



HYGAIN™

Feeding the Off the Track Horse.

Hygain Nutrition Plan.



Preface.

Off the Track (OTT) horses are highly adaptable at switching from a racing career, to a range of other equestrian pursuits.

One of the most delicate aspects of an OTT horse's transformation is its diet. Any change in feed can have a direct and noticeable impact upon the horse's health and wellbeing.

As one of the world's leading equine feed mills, The Hygain Group is passionate about helping owners achieve positive outcomes for OTT horses.

Accordingly, Hygain® is proud to partner with OTT programs that seek to uphold horse welfare.

The following guide has been prepared by the Hygain Nutrition Team to share practical advice that will help your OTT horse achieve optimum body condition at all stages of life.

By reading this guide you will discover recommendations for the most common dietary challenges faced by OTT horses. You will also gain insight into the science that underpins this nutritional topic.



Contents.

Information included within this document is general information only and not intended to be used in any way except as a general guide to care. Consult with your equine nutritionist for specific nutrition advice or veterinarian for health advice that is specific to the unique needs and health concerns of your horse.

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The fundamental goals of feeding.

Before we explore feeding horses in detail, it's important to step back and consider *why* we feed:

1. To maintain optimal condition

What we mean by 'optimal condition' is not overweight, nor underweight, but a *healthy condition*. An overweight horse is not a healthy horse, just the same as a skinny horse is not a healthy horse. We aim for *optimal* condition to best support the horse's inner health and to support their performance potential.

2. To meet vitamin and mineral requirements

Your horse has a specific daily requirement for nutrients and it is important we provide that to support overall health and wellbeing. Pasture alone is unlikely to fully meet a horse's vitamin and mineral needs. Therefore, it is beneficial for a horse to be provided with vitamins & minerals, either through supplementation or a fully fortified feed.

The HYGAIN® range of fully fortified feeds are designed to meet the horse's vitamin & mineral requirements when fed at the recommended rate.

3. To support wellbeing

Horses have evolved to eat for extended periods of time and gain much enjoyment from this task! Their digestive systems are uniquely geared to process an almost constant flow of food.

Additionally, the act of eating satisfies the horse's inherent desire to chew. The chewing motion activates saliva production, which in turn helps to buffer gastric acid and protect the health of the digestive system.

When creating a diet it is always best to start at the basics and check that everything that goes into your horse's feed has a purpose.

What does a Racehorse eat?

Before we create a new diet for an OTT horse it is important to understand what our new horse might have been fed to this point.

Racehorses work at an extremely high level and are fed significant amounts of energy to fuel performance and maintain condition.

What's in the feed?

The racehorse's diet involves high starch ingredients such as corn, oats, and barley. Starch provides quick release energy which supports the powerful nature of the horse's work. Starch is also excellent for maintaining condition. However, starch can be a driver of 'fizzy' behaviour, particularly if a horse doesn't have a job to direct all of that energy towards.

The starch levels required by a racehorse are unlikely to be required once the horse is retired from racing. This raises an important goal for the OTT horse, which is to **reduce the amount of starch in the diet**. Specific methods to achieve this goal are detailed further within this guide.

Racehorse feed is also nutrient dense to ensure sufficient vitamins and minerals are provided to match the intensity of their workload. It is important to note that a racehorse doesn't simply eat more volume than say, the average pleasure horse (Otherwise we would only need one feed mix at the feed store!) They are in fact eating a diet that is tailored to their task with a nutrient profile to match.

How much feed?

It may come as a surprise, but racehorses are typically fed anywhere from 5-7kgs of hard feed per day. This ensures they are provided with sufficient energy for work and helps maintain their optimum condition. The key takeaway here is that racehorses USE the large amounts of energy that they're provided.

The volume of feed required by a racehorse is significantly larger than what your typical OTT horse requires.

Example of a typical racehorse feed. Rich in starch and formulated for high performance.



Comparing daily feed volume.

5-7Kg

Typical daily feed ration for a racehorse (horse in full training / race condition)

VS

2kg

Typical daily grain ration required by an OTT once let down



What does this mean for my OTT?

Whilst racing, horses become well adapted to their feed and their metabolism is working very quickly. Once a horse is retired from racing there is no automatic 'off' switch for their metabolism. It takes time for their metabolism to slow down and for their digestive system to adjust.

