are abundant in fatty acids, which contribute to hoof health by creating a barrier that repels excessive moisture. Excessive moisture degrades keratin bonds and weakens the integrity of the hoof wall.

Research has shown that high-quality yeast cultures help horses maintain a healthy digestive tract and increase the digestibility of nutrients by stimulating the activity of the good microorganisms in the hindgut. A healthy microbial population will also provide additional B vitamins to the horse, supporting better overall health. Added yeast cultures round out the FootWise formula and ensure that nutrients are absorbed in the most efficient manner possible.

When to recommend FootWise

Veterinarians frequently recommend FootWise when horses:

- Are not receiving the necessary nutrients in their feeding program to support proper hoof growth
- Are recovering from a hoof injury, surgery, or laminitis
- Have a history of brittle hooves, chronic cracks, or trouble holding shoes
- Live in a wet, muddy environment for part or all of the year
- Participate in a rigorous training or competition schedule and are bathed frequently
- Seem to be particularly susceptible to hoof and skin diseases
- Suffer from dry hair coat and brittle mane and tail

FootWise is available in a 44-day supply (2.75 lb jar) or a 160-day supply (10 lb bucket). The maintenance dose is 1 scoop per day. For horses with very poor quality hooves, 2 scoops per day can be fed.

FootWise is readily accepted by horses and can be mixed with concentrates, fiber pellets, or beet pulp.



For more information, please email
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or call **800-772-1988**.

