



We're passionate about protecting your senior horse's well-being.

No matter the activity level, Sentinel® has the best senior equine products to support all of their needs.

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Does your horse need SENIOR FEED?



The best time to make the move to senior feed depends on several factors, including a horse's dental health, digestive challenges and overall body condition.

hen senior feeds were first introduced more than two decades ago, they were intended for horses whose aging teeth made it difficult to chew long-stemmed forage.

Developed as "complete" feeds, these products met all of a horse's nutritional needs—no additional hay or forage was required. These early senior feeds proved to be very palatable and highly effective at keeping weight on hard keepers. They e so popular, in fact,

that people began feeding them to horses who could still chew hay but needed an additional nutritional boost. This was understandable but led to overfeeding because horses received hay along with their complete feed. Feed companies responded by producing two types of senior feed—complete, meant to be fed without hay, and concentrated products, formulated to be fed in addition to hay.

Keep this distinction in mind when choosing a senior feed for your horse. If

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your horse can still chew his hay, a concentrated senior product is probably the best choice, but if he can't manage hay, a complete feed will take care of his nutritional and forage needs.

For horses "in between" senior stages—those who are still able to chew some hay, but not much—this decision can be complicated. Consult with your veterinarian or an equine nutritionist to determine which senior feed—possibly combined with an alternative forage choice, such as chopped hay—is best for your horse's needs.



Three questions to answer when considering a switch to senior feed

Taking care of your horse as he ages means making management changes that reflect his current needs. So when is it time to switch to a senior feed? That depends on many factors. As a general rule, senior feeds usually become appropriate for horses when they reach the age of 15.

That said, however, it's possible that a much younger horse with digestive and nutritional challenges will benefit from senior feed. It's also possible that a horse can coast into his 20s without needing a specialized feed. Horses, like people, show the effects of age at different rates, so here are few questions to ask to help you determine when it might be time to switch your horse to a senior feed.

How well can he chew his food?

Aging horses often have worn down or missing teeth, making chewing more difficult and less efficient. Younger horses with unusual dental issues can face the same challenges. Senior feeds are typically processed to make them easier to chew, and a

"complete" senior feed can take the place of hay if a horse is unable to eat his daily roughage in flake form anymore.

2. Can he digest his food well?

Take a closer look at your horse's manure. If you see forage pieces of more than an inch long, your horse may not be digesting his feed efficiently. This is a normal development in an aging gastrointestinal system, but one that is easily addressed with a senior feed formulated for easier digestion.

3. Is he losing weight?

A horse who is no longer maintaining his weight or energy levels on his usual feed may be ready for a senior formulation. Even before weight loss is apparent, a horse may lose his "bloom" if he is no longer able to utilize his current ration efficiently. Loss of body conditixon can be due to many factors, however, so you'll want to call your veterinarian to rule out illness or other problems before deciding to try a new feed.

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