

We would really appreciate your time to fill in this questionnaire.

With the squeeze on all horse owners' purses, we expect that the results of this study will provide horse owners with new information and insights into the feeding of supplements to competition horses - but we need your help!

We are two third year veterinary students at the School of Veterinary Medicine and Science, University of Nottingham. We are undertaking a research project investigating the use of nutritional supplements in horses competing at dressage and eventing. We feel that this area of nutrition and its impact on the health and performance of horses is important but under researched. To carry out this research we are working in collaboration with Dodson and Horrell. We would very much appreciate a small amount of your time to fill in this questionnaire so that we can get an insight into how and why nutritional supplements are used. The questionnaire will only take about 10 minutes of your time.

**Many thanks,
Rachael Gemmill and Charlotte Agar**

The School of Veterinary Medicine and Science, University of Nottingham, in conjunction with Dodson and Horrell.

Section 1 - About you

1. How old are you? (If you are under 16, you must have parental / guardian consent to answer this questionnaire)

2. Are you male or female?

- Male
- Female

3. How many years have you been riding?

4. How long have you been competing your top horse?

5. Is the horse that you compete... (If you have multiple answers, please choose the one that includes the majority of horses)

- Kept at home
- On DIY livery
- On part livery
- On full livery

6. Do you have any further qualifications in sport or equine science (or similar)?

- No
- Yes a BSc
- Yes a MSc
- Yes a PhD
- Yes BHS qualifications

Other (please specify)

7. In which discipline do you compete?

- Eventing
- Dressage
- Eventing and Dressage

Other (please specify)

8. How long have you been competing in this discipline?

9. Are you an owner or rider of a competition horse?

- Owner and Rider
- Owner
- Rider

10. How many horses are you currently competing?

11. What is the highest level at which your horses currently compete?

- Novice - affiliated
- Novice - unaffiliated
- Intermediate - affiliated
- Intermediate - unaffiliated
- Advanced - affiliated
- Advanced - unaffiliated

12. What do you think are the main health or performance problems for horses in your discipline?

Section 2a - Using supplements in your horses

Nutritional supplements are commonly used to help improve performance, or prevent or treat health problems.

In this section we want to find out information about all the horses you compete, in the next section we will ask specifically about your top horse.

If you use nutritional supplements in the horse or horses you compete -

13. What is your main reason for feeding nutritional supplements to your horses?

- Treating a specific problem
- Preventing a high risk problem
- Enhancing performance
- I don't feed supplements

14. What are the main reasons that you use nutritional supplements in your competition horse(s)?

Please tick all categories that apply.

- Behaviour (e.g. for calming, to increase energy or stamina, to modify hormonal problems)
- Digestion / gastrointestinal disturbances / colic
- Hoof / foot health (e.g. to improve horn quality and growth)
- Hoof/ foot problems (e.g. to prevent or treat diseases of the foot)
- Joints and mobility
- Tendon and ligament problems
- Bone and muscle (e.g. locomotion/ musculoskeletal function)
- Respiratory system and airways
- Skin, coat and condition
- Vitamins and minerals
- Electrolytes
- Stimulate appetite
- Veteran

Other (please specify)

15. Out of all the categories you ticked, which one do you think is the most important?

- Behaviour (e.g. for calming, to increase energy or stamina, to modify hormonal problems)
- Digestion / gastrointestinal disturbances / colic
- Hoof / foot health (e.g. to improve horn quality and growth)
- Hoof/ foot problems (e.g. to prevent or treat diseases of the foot)
- Joints and mobility
- Tendon and ligament problems
- Bone and muscle (e.g. locomotion/ musculoskeletal function)
- Respiratory system and airways
- Skin, coat and condition
- Vitamins and minerals
- Electrolytes
- Stimulate appetite
- Veteran

Other (please specify)

16. Out of all the supplements that you feed, what is the name of the supplement you consider to be the most important?

Section 2b - Using supplements in your top horse

17. What is the age of your top competition horse?

18. What is the breed of this horse?

19. What is the average number of competitions this horse competes in a year?

20. How many different supplements do you feed this horse a day?

21. What are the reasons for feeding nutritional supplements to your top competition horse? Please tick all categories that apply.