This means that when a horse ends its racing career we actually need to continue to feed them in a similar way to their race diet until their metabolism slows and realises they are no longer a racehorse! Feed changes must be made gradually.

A stepped approach to transitioning your OTT horse's diet is covered in the next section.

First 3-6 months

+6 months

The first 3-6 months of retirement.

Once a horse is retired from racing, we need to ensure we provide them with a sufficient quantity of feed. This will help to avoid the drop in condition that can occur when an OTT horse is not fed appropriately.

Myth:

The drop in condition an OTT horse experiences after racing is normal.

This drop in condition usually occurs when an OTT horse is not fed appropriately when they first retire. In fact, if able to access abundant and appropriate feed, an OTT is more likely to GAIN weight because their metabolism is still in 'race mode.' The horse is just as hungry in the initial stage of retirement as it was in training.

High volume of food intake + reduced exercise
= **WEIGHT GAIN**

Elite level human athletes face a similar metabolic transition when they retire. Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps reportedly consumed 8,000 – 10,000 calories a day during training. Compare that to the recommended 2,000 calories a day for the average adult!

It is little wonder that there is an adjustment period where the metabolism is still driving hunger despite the body not using all of the energy consumed. Accordingly, the ex-racehorse can exhibit a big appetite that doesn't align with its energy output.

Remember, a healthy horse is in **optimal condition**. We do not want the OTT horse to gain or lose an unnecessary amount of condition. There is however an exception to this is when it comes to muscle-mass during the 'let down' period. A drop in muscle-mass is absolutely normal if the horse is out for a spell and no longer in training.

Tip:

Keep an eye out for changes in your horse's condition and assess whether it is losing muscle or weight.

Take regular pictures of your horse so you can monitor how their condition is changing over time.



First 3-6 months

+6 months

The first 3-6 months of retirement.

Choosing the right feed after retirement. During the transition phase we need to 'wean' the horse from a higher volume feed.

What do I feed a horse immediately after it retires from racing?

Choose a feed that is highly digestible, contains a good nutrient content and a moderate level of starch. As discussed, racehorses are being fed between 5-7kg per day of a high starch feed. If we suddenly drop the volume of feed down to 2kg and significantly reduce their starch intake this will cause weight loss. Instead, we recommend starting with a 'transitioning feed' such as HYGAIN® TRU CARE®.

TRU CARE® is a fully fortified, highly digestible feed which will help to maintain your new OTT horse's condition and meet their vitamin and mineral requirements (alongside roughage).

How much do I feed a horse after it retires from racing?

During the transition phase we need to 'wean' the horse from a higher volume feed. For the first 4 weeks we recommend a daily ration of 4-5kg of TRU CARE®, divided between 2 meals.

4 weeks will give you an understanding of how your new horse is responding to its new life. If they are maintaining their condition well, you can start reducing the amount being fed as their metabolism slows. Please be mindful that this should occur gradually as it can take 6 months for the OTT to fully 'let down.'

'Let down' is a term used in the equine industry to refer to a horse's return to the muscular and physiological state it exhibited prior to race training. The term also encompasses changes to the horse's behaviour or mental state as it adapts to its new environment.

Hygain® TruCare®



Conditioning ingredients help to maintain the horse's optimum condition



High in soluble fibres to maintain a healthy gut



Glycosamine for joint health



Muscle repair
Natural Vitamin E for antioxidant, circulatory and cardiovascular functions

13
DE MJ/kg

16%
Crude protein

8%
Crude fat

18%
Crude fibre

1%
Calcium


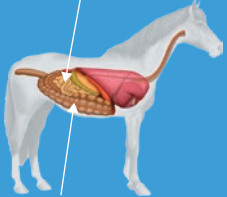

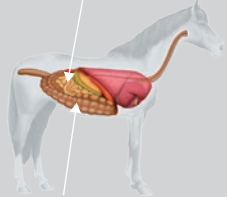


First 3-6 months

+6 months

The first 3-6 months of retirement.

There are many changes occurring within your new OTT horse's life and digestive system during the initial 0-3 months. With careful management we can make the transition as smooth as possible.

