

BIOVANCE®

March 2009



Biovance® E-News
Nutrition is Physiology™

Dear Valued Customer

In the March 2009 issue of The Horse, (p.33) Heather Smith Thomas talks about the impact the current economic situation has had on the horse owning public. Everyone is trying to trim costs. In the same article, however, a poll taken amongst the magazine's readership indicates that half of those responding will make no changes in what they spend; in fact, 23% indicated they were going to spend more than they did in 2008! As anyone who owns and cares for horses knows, there are some things that you simply cannot skimp on, and the realities of economic inputs necessary for successful equine management leave little room for cutbacks.

The article did raise a key point that is more than worthy of exploration. Horse owners need to figure out where and how they spend their money, and work towards eliminating areas of waste, duplication and unnecessary purchases. For example, many of the supplements commonly used by horsemen are actually unnecessary if you are feeding any good commercial feed. Many of them make claims of effectiveness they cannot support with any scientific evidence, and are bought and sold based upon a perceived value that is really not there. We, at Biovance, have taken a very different approach to equine research and product development. Our products and programs are designed to provide you, the horse owner, with real economy. For the past 20 years, our research has focused on how to make your horse more efficient, while simultaneously reducing the health risks associated with unavoidable management situations imposed by our modern lifestyles. This issue of the newsletter coincides with the equine reproductive season, the time when most foals are born and most mares are bred. Did you know that the post-foaling mare is at greatest risk from colic or founder? Did you know that your unsound four-year-old was made that way sometime in the first 6 months of his or her life? These situations are all avoidable by putting Biovance science to work for you.

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A research-proven, natural approach to equine
digestive and physiological management



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U.S. Patent Nos. 6,258,275; 6,272,098; Patent Pending
6,287,200

www.BioVance.com

Catalyst-Rx™ and Revolution™ are patented technologies that were originally developed to help prevent colic, laminitis, and other problems associated with digestive abnormalities. They do this by consistently increasing the "good" bacteria resident in the hindgut of the horse. When the numbers of bacteria are increased, feed utilization becomes more efficient, resulting in better bone and muscle growth. Horses literally grow faster to their genetic potential and are ready to breed, foal, and perform sooner. Improvements in growth rates, primarily frame and muscle, is the kind of growth that results in sound useful horses when they mature.

New Product Sneak Peak !



As horse owners, Biovance Technologies, the manufacturer of Revolution™ Equine Maintenance Diet, wants you to be one of the first to hear about a new product that we are distributing called *One 'N Only*.

The *One 'N Only* concept was developed in cooperation with nutritionists at Texas A&M University . It was researched and developed as a complete feed, replacing the need to feed forage, grain, and supplements. Every mouthful of *One 'N Only* is completely balanced for energy, protein, vitamins, and minerals.

Why Feed *One 'N Only*?

- It is the ideal feed for the older horse that has difficulty chewing.
- Eliminates waste.
- Is guaranteed completely safe; *One 'N Only* can be fed free choice.
- Every mouthful is always consistent; this takes the guess work (and the risk) out of cafeteria style feeding programs.
- All nutrients are completely balanced for optimal utilization.

What to Expect When Expecting

With spring comes the arrival of many new foals. The following are some tips to get these young equines started on the right path.

Last Month of Pregnancy: The mare's gestation is 340 days. During the last month of pregnancy, the mare needs to be monitored closely for signs of impending parturition. The most accurate of these are changes in her udder development. The average mare's udder increases dramatically in size the last two to three weeks of pregnancy. Within one to four days of foaling, a waxy substance (colostrum) will develop on the teat ends. If she is dripping large quantities of milk prior to foaling, steps must be taken so that all of the colostrum is not lost.



Impending Delivery: When delivery is near, the mare should be boarded in a stall large enough to allow her to easily lay down and not be crowded (at least 14' x 14'). She needs to be stalled during inclement weather and at night. Her bedding must be clean and dry. (The cleaner the stall, the less bacteria exposure for the newborn foal.) The mare must be current on her vaccinations at least 30 to 60 days before her due date. These include Sleeping Sickness, Tetanus, Influenza, Rhino, Endovac, and West Nile. Strangles vaccination is recommended for mares traveling to an outside breeding facility where exposure to strangles is high.

Labor: Labor is divided into three stages. The first is usually 30 minutes to four hours in duration. She will seem restless and demonstrate mild colic-type symptoms. The second is the actual delivery of the foal. The normal delivery begins with breaking of the water sac, followed by the appearance of the foal's front feet and muzzle, and ending with complete delivery of the foal. This stage usually takes between 15 to 30 minutes. If this stage is taking longer or the progression of delivery ceases, seek immediate assistance. The third stage is the mare passing the placenta, which is typically expelled within 30 minutes to three hours after foaling.

Foal Activity: Monitoring the foal's activity is important. The healthy, normal foal should be able to sit sternal within 10 minutes, have an effective suckle reflex within 20 minutes, stand within one hour, and typically nurse the mare within two hours from birth. If the foal is able to complete these tasks, we recommend a post-partum neonatal exam be completed in the first 24 hours of life. At this exam, the foal is evaluated for general health, given a tetanus antitoxin, and usually started on a three-day course of antibiotics. These simple steps can often prevent some devastating health problems in young equines.