

## **What should you look for in a hoof supplement?**

There are quite a few hoof supplements on the market so how do you choose a good one and what should you be looking for?

Not all hoof supplements are the same, so you need to take the time to read the ingredients and make sure you are getting good bang for your buck. There are certain ingredients that are essential for good strong, healthy hooves and without them, you won't see the results you want to achieve. You also need to make sure you are getting the right balance of those ingredients for maximum effectiveness.

Some of the important ingredients you should be looking for include;

- Biotin - promotes hoof growth & strength
- Magnesium - important for blood circulation within the body, limbs and hooves
- MSM - supports nutrient pathways for connective tissues
- Zinc - essential for hoof growth and tissue repair
- Methionine - an essential amino acid and precursor for Cystine, which promotes structural integrity of the hoof.
- Choline - contributes to the metabolization of lipids and cell membranes to help achieve elasticity of the hoof.
- Sulphur - promotes tensile strength of hoof wall, and is an important component of collagen, a key protein in connective tissue.
- Gelatin - a cofactor essential for cartilage repair and keratinisation in hooves

A premium Hoof supplement should contain most, if not all, of the above ingredients and in the right amounts.

Whilst looking for what is included, also check what isn't! Sugar is something to be mindful of when looking for hoof supplements, especially if they are being used on horses with restricted diets.

There are other things to take into consideration when deciding on what supplement is right for you

- Is it a powder or a pellet?
- Is the supplement easy to feed?
- Will it blend well with the ration I'm already feeding?
- Is it palatable? Are there samples available to test the palatability for my horse?
- What is the daily dose rate?
- Is it a trusted and well-researched brand?

- Does it come with recommendations or testimonials about its performance?
- Place of manufacture; is it Australian-owned and made?
- What is the price per dose? Remember, the price between packet sizes isn't comparable! Grab out the calculator and work out costing based on daily serve for the best results!

Is there a product out there that ticks all the boxes? It can certainly depend on your individual circumstances, but Ranvet's **Hoof Food PELLET**, is a great place to start! It's 8-in-1 formula combines all the essential nutrients to support healthy, strong hooves, delivered to their researched levels for effectiveness. All the while it comes as a palatable pellet, which is easily mixed into your horses' existing feed.

Every horse is different and suffers from varying hoof conditions. It can be hard to choose the supplement that is going to work best for what you are trying to treat. Don't be afraid to seek advice from your veterinarian or nutritionist on what best suits your horse's needs. After all, these professionals are here to help. Be prepared to monitor your horses' progress to ensure the supplement you have chosen works for your horse but do exercise patience; the improvements from introducing a hoof supplement can take months to notice as your new hoof grows!

*Written by Ranvet's Nutrition and Animal Health Team*