- Behaviour (e.g. for calming, to increase energy or stamina, to modify hormonal problems)
- Digestion / gastrointestinal disturbances / colic
- Hoof / foot health (e.g. to improve horn quality and growth)
- Hoof/ foot problems (e.g. to prevent or treat diseases of the foot)
- Joints and mobility
- Tendon and ligament problems
- Bone and muscle (e.g. locomotion/ musculoskeletal function)
- Respiratory system and airways
- Skin, coat and condition
- Vitamins and minerals
- Electrolytes
- Stimulate appetite
- Veteran

Other (please specify)

22. Out of all the categories you ticked, which one do you think is the most important?

- Behaviour (e.g. for calming, to increase energy or stamina, to modify hormonal problems)
- Digestion / gastrointestinal disturbances / colic
- Hoof / foot health (e.g. to improve horn quality and growth)
- Hoof/ foot problems (e.g. to prevent or treat diseases of the foot)
- Joints and mobility
- Tendon and ligament problems
- Bone and muscle (e.g. locomotion/ musculoskeletal function)
- Respiratory system and airways
- Skin, coat and condition
- Vitamins and minerals
- Electrolytes
- Stimulate appetite
- Veteran

Other (please specify)

23. Does this horse have any specific performance or health problems? Please tick all categories that apply.

- Behaviour (e.g. too much energy, too little energy, hormonal problems)
- Digestion / gastrointestinal disturbances / colic
- Hoof / foot health (e.g. poor horn quality and growth)
- Hoof/ foot problems (e.g. diseases of the foot)
- Joints and mobility
- Tendon and ligament problems
- Bone and muscle (e.g. locomotion/ musculoskeletal function)
- Respiratory system and airways
- Skin, coat and condition
- Electrolyte imbalances
- Poor appetite
- Veteran problems

Other (please specify)

24. Do you feel that the supplements you use to target specific problems make a difference to your horse?

- No difference seen
- Unsure
- Can slightly see improvements
- Can see a marked difference
- Could not cope without it

25. Do you feel there are appropriate supplements available to treat problems within your discipline?

Section 3 - Choosing supplements

26. Thinking about the most recent supplement that you have started using, where did you first hear about this product?

- Coach / Trainer
- Nutritionists
- Vets
- Physiotherapist
- Farrier
- Other horse owners
- Internet advertisements
- Magazine advertisements
- Flyer advertisements
- Stockists
- Internet article or review
- Research studies
- Internet chat forum

Other (please specify)

27. Where would you normally get your information on available nutritional supplements from? Please tick all categories that apply.

- Coach/ Trainer
- Nutritionists
- Vets
- Physiotherapist
- Farrier
- Other horse owners
- Internet advertisements
- Magazine advertisements
- Flyer advertisements
- Stockists
- Internet article or review
- Research studies
- Internet chat forum

Other (please specify)

28. If you use the internet as a source of information for your nutritional supplementation, where on the internet do you get your information?

- Blogs
- Forums
- Adverts
- Websites for specific disciplines
- Social networking
- Nutrition websites

Other (please specify)

29. If you use magazines as a source of information for your nutritional supplementation, where do you get your information from?

- Sponsored article
- Non sponsored article
- Advertisement

Other (please specify)

30. Which of the following sources of information do you think is the most RELIABLE? Please rank 1-3, with 1 being the most reliable source of information.

	1	2	3
Coach/ Trainer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nutritionists	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Vets	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Physiotherapist	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Farrier	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other horse owners	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Magazine	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Flyer advertisements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Stockists	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Internet	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Research studies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Manufacturer/ Advice line	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

31. Which source of information has the biggest INFLUENCE on your final decision of what to use?
Please rank 1-3, with 1 being the source that influences your decision the most.

	1	2	3
Coach/ Trainer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nutritionists	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Vets	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Physiotherapist	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Farrier	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other horse owners	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Magazine	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Flyer advertisements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Stockists	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Internet	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Research studies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Manufacturer/ Advice line	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

32. Are there any other factors that influence your decision? Please tick all categories that apply.

- Price
- Availability
- Yard policy
- Convenience
- Sponsorship deals
- Testimonials
- Personal recommendations from other riders
- Research back up

33. Do you feel there is enough information that is readily available to help you make your decision on which nutritional supplement to use?

- Yes, all the time
- Some of the time
- No, I don't think there is enough information to help me with my decision

34. Do you think vets should be more involved in transferring information about nutritional supplementation for horses? And if so how?

Section 4 - Follow up on the study

As a follow up to this questionnaire, we would really like to interview some people to discuss some of the issues in more depth. We are looking for volunteers, we would only need 30 minutes of your time and Dodson and Horrell have offered to do a free forage analysis as a thank you. Results from the questionnaire and interviews will be confidential.*

35. Would you be willing to be contacted about interviews?

Yes, I would be happy to be involved with interviews

No thank you

* Anyone participating will be identified by a code only, and your name and identity will not be disclosed. The interviews will be conducted in accordance with protocols used by the School of Veterinary Medicine and Science, and reviewed and approved by the Ethics committee.

36. If yes, please specify a name and contact details (phone and email), so that we can contact you to arrange an interview.

Even if you are willing to be interviewed, you may not be chosen. This is due to the random selection process used to ensure the validity of this study.

A summary of the results will be available in January on the Dodson and Horrell website.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.