<p>RACING HORSE Typical feed example Daily ration (approx) • 5kg hay • 5-7kg hard feed</p>  <p>High volume grain = High starch</p>	<p>RACING digestive activity High Starch is digested in the small intestine. Starch is the main source of condition.</p>  <p>Low fibre diet results in less fibre loving microbes in the hindgut (large intestine).</p>	<p>0-3 MONTHS OTT Typical feed example Daily ration (approx) • 8kg hay (or ad lib) • 3-4kg hard feed</p>  <p>Lower volume grain = Lower starch</p>	<p>OTT digestive activity Less starch is digested in the small intestine. Fibre becomes a key source of condition.</p>  <p>High fibre diet stimulates an increase in fibre loving microbes within the hindgut (large intestine).</p>
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Essential roughage

Roughage is the most important part of any horse's diet. For an OTT horse straight out of racing it should be provided ad lib – whether that is in the form of pasture or hay. What we need to keep in mind is that the racehorse is typically accustomed to a large hard feed and restricted access to roughage. This means that their digestive system is not yet adapted to high roughage meals.

As you reduce the horse's hard feed intake its body will adjust to rely on roughage as the bulk of the diet. The hindgut's microbiome will gradually change to better suit the new, roughage-rich diet.

Roughage in the NT, QLD & some areas of NSW

In some areas of Australia, particularly northern QLD and the NT, oxalated pastures are common. An oxalated pasture contains oxalates which bind to calcium causing it to become unavailable to the horse.

Horses grazing high oxalate pastures that are not provided a sufficient supplemental source of calcium may become calcium deficient.

This can lead to the body extracting calcium from its largest reserve – the bones. If a calcium deficiency continues, the bones become weak, and to strengthen them the body will add additional connective tissue. Connective tissue is not as strong as bone and the body lays more connective tissue than the previous bone. This leads to enlargement of structures such as the head, which is why the disease associated with oxalated pasture is commonly known as 'Big Head.'

The technical name for this disease is –

Nutritional Secondary Hyperparathyroidism.

You can prevent Nutritional Secondary Hyperparathyroidism by increasing the calcium provided to your horse. This can be done by adding in a specific calcium supplement to the feed or by feeding a portion of lucerne hay. Lucerne hay is rich in calcium content and helps to increase the available calcium within the diet, preventing the disease from occurring.

First 3-6 months

+6 months

After the digestive system slows +6 months.

Once the horse has adjusted to its new life, we are able to tailor the diet to their individual requirements. During this time you have become familiar with your new horse and you may have some condition or behavioural goals in mind.



First 3-6 months

+6 months

Feeding the 'hot' OTT

Some OTTs can be naturally energetic! This may not be what you as a rider are looking for. To reduce a horse's excess energy, you can decrease their overall starch/sugar intake.

Some OTTs can be naturally energetic! This may not be what you as a rider are looking for. To reduce a horse's excess energy, you can decrease their overall starch/sugar intake. As the horse's digestive system has now slowed, this is the perfect time to make this dietary tweak.

Tip:

If you place an OTT horse onto a lower starch feed immediately after they retire it can result in dropped condition. This is why it is recommended to wait 6 months for the horse's digestive metabolism to adjust.

HYGAIN® ICE® is an excellent option to reduce excess starch from the horse's diet whilst helping to maintain their optimum condition. A minimum of 2kgs/day is required to meet vitamin and mineral requirements (alongside roughage).

This can be increased further if the horse requires it to maintain condition. If transitioning from TRU CARE® to ICE®, we suggest matching volume for volume, or increasing by x 1.5 for poor doers to avoid a decrease in weight when lowering the starch content.

Hygain® Ice®



Slow release energy
Highly digestible fibres helps add condition to the horse



Min & Vit Power
Chelated Minerals are highly available and support healthy bones.



Building topline
Pure Rice Bran Oil to maximise absorption and feed efficiency for muscle building



High in digestible fibre
high-fiber formula (35%) helps support healthy gut function

10.5
DE MJ/kg

12%
Crude protein

4%
Crude fat

25%
Crude fibre

1.2%
Calcium



First 3-6 months

+6 months

Feeding the 'hot' OTT

If you find your horse is particularly 'hot' you can reduce the starch content.

If you find your horse is particularly 'hot' you can reduce the starch content even further by using HYGAIN® ZERO®. Please keep in mind that moving directly from TRU CARE® to ZERO® can cause a drop in condition because the starch content will significantly decrease. It is important to be aware of this and make the change gradually.

