

Buyers Beware of Your Grass!

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A lady in the South Island sells her lovely hunting horse. The horse had been previously hunted by several people all having no problems. A month or so later the new owners ring up complaining the horse is a bucking, bolter! Inspection verifies rye/clover pastures.

Just recently, another less experienced woman buys a 'very quiet' horse and moves it from a 'scorched earth' situation to her rye/clover paddock. She happily rides this horse for 4 days. On the fifth day she mounted, the horse took a couple of steps and exploded, bucking her off and falling on her, the only thing saving her from serious injury was a bank which she rolled down.

I have just hung up the phone from another woman, whose daughter sold a pony, which had been grazing coastal, dry grass and hay and had been really well behaved, to some people who had rye/clover. Within a couple of days the horse is pulling back and 'won't go'. They think the pony hasn't been broken in properly.

I could fill the entire magazine with these stories. Some of them end up in court. With a bit of luck these unfortunate scenarios will become less frequent as people learn about the dangers of myco-toxins and the importance of minerals like calcium, magnesium and boron for horses. Visit www.horsemanshipnz.com for more information.

Everyone wants to have an enjoyable time with their horse. Achieving this is not a matter of feeding a 'fix it' product but of having a whole feeding regime which keeps the horse calm and healthy all year round. Vet bills go down, enjoyment goes up.

The mycotoxins are part of the problem and there is no substitute for removing them completely from the horse's diet. Toxin-binders are a help but there are times when the toxins still overwhelm the horse and cause major problems.

Mineral imbalances are another huge influence on your horse's health and behaviour. Apart from those tended organically for years, New Zealand soils are averagely lacking in minerals such as calcium, magnesium and boron (Just go Googling and you will find out heaps, especially about boron and how it's presence reduces the body's excretion of calcium and magnesium by up to 50%).

Lime is calcium and is great to add to the soil, it tends to unlock minerals especially phosphate. But to adequately supply your horse, organic forms are far more cost effective. Organic magnesium is great when your horse is showing symptoms of magnesium deficiency but as soon as possible feed organic calcium as well to prevent calcium deficiency and maintain physical health long term.

Hi Jenny

Julie herefrom the Bay of Plenty. I have the 5 year old Appaloosa, who I had had trouble with. Photophobic, head-flicking agitated etc etc. Your advice has been so helpful, I also purchased your book- The Key to Calm, Healthy Horses and enjoy reading the articles that you publish in the 'Horse Trader' magazine also.

Having implemented your suggested pasture management, with the addition of Alleviate-C, Tox-Defy, plus the Premium minerals and vitamins - I am on the way to having a much calmer and happier horse, nmuch to my relief.

Keep up the great work, Regards Julie