



## FIBRE-BEET MASH FOR THE SENIOR HORSE

Feeding the senior horse generally requires some modification of nutrition. Changes in the physiology of digestion, adjustments in the nutrient requirements and a possible shift in hindgut fermentation can all be accounted for when formulating a suitable diet.

But what happens if the horse's dentition is compromised to an extent that it impairs intake? Or can an older horse even maintain its intake under normal circumstances?

Trials conducted at Writtle College addressed both these questions. Horses in the age range of 21-50 years with poor dental condition were trialled against horses aged 10-13 with average dental condition. Observations were conducted on intake and time of intake of two commercially available fibre feeds – one being Fibre-Beet Mash – and a standard quality hay.

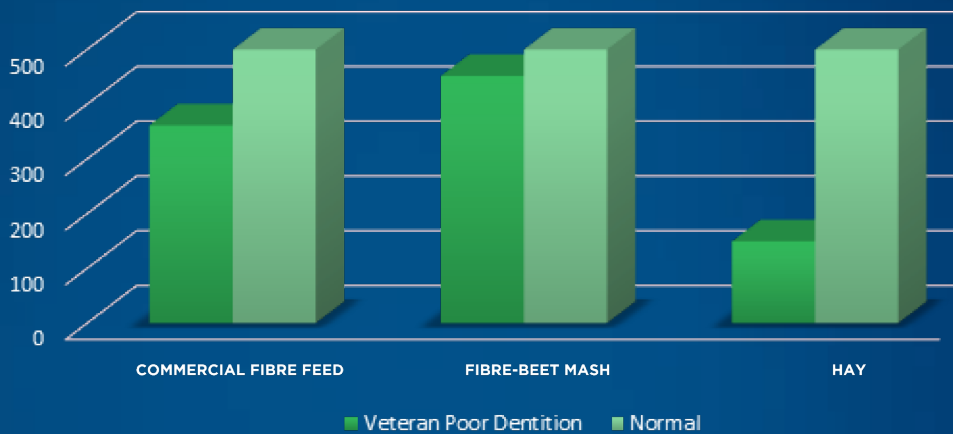


Figure 1. Uptake of feed offered (500g) over a 45 minute period.

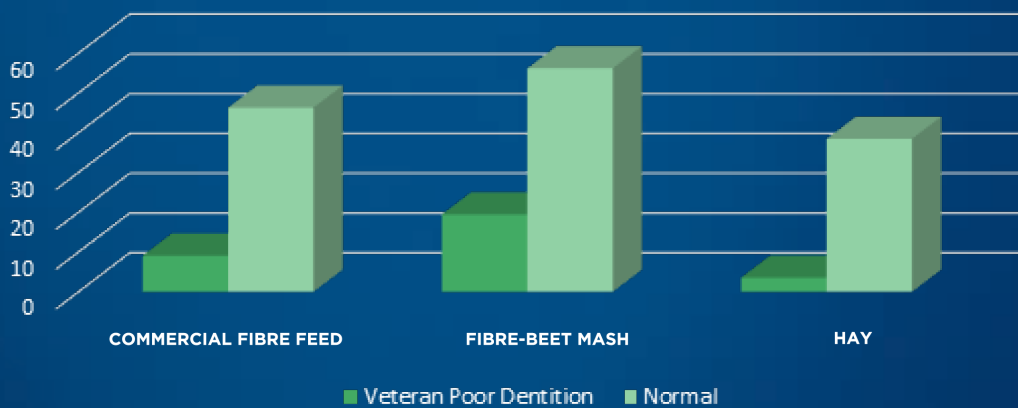


Figure 2. Rate of consumption (grams per minute) of feed

Fibre-Beet Mash uptake in the veteran was significantly greater than the commercial fibre feed, which in turn was greater than hay. The rate of uptake of Fibre-Beet Mash was also significantly improved.

If intake of forage is a problem then Fibre-Beet Mash improves the chances of maintaining nutrition. Not only that, Fibre-Beet Mash is an excellent conditioning fibre feed for those senior horses that drop weight. The ingredients within Fibre-Beet Mash are the perfect combination for safe weight gain and when paired with other feeds (such as Barastoc Senior) the horse can digest up to 25% more nutrients.

Ref: Mann T, The suitability of three different forage sources for veteran horses with compromised dentition. Writtle |College and the University of Essex. 2007