An option is to start with TRU CARE®, then move to ICE®, and if required transition to ZERO®.

This gradual transition will reduce the risk of unnecessary weight loss.

Hygain® Zero®



Safe starch
High fibre, low starch formula ideal for horses prone to metabolic related issues



Hoof booster
Biotin for rapid hoof development



High in digestible fibre
high-fiber formula (35%) helps support healthy gut function



Slow release energy
Highly digestible fibres helps add condition to the horse

11.5
DE MJ/kg

15%
Crude protein

4%
Crude fat

35%
Crude fibre

<1.5%
Max starch



First 3-6 months

+6 months

Feeding to build condition.

If you find yourself in a situation where your OTT horse has dropped condition, or you have purchased an OTT horse in poor condition, there are strategies to help build them back up.

1. Increase the amount of feed being fed

You can increase the volume of hard feed to boost calorie intake. The feeding rate for HYGAIN® 'fully fortified feeds' is a minimum of 2kg/day, however this can be increased gradually if required.

Also, consider which feed the horse is currently on. If it is a very low starch feed such as HYGAIN® ZERO®, you may find they need a more conditioning option such as HYGAIN® ICE® or HYGAIN® TRU CARE®.

2. Add a source of fat to your horse's diet.

Horses are great at digesting fat and it can be used to help maintain condition. Fat in the form of oil has the added benefit of providing a 'slow release' energy source. This means that your horse is less likely to exhibit hyperactive behaviour from oil (when compared to building condition with high starch additives).

Horses can have up to 250ml/day of an oil or a high fat supplement such as HYGAIN® TRU GAIN® (0.5-1kg/day) can be added to the diet.

Tip:

When introducing oil to your horse's diet it's important to gradually build up to the desired daily ration.

This helps to avoid digestive disturbance and loose stools.



First 3-6 months

+6 months

Feeding to build condition.

Adding fibre into the diet provides an excellent supply of digestible energy which helps build condition.

3. Adding a 'super fibre' into the diet

A 'super fibre' is a highly digestible fibre that provides an excellent supply of digestible energy. Super fibres such as HYGAIN® MICRBEET® and HYGAIN® FIBRESENTIALS® can help build condition. These are great options to support digestive health whilst adding weight.

Tip:

HYGAIN® MICRBEET® and HYGAIN® FIBRESENTIALS® are not fully fortified feeds.

Ensure a super fibre is fed alongside a fully fortified feed or vitamin and mineral supplement.



First 3-6 months

+6 months

Feeding to boost topline development.

Improve the musculature along the horse's back, neck and hindquarters. This general area of muscle is commonly referred to as 'topline.'

When the OTT horse 'lets down' they often lose muscle mass. This naturally occurs as they are no longer in race training. When it is time to bring your OTT back into work you may wish to focus on improving their topline through the following methods:

1. Increase the essential amino acids in their diet

To build muscle the horse must have a sufficient quantity of quality amino acids – the building blocks of protein. To boost their intake, you can either add a portion of a high protein feed such as HYGAIN® SHOWTORQUE® (0.5-1kg/day) to the horse's current diet or add a protein supplement such as HYGAIN® SUPER AMINO 66®.

2. Add an oil or increase calorie intake

Sometimes what we initially perceive as a lack of topline is actually a lack in condition. You can increase a horse's calorie intake by providing an oil (as discussed in 'Feeding to build condition') or by increasing their hard feed.

3. Work

Some exercises are more effective than others at engaging the muscles in the areas referred to as topline. If your horse isn't building muscle in the desired area then it may be worth reviewing your workout.



Hygain® Showtorque®



Muscle Fuel

Amino Acids, the building blocks of protein for muscle development and to maximise growth



Building Topline

Pure Rice Bran Oil to maximise absorption and feed efficiency for muscle building



Hoof booster

Biotin for rapid hoof development



Cereal Grain Free

No fizz, no fuss formula safe for horses prone to grain intolerance

13.49
DE MJ/kg

20%
Crude protein

9%
Crude fat

16%
Crude fibre

1%
Calcium

First 3-6 months

+6 months

Feeding to boost topline development.

