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## NEWS

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### Study reveals decision-making over horse supplements

January 24, 2012

Horse owners are most likely to use their vet to guide the choice of nutritional supplements they feed their animals, but also rely heavily on recommendations from other riders, a British study has revealed.

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Early findings from the research, led by the School of Veterinary Sciences at the University of Nottingham, also found that joint and mobility and behaviour problems topped the list of owners' concerns when seeking horse supplements.

"This collaborative study by vets and nutritionists is the first of its kind," said Dr Sarah Freeman, an associate professor and European specialist in large animal surgery, who is supervising the study.

"It has given horse owners a voice on important issues, and the results will help vets, nutritionists and horse owners to work together to match needs for different horses."

The study is being undertaken by two third-year veterinary students, Charlotte Agar and Rachael Gemmill, in collaboration with Dr Teresa Hollands at Dodson & Horrell Ltd, a leading manufacturer of horse feeds, including nutritional supplements.

More than 800 horse owners took part in an online questionnaire for the survey, launched last September. It is understood to be the first study of its kind exploring which nutritional supplements horse owners choose for their animals and the reasons behind their choices.

The study was primarily aimed at dressage and eventing riders as a way of looking at which issues were of most concern to competition horse owners, what supplements they would like to see available and the best ways of passing on information about supplements to them.

Initial results found almost half of all owners (49.8 per cent) rely on their vet for advice on which supplements to use, followed by internet articles or reviews (39.4 per cent).

However, when asked specifically about their latest purchase of supplements, word of mouth and advice from other horse owners was identified as the most important source, most frequently cited (18.1 per



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#### Beau Jacques case not only sad, but worrying

January 23, 2012 12:47:13 AM PST  
 The sad demise of former racehorse Beau Jacques will upset any horse lover. Here was a thoroughbred gelding who, at five, was ...

**The male survivor's guide to "War Horse"** January 9, 2012 8:12:39 PM PST  
 Many blokes can get out of seeing so-called chick flicks by suggesting their partner takes a girlfriend while they go to the

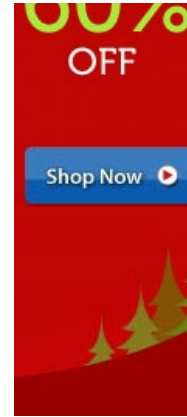
identified as the most important source most frequently cited (16.1 per cent).

Joint and mobility supplements were considered to be the most important. However, there were differences between the competitive disciplines, which is likely to be explained by the different demands of the individual sports.

Further research is needed to analyse the choices made by owners in greater depth and to investigate how best to provide better information to owners on the supplements available, the researchers said.

The next stage of the study will involve interviewing individual horse owners to provide a more detailed insight into their decision-making process.

Free daily digest



to the ...

**Horse-trading and the Olympics**  
January 4, 2012 3:29:03 PM PST  
When I was younger, the Olympic Games were the domain of amateur athletes. It was a noble ideal, but not without its problems. ...

**Buy the horse, not an illusion**  
January 3, 2012 2:21:33 PM PST  
Smart food shoppers know two rules: don't shop when you're hungry, and "buy the steak, not the sizzle". ...

## NEWS

**Plan to convert horse dung into electricity** February 17, 2012 12:58:00 PM PST  
A California city is pressing ahead with plans to convert local horse manure and other green waste into electricity.

**Fifteen horses seized in alleged neglect case** February 17, 2012 12:54:00 PM PST  
Fifteen horses have been seized from a California property after deputies from the Calaveras Sheriff's Office Animal Services ...

**Eight horses rescued from Oregon field, bodies found** February 17, 2012 12:46:00 PM PST  
Eight horses have been recovered from a muddy field in Oregon where authorities say they were virtually starving and dying from ...

**Sparks from horse shoe blew hyperbaric chamber - report** February 17, 2012 12:26:00 PM PST  
The fatal blast in a Florida hyperbaric chamber resulted from sparking from a horse's shoe when the animal in the chamber ...

**Canada names national eventing team** February 17, 2012 12:20:00 PM PST  
Canada's 2012 National Eventing Team has been named, with the 10 riders on the short list led by Pan American Games gold ...

**La Baule's lynchpin Rene Pasquier dies at 71** February 17, 2012 12:01:00 PM PST  
Rene Pasquier, who was President of the Organising Committee for the popular CSIO in La Baule in France for the last 25 years, ...

**Horse council gives \$25,000 for Kentucky survey** February 17, 2012 11:53:00 AM PST  
The Kentucky Horse Council has pledged \$25,000 to the Kentucky Equine Survey.

**Speed class to Bell at SI jumping champs** February 17, 2012 11:47:00 AM PST  
Rakaia rider Elizabeth Bell and Double Bass won the feature class on the opening day of the South Island Show Jumping ...

**Researchers probe genetic X-factor of quarter horses** February 16, 2012 4:00:00 PM PST  
What gives American quarter horses their appeal? Researchers have delved into the genetic makeup of the breed to unearth ...

**Kentucky's equine license plate to get makeover** February 16, 2012 1:01:00 PM PST  
Kentucky's iconic equine license plate is getting a makeover, and local horse owners can have a say on the new look.

**Video: Horse agility in the spotlight**

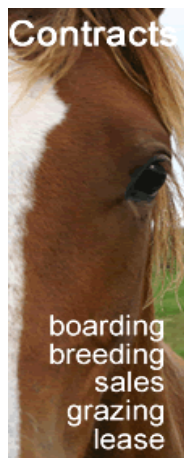
February 16, 2012 12:50:00 PM PST

The popularity of Horse Agility is set to grow with the sport featuring recently on the BBC's popular Spotlight programme.

**Hendra quarantine lifted after unusual summer case**

February 16, 2012 12:37:00 PM PST

Two properties near Townsville that have been under quarantine since early January following the death of a horse from the ...





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