

# A Gift

This is simply going to change your horse's life. I am no different than most horse owners. My knowledge has evolved over the years. It has been 45 years since I acquired my first horse and I have never been without them since. I am 58 yrs now and have been around them since I was a toddler.

My training methods went through a few changes and my feeding program oscillated over the years. I probably fed nearly everything out there. Horse feed is at best a confusing issue. We all want to do the best for our guys. For the most part, I was able to dodge serious problems. What I came to realize, in the early years, I did not know what to look for.

As a professional farrier for 34 years I gathered some experience and came to recognize subtle abnormalities. I entered the natural hoof care 8 years ago and there came to light new ways to deal with the issues that were not even a thought before.

Horses were becoming metabolically challenged, labeled IR., cushings. Periodically lameness emerged with seemingly no rime or reason. As research took a stab at the problem, the solutions became unappealing. I might be riding a motor bike today if I were a new horse lover, knowing what horses might have to go through.

I recently came to experience an issue with a horse of mine. For the last two winters a 17 year old clyde mare was getting thin, it became a growing concern. With nearly 200 lbs underweight, I had to do something. She was not fed any grains of any form for many years, I reverted to do so. On top of that I began to feed the very forms of feed I had suggested to my customers not to feed with their horses. After several weeks of feeding grains, there was no weight gain. If I increased the quantity, the concern was colic and/or laminitis.

I know miracles are the work of the man upstairs but he has worked them through a man named, Dale Moulton. I had a 4 hour lunch with the man the first time we meet. I don't claim to be well versed in nutrition but knew some yet I was hearing things I had never heard from any other nutritionist. We have had explanations of insulin surges and that NSCs were responsible. It turns out that all raw grains have the same power to disrupt the digestive system in the way the NSC's are. Quantities of grains in any shape or form are not needed to provide the nutrients a horse needs to perform. Grains are a high source of starch, (energy) some greater than others. There is a consensus that the horse is a forager, eats grass /hay. Something has gone wrong that many a horse cannot sustain himself with grass /hay alone. It is not that they by nature cannot but by what man has done that has changed this. It is the raw grains. It, more specifically is the enzyme inhibitors, which grains possess. Horses are foragers like many others, i.e. cows, sheep etc. They have difficulty digesting grain because of the inhibitors. When these grains, no matter the type or the formulation, will go on through to the hind gut from the stomach undigested in this first phase. It then causes a stress hormone cortisol to produce excess insulin to deal with

this. Fermentation has triggered this stress response and subsequently toxins are directly compromising the hooves. This is where horses are having separation , white line disease, sore on hard surfaces, sore after a trim, high heels , unexplained heel pain, ripples on the hoof walls, chipping hoof walls, bacteria, fungus, poor hair coat, low energy, lack of vitality, navicular syndrome and yes full blown laminitis, just to name a few.

Though a severely compromised metabolic condition with a long history would be difficult to remedy, the horse needs a highly digestible feed. Enter, Thrive, a forage base feed developed by Dale. I was skeptical at first because many a feed made the claims he made about his feed when many had failed miserably. The hoof does not lie when it reveals the subtle signs many of the other feeds were causing, i.e. wld, redness, sore soles. It sounded too good to be true. It is good that it is true. I bought two bags that very first day. In 45 days the clyde mare gained 80% of her weight and looks like a million bucks. There is a bonus. This feed is highly digestible and provides the nutrients, minerals and vitamins to the horse like grass/hay would if they are there in the first place. This means no toxins are produced, no hoof issues.

This may sound like a cure. It is NOT. It is simply the right feed for a forage eating animal. There are serious metabolically challenged horses. Long history of this condition is going to make it difficult to reverse, at best.

If I suddenly was ill and the doc says Mr. Billette, you have high blood pressure, diabetes, and a heart condition. You must stop eating from the golden arches and now you MUST eat more salads or you will die. It is not that the salad is a cure but the right food for my health. A lifetime of eating wrong is the key. Yes, I can survive with burgers and pizzas.

I have over 100 client's horses on this feed. Some just got started and a few several weeks into it. I have yet to see all of them since they started but the ones that I have, have had unbelievable changes with wide ranges of conditions. Here is an example of a 28 yr. Not only did he need to gain 150 lbs, he had chronic abscessing of both bars on both back hooves. In 6 weeks all abscesses were 90% heeled. When I turned him out after his trim he immediately broke into a lope and ran towards his buddy. He, in the past only ran if he were chased. I had to call the owner to ask if she had seen this, she did. My name is Gates Billette, gatesbillette@hotmail.com, 940-867-5208. I have several testimonials and be glad to talk to you