There's no way around it; building topline involves building muscle. If the horse isn't being exercised then it won't build muscle – regardless of the amount of protein consumed.

Building topline muscle requires a combination of nutritional support and physical exercise. If the horse is exercised and provided with a quality source of protein and essential amino acids, it WILL gradually build up muscle and achieve the goal of improving topline.

Don't forget that these changes take time. If you routinely take photos of your horse as part of condition monitoring, you will notice the improvement over time.

Achieving the perfect topline!

- Warm up slowly
- Encourage suppleness
- Pole & caveletti work
- Take walk breaks
- Correct lunging

Creating that perfect topline is what we are all after! The topline of the horse includes the withers, back loin and croup. Strength of topline and loin muscles also influences soundness and athletic ability. Quality Nutrition and correct exercise are key components when developing your horses topline.

Developing a horse's topline entails more than just correct exercises to help build muscle, it is a fine balance of quality nutrition, regular dental check-ups and checking the mental and physical state of the horse.

For more information about developing topline visit www.hygain.com.au/developing-healthy-topline/



First 3-6 months

+6 months

Feeding the 'good doing' OTT horse.

Not all OTT horses are poor doers. Some may even need their weight reduced. To feed a 'good doing' OTT horse we need to choose an option that maintains nutrition without the risk of excess calories.

Good doing horses normally require a concentrated feed or a semi-concentrated feed.

'**Good doer**'/'**Easy Keeper**' is a term used in the equine industry to refer to horses that maintain their weight easily or have a 'slower' metabolism in comparison to others. These are horses that typically do not require a hard feed or require a small hard feed to maintain their optimum condition.

'**Poor doer**'/'**Hard Keeper**' is a term used to describe a horse that requires a larger hard feed to maintain their optimum condition or has a 'faster' metabolism in comparison to other horses. These horses typically require 2-4+kg of hard feed alongside their roughage to maintain optimum condition.

1. Concentrated feeds

A **concentrated feed** is designed to contain a large amount of nutrients within a small ration of feed. This avoids adding unwanted calories to the horse's diet which trigger weight gain.

When reading the feeding guide of a concentrated feed you will often find that the recommended rate is around 500g/day for a 500kg horse. If you have a very good doing OTT horse, choose a concentrated option such as HYGAIN® BALANCED®.

HYGAIN® BALANCED® is a fully fortified concentrate, meaning that it contains the vitamins & minerals required by your horse (when fed at the recommended daily rate).

Hygain® Balanced®



Small feed, maximum result
Low dose pellet from 0.5kg feed per day (mature 500kg horse at maintenance)



Immune and Gut Defence
Prebiotics to support a healthy gut and immune system



Min & Vit Power
Chelated Minerals are highly available and support healthy bones



Muscle repair
Natural Vitamin E for antioxidant, circulatory and cardiovascular functions

11
DE MJ/kg

25%
Crude protein

4%
Crude fat

10%
Crude fibre

5%
Max starch



First 3-6 months

+6 months

Feeding the ‘good doing’ OTT horse.

If the horse requires more condition than what is provided in a concentrate, a semi-concentrated feed may be the solution.

2. Semi-Concentrated feeds

Semi-concentrated feeds are provided at approx. 1.5kg/day for a 500kg horse at maintenance. This will provide more calories than a concentrated feed.

HYGAIN® SHOWTORQUE® is a fully fortified semi-concentrate, meaning that it contains the vitamins & minerals required by your horse when fed at the recommended daily rate.



Hygain® Showtorque®



Muscle Fuel
Amino Acids, the building blocks of protein for muscle development and to maximise growth



Hoof booster
Biotin for rapid hoof development



Building Topline
Pure Rice Bran Oil to maximise absorption and feed efficiency for muscle building



Cereal Grain Free
No fizz, no fuss formula safe for horses prone to grain intolerance



13.49
DE MJ/kg

20%
Crude protein

9%
Crude fat

16%
Crude fibre

1%
Calcium

First 3-6 months

+6 months

Feeding the ageing OTT horse.

As your horse ages their digestive system slows and their teeth begin to deteriorate.

This calls for a feed that is highly digestible, able to be soaked to a soft mash, and is great at maintaining condition. HYGAIN® TRU CARE® is an excellent option for our beloved oldies as they head into their senior years.

