



Feeds for Anhidrosis, Dry Coat and Non-Sweating Disease

What is Anhidrosis in horses?

Anhidrosis is also known as "dry coat" or "non-sweating disease". These horses lose the ability to sweat, and hence cannot use evaporation as a form of body temperature regulation, which can lead to overheating (hyperthermia).

How do I know my horse has Anhidrosis?

Some horses have been shown to sweat profusely in the few weeks or days before Anhidrosis starts. Affected horses can stop sweating altogether, or reduced and patchy sweating, especially in areas typically prone to heavy sweating (such as the girth or over the back). These changes in sweat production can occur overnight or start to set in gradually.

Symptoms of Anhidrosis include:

- loss of performance

What causes Anhidrosis in horses?

The exact cause of Anhidrosis is unknown, although it is known that the horse's sweat glands become unresponsive. Horses that are exposed to a hot humid climate are most susceptible to this condition. All breeds of horse can be affected by Anhidrosis. One possible cause of Anhidrosis is an imbalance through osmosis of the blood.

For more information or to order CoolStance/PowerStance, please call 803-647-1200 or e-mail Claudia@stanceglobal.com

How diet helps Anhidrosis in horses

Anhidrosis cannot be treated effectively through medication and must be managed by diet and controlled environment. Horses that live in a hot humid environment that are not able to make a full recovery should be moved to more climate acceptable regions.

Recommended Stance Horse Feed for Anhidrosis in horses

Feeding low NSC, oil based feeds such as **CoolStance** and **PowerStance** may reduce the heat of digestion, and may assist in reducing the cooling requirements of the horse. Oil does not cause production of heat as it is digested and therefore enables the horse to stay cool while feeding and not have to compromise energy levels. Feeds generate heat during digestion in the body, and some feeds generate more heat than others. High fiber diets are digested in the large intestines and generate heat of fermentation. Cereal grains fermentation in the hindgut causes the horse to become hot and "fizzy" which compromises the horse suffering from Anhidrosis as they can't cool down.



Balanced electrolyte supplements are available for horses living in hot humid environments and should be fed in the months before the onset of summer/hot weather. Clipping, fan/air conditioning, hosing down and exercising in the coolest part of the day helps.

What else do I need to know?

Some horses with Anhidrosis regain the ability to sweat when moved from the hot, humid climate to a cooler, drier one yet others don't. Additional tips to help keep horses cool include:

- When bringing your horse to a hot, humid climate, allow him to acclimate with 10-14 days of turnout and light work before returning to regular training and showing
- Get your horse "legged up" or conditioned with interval work or distance riding before the hot months so you don't have to work on basic fitness then
- Work your horse during the cooler parts of the day usually morning or evening
- Observe your horse closely during exercise for signs of overheating such as rapid breathing or panting, rapid heart rate and fatigue
- Cool your horse off with water as cold as he will tolerate and quickly scrape it off. Keep reapplying and scraping until his temperature has returned to normal
- Provide cool air with good barn ventilation and fans

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