

Fibre-Beet for Veterans

Feeding the Veteran 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 ration.

But what happens if the horse's dentition is compromised to an extent that it impairs intake? Or even can a veteran 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 trialed 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 - and a standard quality hay.

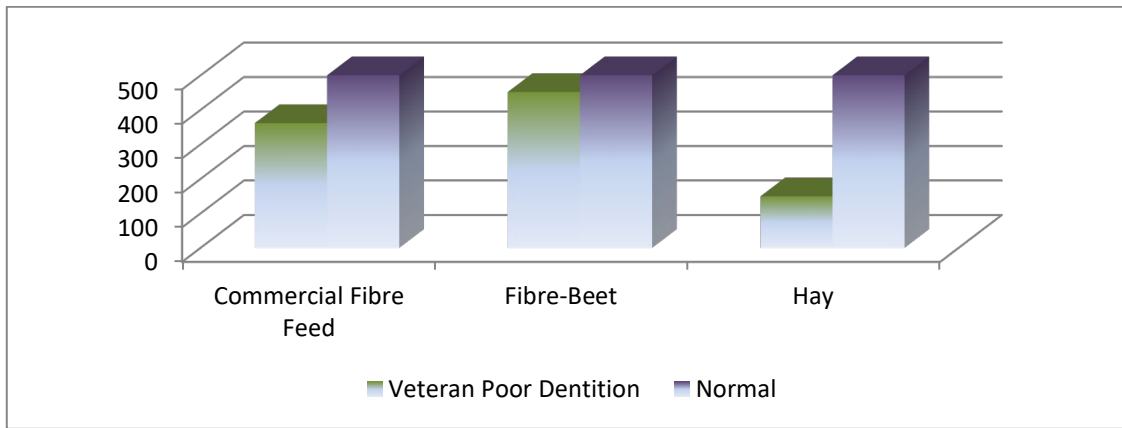


Figure 1. Uptake of feed offered (500g) over a 45 minute period.

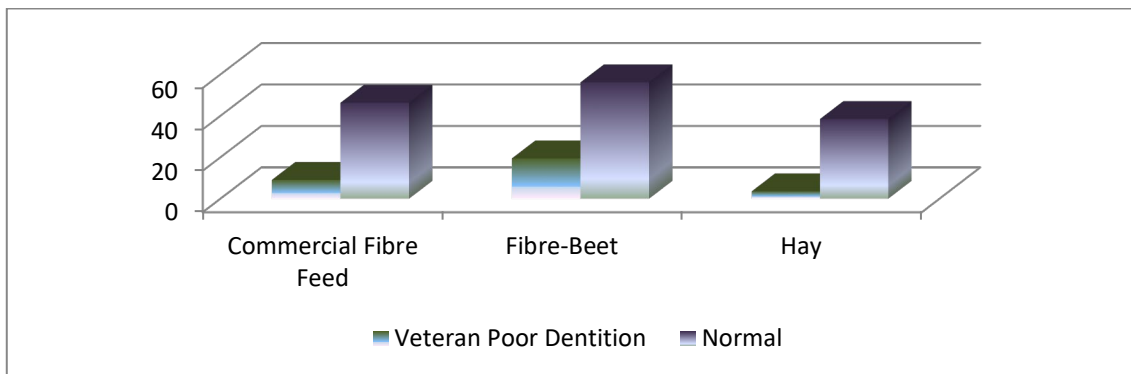


Figure 2. Rate of consumption (grams per minute) of feed

Fibre-Beet 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 was also significantly improved.

If intake of forage is a problem then Fibre-Beet improves the chances of maintaining nutrition.

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