'Mash' refers to a feed that can be soaked in water and turned into a porridge like consistency. This allows horses with poor dentition to easily consume the feed. A mash can also be provided to increase the moisture intake of the horse.

Hygain® TruCare®



Conditioning ingredients
help to maintain the horse's optimum condition



High in soluble fibres
to maintain a healthy gut



Glycosamine
for joint health



Muscle repair
Natural Vitamin E for antioxidant, circulatory and cardiovascular functions



13
DE MJ/kg

16%
Crude protein

8%
Crude fat

18%
Crude fibre

1%
Calcium

Feeding the ageing OTT horse.

Your horse's teeth may not be in the condition they once were, but their digestive system still needs roughage.

Don't forget about roughage:

Your horse's teeth may not be in the condition they once were, but their digestive system still needs roughage. If your horse is struggling to chew hay or pasture then it's time to start supplementing with alternative roughage sources.

To do this you can use pre-chopped fibre products such as chaff, Fiber Fresh® or soakable super fibres such as HYGAIN® MICRBEET® or HYGAIN® FIBRESENTIALS®





Supporting Supplements.

Does my OTT require additional supplements to support overall wellbeing?

Supporting Supplements

As all horses are individuals, it stands to reason that some OTT horses will use more of a specific nutrient than another horse. It may simply be as a result of the horse's individual physiology, or come as the result of its workload. Various supplements are available to boost nutrition. We cover the most common challenges/solutions in the following section.

Staying Hydrated

Hydration is important for overall health and wellbeing. When your horse is hydrated, they produce sufficient quantities of saliva which helps to lubricate the digestive tract. This reduces the risk of impaction colic. To keep your horse hydrated we recommend adding salt directly to the daily diet.

This will ensure your horse is meeting their sodium and chloride requirements, plus the sodium will encourage the horse to drink. Add 30g to a horse's diet, basic table salt is suitable.

In warmer climates or after a hard training session it is recommended that an electrolyte is added to your horse's diet. This will help to replenish electrolytes that have been lost via sweat.

Electrolytes are important for many bodily functions, and it is essential to meet this requirement for optimal health and wellbeing.

HYGAIN® REGAIN®

An excellent daily electrolyte replacer for all horses. Add directly to the feed.



HYGAIN® SWEAT UP®

Targeted towards horses with anhidrosis or the Puffs (an inability to sweat effectively). This is particularly useful for OTT horses in the NT, QLD and parts of NSW.



HYGAIN® RECUPERATE®

A recovery paste containing electrolytes, B-group vitamins and Vitamin E. Recommended after travelling, during competition, or after hard work to encourage water consumption.



Digestive health.

Digestive health is necessary for all horses, but can be of particular importance for OTT horses experiencing changes in diet, workload and environment.

The digestive system performs the essential functions of breaking down feed, extracting nutrients and generating energy. Digestive health is necessary for all horses, but can be of particular importance for OTT horses experiencing changes in diet, workload and environment.

When a horse is racing, they are often fed large, grain-rich meals. The nature of their environment may also result in restricted access to roughage. These combined factors of high starch and restricted roughage can result in damage to the horse's stomach and hindgut.

When a horse is retired from racing it is common practice to reduce grain intake and increase roughage. This is a positive dietary change, however it is important to understand that the horse's digestive system takes time to adjust to the increase in roughage.

A horse that is accustomed to a high grain diet will not be as efficient at extracting nutrients from roughage when compared to a horse that is already on a roughage-rich diet. The microbial ecosystem within the hindgut takes time to adjust to the new feed. Therefore, we do not recommend removing all the grain (starch) from the diet immediately after the horse exits racing. Instead, we recommend a 'weaning' period to allow the digestive system time to adapt to the new diet. As covered earlier, HYGAIN® TRUCARE® can be used for this purpose.

We suggest adding a digestive supplement, such as HYGAIN® DIGEST & PROTECT® to support the horse's digestive system while the horse is weaned from grains.

HYGAIN® DIGEST & PROTECT® is scientifically formulated to support various aspects of gut function and has proven beneficial to a range of horses, particularly OTT horses with digestive sensitivities.

Supporting digestive health with DIGEST & PROTECT®



PREBIOTIC & PROBIOTIC



MYCOTOXIN BINDER



GLUTAMINE & THREONINE



ANISEED FLAVOUR



DIGESTIVE ENZYMES



SUPERIOR ACID BUFFERING



SLIPPERY ELM



Hoof and Coat health.

Horses with poor quality or brittle hooves benefit from Biotin. In addition, Zinc and Methionine play key roles in the production of Keratin needed for optimal hoof and coat production.

It is not uncommon for OTT horses to experience hoof integrity issues. There appears to be a correlation between high starch diets and poor-quality hoof growth or brittle hooves.

Once an OTT horse transitions to a diet that is lower in starch, often hoof growth improves. As hoof development is an ongoing process, these changes may take 4-8 weeks to become apparent once the diet is changed.

Supplements are available to nutritionally support healthy hoof growth.



HYGAIN® GLEAM®

Support the horse's optimal hoof and coat production.



Feeding the OTT overview.

The first 3-6 months.

Initial 4 weeks

Feed **Tru Care®**
 • 4-5kg daily to mitigate weight loss (include roughage, hay/pasture)

4 weeks - 3 months

Adjust **Tru Care®** as required.
 • 2-5kg daily

After 3 months

Assess condition and behaviour (intervene earlier if you observe a concerning loss in condition prior to this milestone).



Is your horse too energetic?

YES

Explore a lower starch option.

NO

Continue with **Hygain® Tru Care®**



Has your horse experienced unwanted changes in condition?

GAINED WEIGHT

Explore a concentrate or semi concentrate feed. If the horse is on **ICE®**, consider **ZERO®** as a lower starch option.



MAINTAINED WEIGHT

Great! Continue with your horse's diet. Consider a supplement if needed (e.g. more energy, poor hooves, electrolyte support etc).

LOST WEIGHT

Consider a high fat supplement or super fibre supplement as an addition to current diet. Increase volume of current feed e.g. 2-3kg daily.



Unsure what to do at any stage?

Ask the Hygain Nutrition Team for help!

Phone: 03 5943 2255 Email: nutrition@hygain.com.au

Do you need help formulating your OTT horse's diet?

The Hygain Nutrition Team are on hand to provide analysis and advice for your horse's individual needs.

The OTT diet analysis and advice is a complimentary service that is offered to help horse owners navigate the science of equine nutrition. Don't let feed overwhelm you -Reach out for friendly help from the experts.

The team are not just available to help with your OTT horse. All horses, regardless of breed are able to access this service.

Get started by using your preferred method:

• NUTRIKEY

A free service proudly provided by HYGAIN®

1. Visit nutrikey.com.au
2. Input your horse's details
3. Receive personalised analysis and advice from an Equine Nutrition Advisor

• PHONE CONSULTATION

1. Book a free 30 minute phone consultation with an Equine Nutrition Advisor by visiting calendly.com/nutrikey/ott-nutrition-call
2. During your consultation, talk through your feed requirements, issues and questions.
3. The next step is up to you! If you'd like a documented report and a diet plan for your horse, then your Equine Nutrition Advisor will help connect you with Nutrikey.

Beyond the guide

The Hygain Nutrition Team have compiled the information in this guide to assist OTT horse owners when making dietary choices for their horse.

The team recognises that some OTT horses have needs beyond the scope of this guide. As such, we welcome your direct enquiry should you require tailored advice.

Hygain Nutrition Team

Phone: 03 5943 2255

(Ask to be put through to the Nutrition Team)

Email: nutrition@hygain.com.au

Information included within this document is general information only and not intended to be used in any way except as a general guide to care. Consult with your equine nutritionist for specific nutrition advice or veterinarian for health advice that is specific to the unique needs and health concerns of your horse.

Hygain Feeds partners.

Hygain Feeds proudly partners with:

Off The Track is an extension of TRNT and aims to support the welfare of racehorses in their life after racing. TRNT Off The Track is strongly committed to the welfare of all Thoroughbreds, both during and after racing. Leading welfare practices have been developed to support the care of our racehorses and aid with their transition into retirement. Additionally, we intend to build on strong partnerships within the racing industry and the community.



The Thorough Care SA framework outlines our ongoing commitment to build on the work of those in the racing community by continually evolving and improving practices focused on the welfare of thoroughbreds before, during and after their racing careers.





www.hygain.com.au/feedingott